

Christ Church



Statement of Faith

Preamble

Since the times of the Apostles, Christians have laid out doctrine (taught beliefs) in brief, clear, and definitive statements. In like fashion, we believe it necessary to set forth in a concise fashion the cornerstone truths of our church as guided by Scripture. Our Statement of Faith summarizes essential Christian beliefs, shows unity in Christ, demonstrates submission to the Word of God, promotes truthfulness in teaching and living, and guards the church from error.

All who join Christ Church are required to affirm the Christ Church Statement of Faith. This statement registers our belief in historical Christianity, the contours of evangelical Christianity, the ordinances of the church, and congregational governance. Once we as members agree to this statement, we are responsible for believing and living consistently with it.

Christ Church Statement of Faith

I. Of The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is the perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its ultimate author, salvation for its ultimate end, Christ for its ultimate focus, and truth without any mixture of error for its ultimate matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried (e.g., Matthew 5:18; 24:35; John 10:35; 16:12-13; 17:17; 1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

II. Of The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is YAHWEH, or JEHOVAH, the great I AM, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible

honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (e.g., Genesis 1:1-31; Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 103:19; 139:7-10; 145:8-9; Isaiah 40:13-14; 45:5-7; Habakkuk 1:13; Matthew 1:18; 23:9; 28:19; Luke 10:21-22; John 1:12; 3:5-7; 4:24; 8:38-47; 10:30; 16:13; Acts 5:3-4; 28:25-26; Romans 8:14-15; 11:36; 15:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 8:4-6; 12:4-6, 11; 2 Corinthians 6:18; 13:14; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:11; 3:9; 4:1-6, 30; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:15-17; 2:9; Hebrews 1:2; 9:14; 10:15-17; 12:5-9; 1 Peter 1:17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 1:6).

III. Of The Fall Of Man

We believe that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all humans are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse (e.g., Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 16-17; 3:1-19; 15-25; Psalm 14:1-3; Isaiah 43:7; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:36; Romans 3:9-18, 23; 5:10-12; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:16; 1 Timothy 2:13-14; James 3:9; 1 John 1:8; Revelation 4:11).

IV. Of The Way Of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of undeserved grace and unmerited favor; through the substitutionary and mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself the nature of man, yet without sin, and was born of a virgin; honored and fulfilled the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, a sympathetic, and an all-sufficient Savior (e.g., Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23, 25; Luke 1:1:26-35; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

V. Of Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification; that Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity (e.g., Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; Romans 2:4; 8:33; 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 12:3; 2 Corinthians 4:5; 5:21; 7:10; Philippians 2:11; Colossians 2:14; 1 Peter 2:24).

VI. Of Grace In Regeneration

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with

divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life (e.g., John 3:14, 16; 5:24, 30; 7:13; 8:12; 10:26; Romans 3:19; 5:19; 8:1; 9:22; II Corinthians 5:17; II Thessalonians 1:9; James 1:14; I John 1:9; Revelation 19:3, 20; 20:10, 14-15; 21:18).

VII. Of Repentance And Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God through the instrumentality of the Word of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord, Priest and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior (e.g., John 5:24; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:10; 5:17-21; Philippians 2:12b; Colossians 3:16; II Peter 1:4-10).

VIII. Of Sanctification

We believe that Sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially, the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer (e.g., John 17:17, 19; Acts 20:32; Romans 6:1-22; I Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11; II Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:12; Colossians 3:9-10; I Thessalonians 4:3-4; 5:23; II Thessalonians 2:13; Hebrews 2:11; 3:1; 10:10, 14; 13:12; I Peter 1:2, 14-16) .

IX. Of The Perseverance Of Saints

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (e.g., John 5:24; 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 5:9-10; 8:1, 31-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 7:25; 13:5; I Peter 1:5; Jude 24)..

X. Of A Gospel Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members, and that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its only scriptural officers are Overseers or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus (e.g., Acts 1:8; 2:42; Ephesians 2:19-22; 5:19-21; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:1-9; Hebrews 10:23-25).

XI. Of Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his fellow men; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; that he should be a faithful steward of his time, talents, and possessions; and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ (e.g., John 14:15, 23-24; Romans 12:1-3; I Corinthians 4:2; 10:31; II Corinthians 9:6-9; Colossians 1:9-10; Hebrews 12:1-2; I John 2:3-6).

XII. Of Baptism And The Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful sign and symbol, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership; and that the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and cup, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination, and that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ (e.g., Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

XIII. Of Civil Government

We believe that Civil Government is of Divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Scripture, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth (e.g., Romans 13:1-7; I Timothy 2:5; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17).

XIV. Of The World To Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness (e.g., Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:15; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; II Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15; 21:1-8).

X _____
Signature Date

X _____
Pastor Date

X _____
Print Name Date