

Statement of Faith

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God

There is only one true God¹. He created the universe and everything in it out of nothing.² He created all things to display His glory.³ He is eternal, infinite, complete without need, intelligent, all knowing, all powerful, ever present, unchangeable, holy, loving, just, righteous, merciful, gracious, good, truthful Spirit, perfect in all His attributes.⁴ He is worthy of all honor, confidence and love.⁵ He foreknew and ordained all that has come to pass and will come to pass. He upholds and rules all things from the galaxies to the smallest cells.⁶

The Trinity: God is one in essence,⁷ eternally existing, coequal in three distinct and fully divine Persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each deserving equal worship and obedience, each holding distinct roles working in harmony in redeeming fallen humanity.⁸

God the Father: As Creator He is Father of all humanity,⁹ but spiritual Father only to the redeemed.¹⁰ He works all things according to His will.¹¹

God the Son: Jesus Christ is God.¹² All things were made through Him, for Him, and everything continues to exist and operates because of Him.¹³ He is the promised Messiah fulfilling Old Testaments prophecies.¹⁴ In the incarnation, God the Son took on a fully human nature without altering or surrendering any of His divine nature.¹⁵ Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of Mary, who was a virgin.¹⁶ Being born of a woman, He is fully man and fully God, having two distinct natures with each nature retaining its own attributes, yet without confusion, mixture, separation, division, in the one Person of Jesus. Even though He endured all temptations and struggles of humanity, He perfectly submitted to the will of the Father, therefore being without sin.¹⁷ He accomplished redemption for sinners through His death on the Cross under Pontius Pilate,¹⁸ atoning for sin as the sinner's substitute.¹⁹ Upon the completion of His substitutionary sacrifice on the Cross, He rose from the dead in the very same body He had when He died, He rose as our justification, as

¹ Deut. 6.4, Is. 45.5-7, 1 Cor. 8.4

² Gen. 1.1, Ps. 24.1-2, Heb. 1.2, 11.3, John 1.1-3, Col. 1.16-17

³ Acts 17.25, Is. 43.7

⁴ Ps. 83.18, 147.5, Jer. 10.10, John 4.24, Rom. 1.20, Heb. 3.4

⁵ Jer. 2.12-13, Matt. 10.37, Mark 12.30, Rev. 4.11

⁶ Job. 9.7, Is. 40.26, Matt. 10.29-30, Job 37.6-13, Mark 4.39-41, Ps. 33.10-11, Amos 3.6, Lam. 3.37-38, Gen. 50.20, Pro. 16.9, 20.24,

⁷ Deut. 6.4

⁸ Matt. 28.19, John 15.26, 2 Cor. 13.14, Eph. 2.18,

⁹ Eph. 4.6

¹⁰ Rom. 8.14, 2 Cor. 6.14-18

¹¹ Eph. 1.11

¹² John 1.1

¹³ John 1.3, Heb. 1.2, Col. 1.16-17,

¹⁴ Luke 24.25-26, Gen. 3.15, Rom. 16.20, Deut. 18.18, Acts 3.20-23, Ps. 110.4, Heb. 5.5-6, Is. 9.7, Matt. 1.1, 22.42, Is. 52.13, 53.3-6, Mark 10.45

¹⁵ Matt 4.23, 11.4-6, 14.19-20, 25, Mark 1.27, 4.39, Luke 5.18-26, John 13.19, 16.30, 20.28, Phil. 2.5-8, Col. 2.9, Heb. 2.14, 17

¹⁶ Matt. 1.23, Luke 1.34-35, Gal. 4.4-5

¹⁷ John 4.34, 5.19, 30, 6.38, Heb. 4.15, 7.26

¹⁸ Luke 23

¹⁹ John 10.15, Rom. 3.24-25, 5.8-9, 2 Cor. 5.14-15, 1 Peter 2.24, 3.18

proof He is God, as proof He succeeded in acquiring salvation for sinners, and as the guarantee of the future resurrection of the redeemed.²⁰ Jesus is the mediator at the Father's right hand,²¹ and will return as Judge and receive His church.²²

