



Statement of Faith

The Bible

The Bible, as first penned by the authors themselves, was produced under the direct supernatural influence of the Holy Spirit so that all things recorded in the Bible, the canonical 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, are infallible and without error when understood in the original meaning of the authors. It contains literature of different genres, including history, poetry, wisdom, didactic, and apocalyptic, and should be interpreted to ascertain the author's intent in accordance with these genres and historical, theological, and cultural context.

God

There is only one God who exists as three persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—known as the Trinity. He created all things, both visible and invisible, from nothing. He is the Ruler and Redeemer of all mankind, governing and overseeing all things in accordance with his will. He has all the attributes of divinity, including omnipotence, omnipresence, omnibenevolence, and omniscience (which includes foreknowledge) among others.

Jesus

Jesus Christ is truly divine and became truly man by being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary. He was without sin, and He was therefore the perfect sacrifice that was required for the punishment of sinful man. His death was a substitutionary atonement that turned away God's wrath and reconciled us to God. Jesus died upon the cross, was buried, and was raised bodily from the dead on the third day, thereby conquering sin and death. He now sits at the right hand of the Father where he reigns until he visibly returns to judge the living and the dead.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully divine and the third person of the Trinity. His work includes convicting men of their sin and need of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit regenerates, or makes born again, the sinner, and He indwells the believer, helping him to overcome sin in his life through the process of sanctification, illumines him to divine truth and the knowledge of God, and intercedes for prayer. The Spirit also equips believers for service through the bestowing of gifts.

Man

Man was uniquely created in the image of God as male/man and female/woman. As bearing the image of God, every human life is sacred from conception to natural death. Moreover, these two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image of God in mankind, and each person's biological sex is an intrinsic, immutable aspect of his or her nature and identity.

The first created man and woman, Adam and Eve, were created in a state of marriage instituted by God, which is a lifelong covenantal relationship between one man and one woman in which sexual intimacy is reserved for. Any sexual behavior outside marriage as defined, therefore, is sin. Mankind was also created perfect and morally good. They freely chose, however, to sin against God. Due to their sin, all mankind is born into a state of sin and eventually commits personal sins. Once a person is capable of moral accountability, he becomes a sinner and stands condemned before God. There is no one who is good, and thus he must rely upon the grace of God for salvation and to be born again.

Salvation

Salvation from sin, death, and corruption of human nature is found in no one else but Jesus Christ, God's one and only Son. Sinners are saved (justified) by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ. It is not in accordance with works so no one may boast. Man's salvation is assured and protected by the power of God, the Holy Spirit given as a seal and guarantee of this salvation. Salvation is not attained or kept by the power of man but is received in faith as proclaimed in confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior, repentance, and baptism by immersion.

Holiness

One of the primary reasons God saves sinners is so that they will do good works, or become holy. God desires all who are born again to live a life that honors him, not because they are saved or kept saved by doing good deeds, but because they are grateful to God for salvation and are enabled to live a more holy life through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believers are not to sin so that grace may increase. The primary work which believers are to practice is to love God and one's neighbor. As such, when a Christian observes a brother in error, he is to confront him personally about his sin and follow church discipline as outlined in Scripture. Although holiness is an important aspect of the Christian life, complete holiness (or entire sanctification) is impossible this side of eternity. Believers will become perfect, or glorified, at the second coming of Christ at the resurrection when the eternal states of heaven and hell are consummated.

The Church

The church is the called out, or saved, people of God. She is the body of Christ and He is the head. She is composed of those who have responded to the gospel in faith, repentance, confession, and baptism by immersion. God has given the church the mission, known as the

Great Commission, to proclaim the gospel and make disciples of Christ. The Church is to come together at least every Lord's Day (Sunday) to worship God through preaching of the Word, prayer, the Lord's Supper, and fellowship of the saints. The local church is governed by pastors and qualified elders who shepherd the church and is directed by deacons to minister to the needs of the saints. These leadership roles are to be filled only by men as taught in Scripture. Women, however, are permitted to minister (as deaconesses or otherwise) in accordance with their gifts and calling if they do not violate the biblical principle laid out in Scripture. Every member of the church is to be active, using his or her gifts for ministry, loving one another, bearing with one another, accepting one another, and forgiving one another. They are to seek unity and peace, encouraging one another, praying for one another, and supporting the church and one another financially, materially, and otherwise.

The Second Coming

Before Jesus ascended back into heaven after his resurrection, he promised that he would return. No one knows the exact time he will return, but every Christian is to be prepared and working until his coming.

Judgment

When Christ returns, he will judge the living and the dead. Some will be resurrected to life while others to condemnation. Those who are resurrected to life will be given new bodies and will dwell in the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells. Those who are resurrected to condemnation will live eternally in a literal hell to suffer punishment for rejecting God.