



## **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **(WHAT WE BELIEVE)**

#### **ARTICLE I – THE SCRIPTURE**

We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God; the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. It is our supreme and final authority for faith and practice (II Tim. 3:15-17).

#### **ARTICLE II – GOD**

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4; John 4:24; Rom. 8:14-15).

#### **ARTICLE III – JESUS CHRIST**

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His future personal return in power and glory (Isa. 7:14; John 1:1-18).

#### **ARTICLE IV – HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, one with the Father and the Son, the indweller of every believer, whereby each is sealed unto the day of redemption of the Body. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. We believe that the "Fullness of the Holy Spirit" is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23) and by power in witnessing (Acts 1:8; John 15:1-8).

#### **ARTICLE V – SATAN**

We believe in the existence and operating power of a real and personal being the evil one called Satan, or Devil, opposed to all righteousness and exalting himself against all that God is and desires (I Pet. 5:8-9).

#### **ARTICLE VI – HELL**

We believe in a literal Hell, the place of eternal punishment for those who have not trusted in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as atonement for their sin. (Luke 16:19-31; Matt. 25:46, II Thess. 1:9).

#### **ARTICLE VII – HEAVEN**

We believe in the literal place called Heaven where God's immediate presence is manifested, where the angels are, and where the redeemed shall ultimately be, from whence Christ descended and ascended again, where He makes intercession for the saints, and from whence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead (Heb. 12:22-23; John 3:5; II Pet. 1:10-11).

#### **ARTICLE VIII – MAN**

We believe that God created man in His own image, and in a state of innocence, but that after temptation, man willfully sinned. All mankind is born dead in trespasses and sins and under condemnation, having inherited a corrupt nature (Psa. 51; Rom. 1: Eph. 2:1).

#### ARTICLE IX – SALVATION

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scripture, as a representative and substitutionary Sacrifice; that He arose from the dead in His glorified body, ascended into heaven, and that, as our great High Priest and Advocate, He ever lives to make intercession for us. All who believe on His name are justified on the basis of grace through faith in Him. The believer is therefore eternally secure, kept by the power of God (Acts 16:30-31; Eph. 1:2-10, Rom. 5:8-10; John 3:16-18; I Peter 1:5).

#### ARTICLE X – REGENERATION

We believe that regeneration is a divine and instantaneous work of the Holy Spirit whereby God imparts life to one dead in trespasses and sin when he trusts Christ as personal Savior. (II Cor. 5:17-20; John 3; Gal. 2:20; 5:22-25).

#### ARTICLE XI – SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is a divine and progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby God, upon the ground of the finished work of Christ on the cross, His present intercessory ministry and His Divine Word, sets the believer apart and works out, in and through him, by means of a submissive will that which is well-pleasing to Himself, through Jesus Christ. This work culminates in the redemption of the body (Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 5).

#### ARTICLE XII – THE CHURCH

We believe in the one true Church, the mystical Body and Bride of the Lord Jesus, composed of believers from Pentecost to the Rapture, into which believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit. We believe that the local church is an organization composed of professing believers instituted for the purpose of fellowship, worship, and service. In matters of administration and policy, it is self-governing (Matt. 16:15-19; Acts 2:41-42; Eph. 1:22-23; I Tim. 3:1-15).

#### ARTICLE XIII – BAPTISM

We believe that Christian baptism by immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the Bible mode of baptism and testifies of the believer's faith in and identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior (Matt. 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Rom. 6:3-5).

#### ARTICLE XIV – THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ordinance whereby believers "show forth the Lord's death until He comes" back for them (I Cor. 11).

#### ARTICLE XV – THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST FOR HIS CHURCH

We believe in the glorious hope of the premillennial, visible, and bodily return of Christ (I Thess. 4:13-18; John 14).

#### ARTICLE XVI – SEPARATION

We believe that every child of God should demonstrate his separation unto God and the world system. This separation involves a fruitful, spirit-filled life of obedience to the commands of scripture and the refusal to associate with, or become involved in anything that would bring reproach upon the character and work of Christ and His church (11 Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 1; Rom. 12:1-2).