God the Holy Spirit: He is a divine Person of the same essence as, and coequal to the Father and the Son.²³ He was involved in creation²⁴ and Jesus' incarnation.²⁵ He is involved in the work of salvation, indwells the redeemed, transforms them into the image of Jesus, instructs and empowers them, blesses them with spiritual gifts, all for the glorification of Jesus Christ.²⁶ He guided the apostles and prophets in the recording of the Bible,²⁷ and authenticated the authority of the prophets and apostles through granting them the ability to perform miraculous works.²⁸

The Bible

We believe that all 66 books of the Old and New Testament, and only those 66 books, are God's written revelation. They hold the authoritative message from God which all are obligated to submit to. The books of the Bible were "breathed out" by God and written down by men who were carried along by the Holy Spirit.²⁹ The personalities of the authors were intact as seen in the different styles of writing. The Bible is without error in the original manuscripts and entirely trustworthy as supreme truth.³⁰ The full counsel of scripture is the standard by which all claims, thoughts, beliefs and conducts are to be tested and found to be true or false, good or evil. Where the Bible does not address a matter directly, what is true and right is discerned according to the criteria consistent with teachings from the Bible. The intention of the Bible can be known and applied. Prayer, reliance on the Holy Spirit³¹ and careful efforts in the discipline of Biblical Studies are required in discerning scriptures' meaning and application.

Humanity

God directly created Adam from dust and Eve from Adam's side.³² He created them free from sin, rational, intelligent, self-determined, and morally responsible to God.³³ They were created equally in the image of God, with transcendent, intrinsic worth, created genetically male and genetically female which is reflected in His

²⁰ Matt. 28.6, Luke 24.38-39, Romans 4.25, John 5.26-29, 14.19, Rom. 1.4, 6.5-10, 1 Cor. 15.20, 23

²¹ Rom. 8.34, 1 Tim. 2.5, Heb. 7.25, 9.24, 1 John 2.1

²² Matt. 25.14-46, John 5.22-23, Acts 1.9-11, 17.30-31, 1 Cor. 3.10-15, 2 Cor. 5.10, 1 Thess. 4.13-18, Rev. 20

²³ Matt. 28.19, John 14.15-18, Acts 5.1-10, 28.25-26, Rom. 8.12-17, 1 Cor. 12.4-6, 2 Cor. 13.14, Heb. 10.15-17

²⁴ Gen. 1.2

²⁵ Matt. 1.18

²⁶ John 3.5-7, 2 Tim. 2.24-25, Acts 11.18, John 6.44, 45, Phil. 1.29, Eph. 2.8-9, Acts 16.14, Rom. 8.7-9, 2 Cor. 4.4-6, John 16.7-9, Acts 1.5, 2.4, Rom. 8.9, 29, 2 Cor. 3.6, 18, Eph. 1.13, 2.22, Acts 2.1-13, 1 Cor. 12.4-11, 13.8-10, 2 Cor. 12.12, Eph. 4.7-12, Heb. 2.1-4

²⁷ 2 Peter 1.19-21

²⁸ 2 Cor. 12.12, Heb. 2.4

²⁹ 2 Tim. 3.16, 2 Peter 1.21, 3.16, 1 Cor. 2.13, 14.37, John 14.26, 16.13-14

³⁰ Pro. 30.5, Numb. 23.19, Ps. 12.6, Heb. 6.18, Matt. 24.35, Titus 1.2, John 17.17, Matt. 22.29

³¹ Ps. 119.12, 18, 1 Cor. 2.12-16, Eph. 1.18

³² Gen. 1.27, 2.7, 21-24

³³ Gen. 1.31, 2.16, 3.1-2

design of their body.³⁴ As men and women, God created them differently from each other both physically and psychologically in order to be complementary with different roles.³⁵ They are the historical parents of the human race which makes all human beings of equal value by God.³⁶ Therefore, the unjustified killing of a human being through abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide is wrong,³⁷ as is all racism, sexism, ageism or any discrimination based upon a person's biological creation must be rejected.

