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## OUR FAITH STATEMENTS

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- **In essentials — we have unity.**

*“There is one Body and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father.” -Ephesians 4:4-6 (NIV)*

- **In non-essentials — we have liberty.**

*“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters... Who are you to judge someone else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls... each of us will give an account of himself to God... whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” -Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22 (NIV)*

- **In everything — we show charity.**

*“...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains — but have **no love**, I amount to nothing at all.” -1 Corinthians 13:2 (Ph)*

### *THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:*

#### **1. ABOUT GOD**

Yahweh God is the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. He has eternally existed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three are equal parts of the One True God. (Gen. 1:1, 26-27, 3:22; Ps. 90:2; Mt. 28:19; 1 Pe. 1:2; 2 Cor. 13:14, He. 11:3)

#### **2. ABOUT JESUS THE CHRIST**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He rose from the dead on the third day to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return again someday to earth to reign as King over all. (Mt. 1:22, 23; Is. 9:6; Jn. 1:1-14; 14:10-30; He. 4:14,15; 1 Cor. 15:3,4; Rom. 1:3,4; Ac. 1:9-11; 1 Tim. 6:14,15; Tit. 2:13)

#### **3. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is equal with the Father and Son. He is in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus. He lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides us with power for living, understanding spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a gift when they are saved. We seek to live under His control daily. (2 Cor. 3:17; Jn. 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Ac. 1:8; 1 Cor. 2:12, 3:16; Eph. 1:13; Gal. 5:25; Eph. 5:18)

#### **4. ABOUT THE BIBLE**

The Bible is God’s Word. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian belief and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any error in it.

#### **5. ABOUT PEOPLE**

People are made in the image of God, to be like Him in character. People are supreme in God’s creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called “sin”. This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. (Gen. 1:27; Ps. 8:3-6; Is. 53:6a; Ro. 3:23; Is. 59:1-2)

#### **6. ABOUT SALVATION**

Salvation is God’s free gift, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus as God’s offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin’s penalty. When we lay down our self-ruled life and surrender our life to Jesus, we are saved. Eternal life begins when one receives Jesus Christ into their life.

#### **7. ABOUT ETERNITY**

People were created to live forever. We will either be eternally separate from God, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be separated from God is Hell. To be united with Christ is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are both very real. (Jn. 3:16; Jn. 14:17; Ro. 6:23; Ro. 8:17-18; Rev. 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9)

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## OUR LIFESTYLE STATEMENTS

### *The Essentials We Practice*

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#### **B**IBLE AS OUR SOLE AUTHORITY

*“The whole Bible was given to us by inspiration from God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives; it straightens us out and helps us to do what is right.”* -2 Timothy 3:15 (LB)

Since God’s Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our guide for living. Our first question, faced with a decision, is “What does the Bible say?” We encourage daily Bible reading, frequent Bible study, and regular Bible memorization. We teach from the Bible weekly and it is the foundation and basis for all that we believe.

#### **I**MMERSION

*“When you were baptized, you were buried with Christ, and in baptism you were also raised with Christ.”* -Col. 2:12 (GN)

The Bible word ‘baptism’ means ‘immerse in water’ and is how Jesus was baptized, so we practice as the Bible commands.

#### **S**PIRIT-LED LIVING

(Jesus said), *“I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing.”* -John 15:5 (NIV)

We believe that the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God’s power at work within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God’s Spirit, in order to enable us to do what is right. (Phil. 2:13, Eph. 5:18)

#### **H**UMAN SEXUALITY

(Jesus said), *“At the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’”* -Mark 10:6-8 (NIV)

The purpose of human sexuality, and the only expression of it which is accepted and celebrated by God and, therefore, by the members of His Church, is for binding a life-long, monogamous commitment of marriage between one man and one woman. The practices of pre-marital sex, adultery, homosexual behavior, and pornography use are all particularly damaging sins.

#### **M**INISTRY OF EVERY CHRISTIAN

*“Christ loves us, and by His death He has freed us from our sins and made us a kingdom of priests to serve God.”* Rev 1:6 (GN) *“You are...the King’s priests...God’s own people, chosen to proclaim the wonderful acts of God.”* 1 Pet. 2:9 (GN)

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her career. Every believer is a minister and needs to find a role to serve in. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

#### **S**TEWARDSHIP

(Jesus said) *“You should tithe.”* -Matthew 23:23 (NLT) *“Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.”* -James 1:17 (NLT)

Literally everything we have is a gift from God. We are to use everything we have to honor God and build His Kingdom. We practice tithing for the support of our local church. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is a basic Biblical habit.

#### **G**RACIOUS LIVING

*“Those who live immoral lives, who are idol worshipers, adulterers or homosexuals—will have no share in His Kingdom. Neither will thieves or greedy people, drunkards, slanderers, or robbers. There was a time when some of YOU WERE JUST LIKE THAT but now your sins are washed away, and you are set apart for God; and he has accepted you because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you.”* -1 Corinthians 6:9-11 (LB)

It is a particular risk for those who have been adopted into God’s Family and set on a new path to tend to look with disdain upon those who have not yet had a life-changing encounter with Jesus. We must never forget that we once “*were just like that*” and that our new station in life is not due to our own goodness or effort, but that we “*are set apart for God; and He has accepted you because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done.*” Humility and grace should reign.