



STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

WE BELIEVE the Bible is God's written revelation to man.¹ It is verbally inspired in every word, and absolutely inerrant in the original documents. We affirm the infallibility, sufficiency, and authority of Scripture.²

WE BELIEVE that there is but one living and true God³, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit⁴—each equally deserving worship and obedience.

WE BELIEVE in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ⁵, in His Virgin birth⁶, in His sinless life⁷, in His miracles⁸, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood⁹, in His bodily resurrection¹⁰, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father¹¹, and His personal return in power and glory.¹²

WE BELIEVE that the salvation of man, who is sinful and lost¹³, is instantaneous and accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God when the repentant sinner—enabled by the Holy Spirit—responds in faith. This salvation is wholly of God by grace on the basis of the redeeming work of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not on the basis of human merit or works.¹⁴

WE BELIEVE in the Spirit-filled life. As the supernatural and sovereign Agent in regeneration, the Holy Spirit baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation.¹⁵ The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption.¹⁶

WE BELIEVE in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the unsaved; the saved unto the resurrection of life and the unsaved unto the resurrection of damnation.¹⁷

WE BELIEVE that all who put their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body¹⁸, the church/Bride of Christ¹⁹, of which Christ is the head.²⁰ The purpose of the church is to glorify God²¹ by building its members up in the faith²², by instruction of the Word²³, by fellowship²⁴, by keeping the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's supper²⁵, and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world.²⁶ The formation of the church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost²⁷ and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture.²⁸

WE BELIEVE that marriage has been ordained by God.²⁹ This church defines "marriage" as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment.³⁰ A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in these Articles.³¹

WE BELIEVE that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage.³² Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as "porneia" in Greek) including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church.³³ Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the Bible.³⁴

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- ¹ 1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21
- ² 2 Timothy 3:16
- ³ Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Corinthians 8:4
- ⁴ Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14
- ⁵ John 1:1,14; John 10:30; John 14:9; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 2:9
- ⁶ Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23, 25; Luke 1:26-35
- ⁷ 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 19:4-6; Hebrews 4:15
- ⁸ Matthew 9:27-31; Mark 1:23-27; Luke 7:11-17; John 2:1-11; John 20:30-31; Acts 2:22
- ⁹ John 10:15; Romans 3:24-25; Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24
- ¹⁰ Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:38-39; Acts 2:30-31; Romans 4:25; Romans 8:34
- ¹¹ Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:24; 1 John 2:1
- ¹² Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20
- ¹³ Psalms 14:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:9-18, 23; Romans 5:10-12
- ¹⁴ John 1:12; Romans 4; Ephesians 1:4-7; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19
- ¹⁵ John 14:16-17; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:13
- ¹⁶ Romans 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 5:18; Ephesians 1:13
- ¹⁷ John 6:39; Romans 8:10-11, 19-23; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; Revelation 20:13-15
- ¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- ¹⁹ 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-8
- ²⁰ Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 4:15; Colossians 1:18
- ²¹ Ephesians 3:21
- ²² Ephesians 4:13-16
- ²³ 2 Timothy 2:2,15; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ²⁴ Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3
- ²⁵ Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42
- ²⁶ Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8
- ²⁷ Acts 2:1-21, 38-47
- ²⁸ 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- ²⁹ Genesis 2:21-24
- ³⁰ Matthew 19:4-6
- ³¹ Romans 13:1-5; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Acts 5:28-29
- ³² Hebrews 13:4
- ³³ Genesis 19:1-13; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 5:27-28; Acts 15:20; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 1 Corinthians 6:9; Galatians 5:19
- ³⁴ Job 31:1; Psalms 101:3; 119:37; Proverbs 6:25-28; Ezekiel 25:30; Romans 6:19; Ephesians 4:17-19; Philippians 4:8; 2 Peter 2:19; 1 John 2:16