

Faith Statement

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The Bible

The Bible is God's inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word. Because God is the author of Scripture, it is the final authority for what we believe and how we are to live.

Creation itself points to God's existence and displays his wisdom, power, and goodness. The beauty and order of the world testify that there is a Creator. However, creation alone cannot tell us everything we need to know about God or show us how to be reconciled to him.

For that reason, God has made himself known more fully through the Scriptures. In the Bible, he reveals his character, his will, and his saving work through Jesus Christ. The authority of Scripture does not depend on the testimony of any church or human authority. It is true and trustworthy because it comes from God, who is truth itself. Therefore, we receive and obey the Bible as the very Word of God.

Humanity and Sin

God created humanity in his image to know him, love him, and live in fellowship with him. The first humans, Adam and Eve, were created innocent and enjoyed a perfect relationship with God.

Tempted by Satan, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God's command by eating the forbidden fruit. Although God was not the author of their sin, he permitted it according to his perfect wisdom and sovereign purpose, and he continues to accomplish his good purposes even through the brokenness of a fallen world.

As a result of their rebellion, Adam and Eve lost their original righteousness and fellowship with God. Sin entered the world, bringing spiritual death, physical death, and separation from God.

Because Adam and Eve are the parents of the human race, every person inherits a sinful nature and stands guilty before a holy God. As a result, all people are born spiritually separated from God and are unable to save themselves or restore the relationship that sin has broken.

The Bible declares that every person has sinned and falls short of the glory of God. Every sin is an act of rebellion against God's holy character and righteous law. Sin deserves God's just judgment and leaves humanity in desperate need of his mercy and grace.

God's Plan of Salvation

Because of sin, humanity is unable to save itself or restore its broken relationship with God. Left to ourselves, we are spiritually dead and without hope.

Yet God, in his great love and mercy, did not leave humanity in this condition. From the beginning, he purposed to rescue sinners by providing salvation through Jesus Christ. This gift of salvation is entirely the work of God's grace. It cannot be earned through human effort, good works, or obedience to the law.

God freely offers forgiveness, new life, and eternal salvation to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ. Those who trust in him are forgiven, reconciled to God, adopted into his family, and given the promise of eternal life.

Saving faith is itself a gift of God's grace. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, God opens our hearts to understand the gospel, enables us to trust in Christ, and begins the work of transforming us into the people he created us to be.

Jesus the Christ

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the second Person of the Trinity. He is fully God and fully human—the one and only Savior and the only mediator between God and humanity.

In his eternal plan, God the Father appointed his Son to accomplish our redemption. Jesus is the promised Messiah, the heir of all things, and the One through whom God will judge the world.

Though he has always existed as God, Jesus took on human nature without ceasing to be God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. In him, the fullness of deity and true humanity are perfectly united in one person. He is fully God and fully man—not part God and part man, nor two separate persons, but one Lord forever.

As a man, Jesus experienced the realities of human life, including weakness, suffering, temptation, and sorrow, yet he lived a completely sinless life. As God, he perfectly revealed the Father's character, exercised divine authority, and accomplished what no human being could ever do.

Because Jesus is both fully God and fully human, he alone is able to represent humanity before God and reconcile sinners to their Creator. There is no other mediator, Savior, or name by which people can be saved.

Christ's Death, Resurrection, and Return

Jesus Christ willingly gave himself for us. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father, fulfilling God's law completely. Though he was without sin, he willingly suffered in our place, bearing the penalty our sins deserved so that we might be forgiven and restored to God.

Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day, he rose bodily from the dead, just as the Scriptures foretold. His resurrection is the victory over sin and death and the assurance that all who belong to him will also be raised to eternal life.

After his resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven, where he now reigns at the right hand of the Father. He continually intercedes for his people, faithfully representing them before God and providing everything they need to persevere in faith.

