

2. We believe the 66 books of the Bible to be verbally inspired in every word (2 Tim. 3:16), absolutely inerrant in the original documents, preserved, infallible, authoritative, and God-breathed (2 Pet. 1:20, 21).

3. We believe that there is one God (Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:4), an finite all-knowing Spirit (Jn. 4:24), the source, the sustainer, and end of all things (Rom. 11:36), eternally existent in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:16-17; 2 Cor. 13:14).

4. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:1, 14), coequal with the Father (Jn. 10:30; 14:9), His virgin birth (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-23), His sinless life (Heb. 4:15), His miracles (Acts 2:22), His vicarious and atoning death (Jn. 10:15), His shed blood (Rev. 1:5, 6; 5:9-10), His bodily resurrection (Eph. 1:19-2:7), His ascension to the Father's right hand (Acts 2:33), His intercession (Rom. 8:34), His personal return for His saints (1 Thess. 4:13-18), His Second Coming (Rev. 19:11-16), His millennial kingdom on earth (Isa. 65:17-25; Rev. 20:4, 7).

5. We believe in the deity (Gen. 1:2), power (Zech. 4:6), and ministry of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8); that He convicts the sinners (Jn. 16:7-11), regenerates the one who believes (Tit. 3:5), indwells (Rom. 8:9-11), seals (Eph. 1:13), justifies (1 Cor. 6:11), sanctifies (1 Pet. 1:2), comforts (Jn. 14:26), teaches (1 Jn. 2:27), guides (Jn. 16:13), glorifies the believer (2 Cor. 3:17, 18), and fills every life that is wholly yielded to Him (Eph. 5:18).

6. We believe that man was created in God's image (Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7), to fellowship with and glorify God (Gen. 2:15-25; Rev. 4:11), but Adam's disobedience (Gen. 3) brought sin and death upon all mankind (Rom. 5:12). Therefore, man is totally depraved (Jer. 17:9), a sinner both by nature and practice (Rom. 3:9-23), separated from God (Psa. 14:1-3), totally lost and in need of the convicting and regenerating power of the Holy Spirit – a born-again experience (Jn. 3:1-7; 1 Pet. 1:23).

7. We believe that Satan is a fallen angel due to his rebellion against his Creator (Isa. 14; Eze. 28). He took numerous angels with him (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 12), introducing sin into mankind through temptation (Gen. 3). He is an enemy of God and man (Matt. 4:1-11; Rev. 12:9-12), through his wiles (2 Cor. 2:11; Eph. 6:11; 1 Pet. 5:8, 9), but he is a defeated foe (Lk. 10:17-20; Rom. 16:20), because of his judgment at the cross (Jn. 16:11), and he will be eternally punished in hell (Rev. 20:10).

8. We believe that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren (1 Jn. 3:16).

9. We believe that salvation is the free gift of God offered to man solely by His grace and received by personal faith alone in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:8, 9; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19).

10. We believe that regeneration is solely by a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 3:3-8; Tit. 3:5), through the instrumentality of the Word of God (Jn. 5:24), when the repentant sinner responds by faith to God's provision of salvation. Genuine faith manifests fruit worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct (1 Cor. 6:19, 20; Eph. 5:17-21; Phil. 2:12b; Col. 3:12-17; 2 Pet. 1:4-11). The believer is increasingly transformed to God's image (Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18), and climaxed in glorification at Christ's coming (Rom. 8:16, 17; 1 Jn. 3:2, 3).

11. We believe the blood atonement of Jesus Christ is the only perfect satisfaction for the penalty of man's sin, and it is accepted by God as the payment for all sin – past, present and future (Acts. 20:28; Rom. 3:24-26; 1 Cor. 6:20; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:11-14, 20-24; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19).



12. We believe that justification before God is an act of God (Rom. 8:30, 33), by which He declares righteous those who through faith in Christ (Rom. 1:16, 17; 3:21-26), repent of their sins (Acts 2:38; Rom. 2:4; 2 Cor. 7:10), apart from works of man or the Law (Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:20; Gal. 2:16), and involves placing our sins on Christ (Col. 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:24), and His gift of righteousness to us who receive His abundance of grace (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 5:17-21, whereby we reign in life by one, Jesus Christ).

13. We believe that every believer is sanctified (set apart) unto God by justification, declared holy and identified as a saint. This work is positional and instantaneous, not to be confused with a progressive work. This work is the believer's standing not his present walk or condition (Acts 20:32; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Thess. 2:13; Heb. 2:11; 10:10, 14; 13:12).