The Fall

God created man to glorify Him and enjoy living life in relationship with Him, in accordance with His will, accomplishing God's purpose in the world.³⁸ Created morally good, man was led astray from obedience to God's revealed will and word by Satan,³⁹ choosing to act independently from God and taking what was forbidden, in this way declaring independence from God, mistrust in Him and disobedience.⁴⁰ By this act of sin by the first parents, they fell from their original innocence and communion with God.⁴¹ All mankind is in Adam making him the representative of all humanity in all ages, except for Jesus Christ. Therefore, all are born with a sinful nature, spiritually dead, guilty of sin, incapable of choosing and doing God's will, subject to physical death, condemned to hell, enslaved to sin, unable to overcome their sinful nature, thus subject to God's wrath.⁴²

Salvation

Salvation is completely an act of God's grace alone. He gives salvation to those whom He gives to Jesus.⁴³ Through the work of Jesus' shed blood on the cross and His perfect sinless life,⁴⁴ sinners are forgiven their sin and redeemed by God.⁴⁵ Jesus absorbed the punishment of the redeemed,⁴⁶ satisfying the wrath of God,⁴⁷ and removed the condemnation of the law against the redeemed.⁴⁸ All people are called to repent and trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord.⁴⁹ However, God's gift of salvation and being made righteous⁵⁰ is received by those who repent of their sins and put their faith in Jesus Christ, confessing Him as Savior and Lord.⁵¹ Salvation

³⁴ Gen. 1.27, 9.6, James 3.9,

³⁵ Gen. 2.18, 1 Cor. 11.3, Col. 3.18-20

³⁶ Gen. 1.27, 2.7, 2.21-22, 3.20, Mal. 2.10, Acts 17.26, 1 Cor. 8.6, 15., 22, 45, Rom. 5.14

³⁷ Ex. 21.22, 20.13, Ps. 139.12-16, James 2.11

³⁸ Is. 43.7, Col. 1.16, Rev. 4.11

³⁹ Gen. 3.1, 13, 2 Cor. 11.3

⁴⁰ Gen. 2.17, 3.6

⁴¹ Gen. 3.7-8, Rom. 5.12, 1 Cor. 15.21

⁴² Rom. 5.12-19, Eph. 2.1-5, Rom. 6.16, 20, 1 Cor. 2.14, Rom. 8.7-8, Deut. 29.4, John 8.44, Rom. 3.10-12, 23, 6.23, 8.7, John 3.36,

⁴³ Eph. 1.4-11, 2 Tim. 1.9, Rom. 8.28-30, 2 Thess. 2.13, John 6.37-44, 65, 15.16, Col. 3.12, Acts 13.48, Eph. 2.8

⁴⁴ 2 Cor. 5.21, Phil. 3.9, Rom. 3.21-22

⁴⁵ Gal. 2.21, Rom. 3.24-25, 5.6, 18-19, 1 Cor. 15.3, 1 Pet. 2.24, 3.18, Eph. 1.7, Col. 1.14,

⁴⁶ Rom. 8.1, 3, Gal. 3.13

⁴⁷ Eph. 2.3-6, 1 Thess. 1.10, 5.9, Rom. 5.9,

⁴⁸ Col. 2.13-14, Gal. 3.13

⁴⁹ Ezek. 18.23, 32, 33.11, John 3.16-19, 36, 4.14, 5.40, 6.37, 2 Thess. 2.10-12, Rev. 22.17