Through his perfect life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, Jesus fully satisfied the justice of God and accomplished everything necessary for our salvation. By his grace, all who trust in Christ are forgiven, reconciled to God, and made heirs of his eternal kingdom. Nothing needs to be added to his finished work.

Christ not only secured our salvation, but he also applies it to those who belong to him. Through his Word and by the power of the Holy Spirit, he reveals the truth of the gospel, strengthens our faith, transforms our hearts, and enables us to live in joyful obedience. By his wisdom and power, he preserves his people and will bring them safely to the end. Jesus Christ will return personally, visibly, and in glory. At the appointed time, he will judge both the living and the dead, establish the fullness of his kingdom, and make all things new. On that day, every promise of God will be fulfilled, and his redeemed people will dwell with him forever.

Salvation by Grace Through Faith

Salvation is entirely a gift of God's grace. No one can earn God's acceptance through good works, religious devotion, or personal effort. Because all have sinned, no one can make themselves righteous before a holy God.

God graciously calls people to himself through the gospel and, by the work of the Holy Spirit, gives them new life and enables them to respond in faith. When a person trusts in Jesus Christ, God forgives all their sins, declares them righteous, and welcomes them into his family—not because they have earned it, but because of what Christ has done on their behalf.

God accepts us as righteous solely because of Jesus Christ. Our sins were laid upon him, and his perfect righteousness is credited to us. This is not based on our faith as a work or

on any goodness within us, but entirely on Christ's perfect obedience, his sacrificial death, and his victorious resurrection. We receive this gift through faith alone.

Faith is the means by which we receive God's gift of salvation, but even faith itself is made possible by God's grace. From beginning to end, our salvation rests not on what we have done, but on what Christ has accomplished for us.

Because Christ has fully paid the penalty for sin and satisfied the justice of God, there is nothing left for us to add. Those who belong to Christ have complete forgiveness, peace with God, and the sure hope of eternal life. In salvation, both God's perfect justice and his abundant grace are displayed together, bringing glory to him alone.

The Christian Life

Everyone who places their faith in Jesus Christ is made new by the Holy Spirit. God gives believers a new heart, a new desire to know him, and the power to live a life that honors him.

This lifelong work of transformation, often called sanctification, is accomplished through God's Word, the Holy Spirit, prayer, and fellowship with other believers. As we grow in our relationship with Christ, the power of sin over our lives is gradually broken, and we increasingly reflect his character in the way we think, speak, and live.

Although believers continue to struggle with sin in this life, sin is no longer their master. There remains an ongoing battle between our sinful nature and the work of the Holy Spirit within us. At times that struggle is difficult, but God faithfully supplies the grace and strength needed to persevere.

As we continue to trust and obey Christ, the Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in our lives, shaping us to become more like Jesus. This growth is not the result of human effort alone, but of God's continuing work in us.

God is faithful to complete the work he has begun in his people. Though no believer reaches sinless perfection in this life, those who belong to Christ will continue to grow in grace until the day they stand complete in his presence.

The Church

Jesus Christ established his Church to worship God, build up believers, and proclaim the gospel to the world. The Church is not merely an organization or a building, but the community of all who have been redeemed by Christ and united to him through faith.

Christ is the head of his Church. Through his Word and the Holy Spirit, he equips, guides, and strengthens his people to grow in faith, maturity, and obedience. God has given the

Church the ministry of teaching his Word, making disciples, celebrating baptism and the Lord's Supper, encouraging one another, and caring for those in need.

Every believer is united to Christ and, therefore, united to every other believer. Together we share in the blessings of God's grace, encourage one another in times of joy and suffering, and use the gifts God has given us to serve one another in love. Every member of the body of Christ has a unique role to play in strengthening the Church and advancing God's kingdom.

The local church is God's primary means for nurturing believers, proclaiming the gospel, and displaying the love of Christ to the world. As we gather for worship, prayer, fellowship, and the teaching of Scripture, we are encouraged to grow in our faith and equipped to live as faithful followers of Jesus.