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Statement of Faith

Part I - Statement of Faith

The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning (II Tim. 3:16-17; I Pet. 1:20-21).

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Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations, or rules, of life, which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations the age of law, the age of the Church, and the age of the kingdom--are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Gen. 1:28; I Cor. 9:17; II Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Eph. 1:10; Col. 1:24-25, 27; Rev. 20:2-6).

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The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection (Dt. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26).

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The Person and Work of Christ

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Isa. 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; II Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5).
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24, 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1-2).

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The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14).
2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4; Acts 19:1-6; Eph. 1:17-18, 5:18; I John 2:20, 27).
3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer (Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:4-11, 28).
4. We believe in the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, miracles and the gift of healing. We believe that speaking in tongues is a necessary sign of the baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4; 19:6; 10:44-46).

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The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12, 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3, 4:17-19).

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Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; I Pet. 1:18-19).

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The Assurance of Believers

1. We believe that all redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever as long as that person walks according to the guidance of character outlined in scripture (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Pet. 1:4-5; I Cor. 9:27, 10:12; Hebrews 6:4-6; II John 1:8; Rev. 2-3).
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

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The Church

1. We believe that the local church (assembly of church members in any given area), is solely made up of born-again, water baptized, spirit baptized persons (I Cor. 12:12-14; II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27).
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27, 20:17, 28-32; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
3. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Churches in this age (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, 18:18; I Cor. 11:23-26).

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Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; II Cor. 6:14-17; II Tim. 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11).

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The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent return of Christ who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year Tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return, with His saints, to establish His earthly, Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the Nation of Israel (Ps 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thes. 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3-10, 19:11-16, 20:1-6).

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The Eternal State

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13).
2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:42; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23, 3:21; I Thes. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6).
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection when, with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thes. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15).

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The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-1; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11, 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

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Creation

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11).

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Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions; (1) the home, (2) the Church, and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; I Pet. 2:13-14).

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Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Gen. 2:24, 19:5, 13, 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-10; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1, 6:9; I Thes. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

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Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one spouse dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of the infidelity of one of the spouses. Divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the local Church if they were divorced before coming to salvation. They may be considered for ordination if they were divorced because of the infidelity of their spouse either before or after coming to salvation. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

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Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused, taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5, 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24, 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).



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Missions

We believe that God has given the Church the Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:20).

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Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).

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Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his pastor through the giving of tithes (a tenth of their earned salary). We believe that God gave the tithes to the priests (elders or pastors) as their reward for serving Him (Num. 18:21, 24; Deut. 18:1-5; 1 Cor 9:4-7), and also to enable them to devote themselves entirely to the work of the ministry without having to enable them to work a secular job. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all the rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:43-37; I Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17).

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Part II - Authority of Statement of Faith

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.

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