⁵⁰ Rom. 5.18-19, 2 Cor. 5.21, Phil. 3.9

⁵¹ Luke 13.3, Acts 2.38, 3.19, 11.18, Rom. 2.4, 3.23-28, 4.4-5, 5.1, Gal. 2.16, 3.24, 2 Cor. 7.10, Rom. 10.9-10, 1 Cor. 12.3, 2 Cor. 4.5, Phil. 2.11, 3.8-9, Titus 3.5-7,

happens in a moment and then begins the indwelling⁵² Holy Spirit's work of sanctification which is the evidence of redemption in the life of the redeemed.⁵³ While fully justified before the Lord, the redeemed still have a sinful nature, and therefore willfully sin in their daily living. However, the Holy Spirit's sanctifying work is bringing that sinful nature to death, and growing His spiritual fruit in the redeemed.⁵⁴

Identity

Everyone who comes to God through faith in Jesus Christ finds their eternal identity in Christ. It is idolatry when another identity takes precedence, or is seen as equal to our identity in Christ.⁵⁵ To place a sinful desire alongside the term "Christian" as one's identity is inconsistent with the Bible and undermines the reality that we are new creations in Christ.⁵⁶

Marriage

Biblical marriage consists only of a faithful union between one genetic male and one genetic female. Biblical marriage is the only legitimate and acceptable context for a sexual relationship.⁵⁷ All sexual activity disconnected from the context of biblical marriage, is sin, whether actions, thoughts or desires.⁵⁸

The Church

All who place their faith in Jesus Christ compose the one, universal Church of Jesus, with Him as the Head.⁵⁹ The universal Church finds expression in local churches,⁶⁰ with the purpose of glorifying God through lives lived in worship of Him.⁶¹ The Church gathers for corporate worship⁶² to hear the Word of God proclaimed,⁶³ celebrate the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper,⁶⁴ build each other up and keep each other accountable to biblical teaching,⁶⁵ and to engage in evangelism.⁶⁶

⁵² 1 Cor. 3.16, 6.19, 2 Cor. 1.22, Eph. 1.13-14

⁵³ John 14.15, 21, 23, 2 Cor. 3.18, Rom. 5.17, Rom. 6, Gal. 5.22-23, 1 John 3.14, 4.8, 16, 20, James 2.17-20, 26

⁵⁴ 1 Cor. 6.9-10, Gal. 5.19-21, Rom. 1.18-31, John 1.12-13, 3.16-18, 36, Rom. 7, Rom. 8.14-17, Gal. 4.4-5

⁵⁵ Matt. 22.30, Rom. 16.3-5, 2 Cor. 5.17, Gal. 3.28, 5.6, 1 Tim. 2.9-10, 1 John 3.1-2,

⁵⁶ 2 Cor. 5.17, John 3.3, Eph. 2.1-3, Titus 3.5, 1 Pet. 1.23,

⁵⁷ Gen. 2.22-24, Matt. 19.4-6, 1 Thess. 4.3-8, Heb. 13.4-7

⁵⁸ Matt. 5.27-30, Rom. 1.18-32, 1 Cor. 6.9-11, 1 Tim. 1.8-11, Rom. 6.11-12, 1 Peter 1.14, 2.14, Rom. 8.13

⁵⁹ 1 Cor. 12.12-13, Eph. 1.22, 3.6, 4.15-16, 5.23, Col. 1.18,

⁶⁰ Acts 8.1, 14.23, 27, 20.17, 28, 1 Cor. 16.19, Gal. 1.2 Phil. 1.1, 1 Thess. 1.1, 2 Thess. 1.1

⁶¹ Eph. 3.10, Matt. 5.14-16, Rom. 12.1-2, 1 Cor. 10.31, 2 Cor. 5.15, Col. 3.17, 23, 24, Rev. 5.9-12

