

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe there is one sovereign God, the Creator and Owner of all things, who eternally exists in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe God has revealed Himself through His Word, written in the pages of Holy Scripture, the Bible, and living through the incarnation of the Son in Jesus Christ.

We believe the Bible to be the inerrant, inspired, and the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.

We believe in the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, in His miracles, His substitutionary and atoning death through His shed blood on the cross, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, His current reign over all things and His forthcoming personal return in power and glory.

We believe and recognize that all people have sinned and, as a result, people's brokenness is demonstrated in numerous ways that are contrary to God's ways and Word, including greed, selfishness, covetousness, and immorality. Because of the public discussion and legal attention being given to gender, marriage, and sexuality, it is necessary to present the following statements specifically addressing these issues.

1. We believe God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female according to His divine will and plan. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person and of their God-given identity. Likewise, the affirmation and encouragement by others toward such rejection is to be understood as willingly promoting sin and giving false cause for others to reject God.

2. We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in the Bible. We believe God intends intimate sexual relations to only occur between one man and one woman who are wed to each other as the sign of the marriage covenant. We believe that God has commanded no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. 3. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, pre-marital or extra-marital sex, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God.

4. We believe God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

5. We believe every person must be afforded compassion, love, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the Bible, the doctrines of the Christian faith nor the example of our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We believe for the salvation of lost and sinful people regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life characterized by Biblical stewardship.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved will inherit eternal life and those who are lost will receive eternal punishment.

We believe the Church, the body of Christ, is made up of all those who by grace through faith have placed their trust and hope for salvation in Jesus Christ.

We believe in the Church there is a diversity of gifts, roles and offices such that every believer holds specific responsibilities. Yet there is also the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ sharing a common command to love God and love neighbor and a common commission to make disciples of all people.