

## **OUR DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

1. We believe in **THE HOLY SCRIPTURE**: accepting fully the writings of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God, altogether sufficient in themselves as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice.
2. We believe in **THE ONE TRIUNE GOD**: who is personal, spirit, and sovereign; perfect, infinite, and eternal in His being, holiness and love, wisdom and power; absolutely separate and above the world as the Upholder of all things; self-existent and self-revealing the three distinct persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each having a distinct ministry in God's relation to His creation and people.
3. We believe in **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**: who is the second person of the Triune God, the eternal Word and Only Begotten Son; that without any change in His divine person, He became man by miracle of the Virgin Birth, thus to continue forever as both true God and true Man, one Person with two natures; that as Man He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin; that as the perfect Lamb of God He gave Himself in death upon the cross, becoming there the sin of the world, and suffering its full penalty of divine wrath in our stead; that He arose bodily from the grave and was glorified; that as our great High Priest He ascended into Heaven, there to appear before the face of God as our Advocate and Intercessor.
4. We believe in **THE HOLY SPIRIT**: who is the third person of the Trinity, and the divine Agent in nature, revelation and redemption; that he convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment; He regenerates, indwells, anoints and seals all who become children of God through Christ; that He further empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies and fills believers who daily surrender to Him. We believe that the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control) is the evidence of His indwelling rather than speaking in tongues and other spectacular demonstrations.

5. We believe ALL MEN ARE BY NATURE AND CHOICE SINFUL AND LOST: that man was the direct creation of God, made in His image and likeness; that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, man became a sinful creature, the father of a fallen race which is universally sinful in both nature and practice, thus alienated from the life and family of God, under the righteous judgment and wrath of God, and has within himself no possible means of salvation.
6. We believe in SALVATION BY GRACE, BLOOD AND FAITH: that salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtue or work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom all true believers have as a present possession the gift of the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish; that this salvation affects the whole of man; that apart from Christ there is no possible salvation.
7. We believe in RIGHTEOUS LIVING AND GODLY WORKS: not as a means of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence and fruit; and therefore as Christians we should obey the Word of the Lord, seek the things which are above, walk as He walked, accept as our solemn responsibility the duty and privileges of bearing the Gospel to a lost world, remembering that a victorious and fruitful Christian life is possible only for those who, in gratitude for the infinite and undeserved mercies of God, have presented themselves wholly to Christ.
8. We believe in THE EXISTENCE OF SATAN: who originally was created a holy and perfect being but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God, thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people, leader of all other evil angels and spirits, the deceiver and god of this present world; that his powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God who overrules all his wicked devices for good; that he was defeated and judged at the cross, and therefore his

final doom is certain; that we are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God, by the blood of the Lamb and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

9. We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the NEW BIRTH is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, nor by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel.
10. We believe that SANCTIFICATION has a twofold meaning; (a) that of setting apart of things, days, or persons, specifically for God, and that the believer at the time of his regeneration is so set apart by God the Father; (b) the progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer, obedient to the Word of God, experiences the power of the indwelling Christ for holiness of life and victory over the old nature, which work will be completed when the believer stands in Christ's presence.
11. We believe in the Genesis account of CREATION, and that it be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution through evolutionary change of species, or development through undetermined periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only, "after their kind".
12. We believe in THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST: that His return from Heaven will be personal, visible and glorious, a blessed Hope for which we should constantly watch and pray, the time being unrevealed but always imminent; that when He comes He will first, by resurrection of the dead and translating of the living, remove from the earth His waiting Church, then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world. After the Great

Tribulation period, he shall descend with His Church and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all the nations.

13. We believe in FUTURE LIFE, BODILY RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT: that the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven, that their works shall be brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, that they shall be judged and cast into Hell, the place of final and everlasting punishment.
14. We believe in THE SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE, with each having definite and distinct spheres of responsibility.
15. We believe in THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS: that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest; that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit.
16. We believe in THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST: that He alone is Head of the Body of Christ, into which all true believers are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit; that all members of this one spiritual body should assemble and identify themselves in local churches.
17. We believe in THE IMPORTANCE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH: that a New Testament church is a local assembly of born again baptized believers united in organization to practice New Testament ordinances, to meet together for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching and a united testimony, and to actively engage in carrying out the Great Commission.

18. We believe in THE INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH: that each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference, and should cooperate with other New Testament churches as the Holy Spirit leads; that it is responsible to follow the pattern of the New Testament church and is directly accountable to God.
19. We believe THE ORDINANCES GIVEN TO THE LOCAL CHURCH ARE TWO, BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER: that baptism is the believer's immersion in water; in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin, and resurrection to a new life; that in scriptural order, it (baptism) preceded the privilege of church membership. The bread and cup remind us of the broken body and blood of Christ; and this ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of his coming and preceded always by solemn self-examination.
20. We believe that CIVIL GOVERNMENT is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the earth.