



STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures: The sole basis of the true Christian's beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written Word. It was uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, and without error in the original writings. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

2. The Sovereign God: There is one, sovereign, true God, eternally, transcendentally, existing and expressed through the person of Jesus Christ and revealed by His Holy Spirit.

3. Jesus Christ: He was God in the form of man [deity]. He was born of a virgin. He was sinless in His humanity. He is the substitutionary atonement for men's sin and satisfaction of God's wrath. He has risen from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God as an Advocate for the saints.

4. The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit has specific purpose in bringing about the sovereign pleasure of God in the dealings of man. The Holy Spirit convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life to them, continually indwells them from the moment of Spiritual birth, and seals them until the day of redemption. Through the Spirit the believer receives and possesses gifts for the building up of the church. The Spirit's fullness, power, and control are to be appropriated in the believer's life.

5. The Holy Trinity: In this one and only true God, this divine and infinite Being, are three subsistences the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. There being one substance, yet undivided. The Father is of none, not being begotten by any; the Son eternally begotten of the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son; all possessing eternal attributes of deity and divine characteristics.

6. The Depravity of Man: Man was created in the image of God, but in Adam's sin the race fell and became alienated from God. Man was in every part adversely affected by sin, rendering him totally unable to please God.

7. Salvation: Salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human will, merit, or works. Regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which those who are dead in their trespasses and sins are made alive unto Christ to understand and obey unto faith and eternal life.

8. Heaven and Hell: Heaven is a literal place. It is the place of God's dwelling. It is the place where Christ is and from where he currently reigns, and is the true believer's eternal resting place. Hell is a literal place. It is used in reference to the grave generally as well as to the final, eternal place of the wicked and unbelieving where there is separation from the grace, mercy, and righteousness of God and where there will be eternal punishment.

9. Creation: God created the world ex nihilo (out of nothing). Creation was supernatural, by that it is meant that physical entities were created out of the nonphysical resources of God's omnipotence. When God created "the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them", He did so without the use of any preexistent materials whatsoever. The worlds and all things therein came to exist by the Word of God, and are stayed by his preserving power. This supernatural creation was also "sudden". God created all things in six literal days.

10. Eschatology: Jesus Christ will return to earth literally and bodily to gather His elect, His true kingdom, judge both the living and the dead either to eternal damnation or everlasting life, and present the true kingdom to God.

11. Evangelism and Missions: It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

12. Education: Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

13. Stewardship: God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

14. Cooperation: Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over one another or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Members of New Testament churches should cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament.

15. The Christian and the Social Order: All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

16. Peace and War: It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

17. Religious Liberty: God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

18. The Family: God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.