

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(excerpt from the *Constitution of the Church By the Side of the Road*)

PREAMBLE:

The Bible contains all that is ever necessary as a rule for our faith and practice. Hence, the following statement shall be the basis of fellowship among us (II Timothy 3:16-17; Acts 2:42).

- A. WE BELIEVE** the Bible to be the only inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God. We believe it to be superior to man's conscience; to any personal feeling, leading, manifestation or revelation. We believe it to be our infallible guide in all matters of faith and conduct (2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 5:18; Psalm 119:89).
- B. WE BELIEVE** God has revealed Himself as the self-existent, infinite, eternal, unchangeable One in whom is all wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, truth and faithfulness. We believe He is the great I AM, who was, who is, and who is to come (Deuteronomy 6:4; Timothy 6:15–16; Revelation 1:8).
- C. WE BELIEVE** Jesus Christ to be the pre-existent eternal Son of God. As such, He had no beginning and shall have no ending. He was and is eternally one with the Father. We believe self-existence and life-giving power belong to the Son as to the Father. We believe Jesus Christ to be the source of all life: physical, moral, spiritual and eternal. He is immutable. In Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead, bodily (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15-19; John 14:9, 12:45; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:6).
- D. WE BELIEVE** the Holy Spirit is one in essence and unity with the Father and the Son. We believe the Holy Spirit to be distinct in personality from the Father and the Son. He is the revealer of the Son and the Son is the revealer of the Father. We believe it is He who came forth from the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher, Comforter and Guide. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of all the Biblical gifts of the Holy Spirit. (John 1:18, 3:5-8, 14:9-11; 14:15-17; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Romans 12:4 -8; I Corinthians 12:4-31; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

- E. **WE BELIEVE** that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; equal in power and glory. We believe this Triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all (Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; John 14:16; 2 Cor. 13:14; Ephesians 2:18).
- F. **WE BELIEVE** that all people are sinners by nature and choice, and therefore are under condemnation. (Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Galatians 5:17-21; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:3)
- G. **WE BELIEVE** that God regenerates by the Holy Spirit those who are dead in their sin, leading to repentance and confession of Jesus Christ as Lord. (John 1:12-13, 3:5-8; Acts 2:38; Romans 8:9-17; 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9).

1. Provisions for Salvation

Atonement for our sin is provided by the shed blood of Jesus Christ; confessing faith in Christ with one's mouth brings about salvation for the sinner. (Romans 10:13-15; Colossians 1:15-22; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:2).

2. Evidence of Salvation

To the believer, the inward evidence of his salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. The outward evidence is manifested in a life of righteousness and true holiness. (Isaiah 35:8; Romans 8:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:7; 1 Peter 1:15).

3. Security of Salvation

A believer's salvation is rooted in the gracious character of God, established upon the "finished work" of Calvary and "worked out" in a loving, obedient relationship of reverence and faith. (John 14:15, 23-24; Philippians 2:12-13; 2 Timothy 1:12).

- H. **WE BELIEVE** the church is the Body of Christ. Each believer, born of the Spirit and cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, is a member of the Church Universal, the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Hebrews 12:23).

- I. **WE BELIEVE** that the Lord Jesus Christ committed two (2) ordinances to the church:

1. Water Baptism by Immersion

Every child of God demonstrating full repentance of dead works and exhibiting active faith in the Lord Jesus Christ should give public confession of his commitment through the ordinance of water baptism. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12).

2. The Lord's Supper - open to all believers

The Lord's Supper or Communion - is a memorial of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus, and a prophecy of His return for His redeemed Church. It should be regularly observed by His Church in remembrance of Him, "until He comes". (Luke 22:14-20; I Cor. 11:23-26).

- J. WE BELIEVE** in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation. The baptism in the Holy Spirit and all of the gifts of the Spirit are for the Church today. Through these gifts, God may manifest His power and bring glory to His name. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 2:4, 10:44-48, 11:15-16; I Corinthians 12:1-31).
- K. WE BELIEVE** in the healing of the physical body by divine power; that it is a privilege of every child of God; that the Elders should anoint with oil and pray for the sick with the laying on of hands when requested. (Acts 3:1-16; James 5:14-15; I Peter 2:24).
- L. WE BELIEVE** in the personal, visible return of Christ to earth, and the establishment of His Kingdom and the resurrection of the body; the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and endless suffering of the wicked. (Matthew 16:27, 24:30-31; I Corinthians 15:12-58; I Thessalonians 4:15-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9; Revelation 20:6).
- M. WE BELIEVE** in the future establishment of a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells. (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 20:6).
- N. WE BELIEVE** God has ordained and instituted marriage between a man and a woman. Jesus honored and sanctioned the marriage union by His presence. The marriage union is thus a consecrated relationship that should be established prayerfully and in fear of God, as an earthly model of the sacred relationship between Christ and His Church. Divorce thus violates God's intended purpose for man and woman. Divorce is permitted for the cause of sexual immorality and also for abandonment by an unbeliever. In those cases remarriage is subsequently permitted. The Christian is commanded to only enter into a marriage union with those of like precious faith. Someone divorced prior to his or her salvation is permitted to remarry. (1 Corinthians 6:14-16; Matthew 19:9; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 6:14; Matthew 5:31-32, 19:4-9; Luke 16:18; Ephesians 5:22-23; Deuteronomy 24:1).