⁶² Eph. 5.18-20, Col. 3.15-16

⁶³ Eph. 4.11-12, 2 Tim. 2.2, 15, 3.16-17, 4.1-2, Acts 2.42,

⁶⁴ Matt. 28.19, 1 Cor. 11.23-26, Acts 2.42

⁶⁵ 1 Cor. 12.4-7, 14.26, Rom. 12.6-8, Gal. 6.1, James 5.19-20, 1 Cor. 5.7, 11-13, 2 Thess. 3.14-15, Eph. 4.12

⁶⁶ Col. 4.5-6, Rom. 15.24, 3 John 7-8, Matt. 28.18-20, Acts 1.8

Baptism

Baptism was commissioned by Jesus,⁶⁷ done by immersion in water,⁶⁸ in the name of the Father, and Son and Holy Spirit,⁶⁹ and is a testimony of faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. It symbolizes the believer's death to sin and being raised to newness of life and union with Jesus.⁷⁰

Communion

Communion is a ceremonial act of worship, instituted by Jesus, in which believers gather to eat bread and drink from the cup, which represent the flesh and blood of Jesus by which He brought in the New Covenant.⁷¹ This act is done to commemorate Jesus' death until He returns,⁷² and is to be preceded by solemn self-examination.⁷³

The Devil & Hell

There is a created spiritual being called the devil who is cunning, powerful, yet limited in his ability by God, and who at the end of time will be condemned and tormented forever in hell.⁷⁴ All who persistently reject Jesus in this present life will be judged according to their deeds and punished for their rejection and rebellion against God for eternity in hell.⁷⁵

Heaven

When the redeemed die they are made perfect in holiness,⁷⁶ and their soul is received into Heaven,⁷⁷ which is a real place, eternal, holy, and where God most manifests Himself.⁷⁸ Upon Jesus' second coming the glorified bodies of all the redeemed will be reunited with their souls for eternity.⁷⁹

⁶⁷ Matt. 28.19

⁶⁸ Matt. 3.6, John 3.23, Acts 8.36-39, Rom. 6.4

⁶⁹ Matt. 28.19, Acts 10.47-48

⁷⁰ Acts 2.38, Romans 6.1-11, 1 Cor. 12.13, Col. 2.12, Gal. 3.26-27

⁷¹ Matt. 26.26-29, 1 Cor. 11.23-25, John 6.53-57, 63

⁷² 1 Cor. 11.26

⁷³ 1 Cor. 11.28-32, 10.3-32

⁷⁴ Job. 1-2, Matt. 4.1-11, 25.41, 2 Peter 2.4, Jude 6

⁷⁵ Matt. 8.12, 25.46, Mark 9.43-48, Lk. 16.19-31, Rev. 20.14-15, 21.8

⁷⁶ Heb. 12.22-23

⁷⁷ Luke 23.43, Phil. 1.23-24, 2 Cor. 5.1-9

⁷⁸ Luke 24.51, Acts 7.55-56, John 14.1-3, John 3.36, 2 Cor. 5.1, Deut. 26.15, Ps. 20.6, Rev. 21.7, Is. 66.1, 1 Kings 8.30, Rev. 21.23, 22.5,

⁷⁹ 1 Thess. 4.13-17, 1 Cor. 15.35-44, 50-54, Phil. 3.21

The Last Things

The end of the world is approaching⁸⁰ with the second coming of Jesus Christ,⁸¹ when both the redeemed and the wicked will be judged by Christ, sending the wicked to hell and the redeemed to heaven for eternity.⁸²

⁸⁰ 1 Peter. 4.7, 1 Cor. 7.29-31, Heb. 1.10-12, Matt. 24.35, 1 John 2.17

⁸¹ Acts 1.11, Rev. 1.7, Heb. 9.28, Acts 3.21, 1 Thess. 4.13-18, 5.1-11

⁸² Acts 24.15, Matt. 13.37-43, 49, 24.30-31, 25.31-46, Jude 12-13, 2 Thess. 1.9, 1 Thess. 4.13-18, Rev. 14.11, Dan. 12.2