A progressive work brings the believer closer to the likeness of Christ through the empowering work of the Holy Spirit, increasingly in holiness and conformity to the will of God, and becoming more like Jesus (Jn. 17:17, 19; Rom. 6; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Thess. 4:3, 4; 5:23).

14. We believe that every saved person is involved in daily conflict – the new creation in Christ doing battle against the world, the flesh, and the devil (2 Cor. 10:3-6; Eph. 6:10-18; Rom. 13:11-14). The good fight of faith continues for life, never ending (2 Tim. 4:5-8), but the Holy Spirit provides for victory (Jn. 16:33; 1 Jn. 4:4; 5:4; Gal. 5:16-25)

15. We believe that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (Jn. 5:24; 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 5:9-10; 8:1, 31-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-9; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 7:25; 13:5; 1 Pet. 1:4, 5; Jude 24).

16. **We believe** it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in assurance of their salvation, which however, forbids the use of Christian liberty as an excuse for sinful living and carnality (Rom. 6:15-22; 2 Tim. 2:19-26; Tit. 2:11-14).

17. **We believe** and practice both ecclesiastical and personal separation on the basis of the Word of God (Isa. 52:11; Jn. 15:19; 17:15; Eph. 5:11; 2 Thess. 3:6). Separation from sin is clearly called for in the Scriptures, and that last day apostasy and worldliness shall increase (2 Tim. 3:1-5). Out of deep gratitude for undeserved grace of God granted to us, all the saved should live in total consecration, adoring the love of God, not bringing reproach upon our Lord and Savior, nor any association with religious apostasy and sinful practices (1 Cor. 5:9-13; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 2 Jn. 9-11).

18. **We believe** the bodily resurrection of all men. Jesus's bodily resurrection, where He now mediates as our Advocate and High Priest (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24), is the guarantee for a future resurrection for the saved to eternal life (Jn. 4:14), but the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Dan. 12:2; Jn. 5:29; Rev. 20:13-15). There is a literal heaven with golden streets and a literal hell with fire and brimstone.

19. **We believe** in the imminent, personal, bodily return of our Lord Jesus (Acts 1:9-11) to translate His church from the earth (Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Cor. 15:53; 1 Thess. 4:15-5:11), and between this event and His glorious return with His saints, He will reward believers according to their works (1 Cor. 3:11-15; 2 Cor. 5:10).

20. **We believe** that all who place their faith in Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual body (1 Cor. 12:12, 13), the bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32; Rev. 19:7, 8), of which Christ is the head (Eph. 1:22; 4:15; Col. 1:18).

21. **We believe** in being led by and walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16, 18), anointed by God (2 Cor. 1:21; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27), bearing the fruit of the Spirit (Matt. 13:23; Eph. 5:9; Gal. 5:22, 23), ministering the spiritual offices (Eph. 4:11), the spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12-14), and the motivational gifts (Rom. 12:6-8), including bishops, elders and deacons who meet the qualifications (1 Tim. 3; Tit. 1 & 2; 1 Pet. 5).

22. **We believe** in the spiritual unity of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, not in the organized unity sought by the 'ecumenical movement' (1 Cor. 1:10; 2 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:3; Phil. 1:27; 4:2; Col. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:8).

23. **We believe** in the local church which is a body of baptized believers who come together in obedience of Christ to carry out the dictates of the New Testament (Acts 2:42; 14:23, 24; 20:17-28; Phil. 1:1; Heb. 11:25).

24. **We believe** that baptism by immersion is an outward sign of an inward work, showing forth the believer's faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, and his union with Him in death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:1-11; Col. 2:12, 13).

25. **We believe** the Lord's Supper is the celebration and proclamation done in remembrance of the Lord's death until He comes again. The elements of communion are only representative of the flesh and blood of Christ, but nevertheless are an actual communion with the risen Christ and with His church (Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 10:16; 11:23-32).

26. **We believe** in calling for the elders of the church to come and pray over the sick, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make them well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven...if we confess our sins to Him, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all wickedness (Jam. 5:14, 15; 1 Jn. 1:9).

STATEMENT OF FAITH

From the Beliefs of the
Heart of Abounding Love

We believe that the purpose of the church is to glorify God (Eph. 3:21) by building itself up in the faith (Eph. 4:13-16), by instruction of the Word (2 Tim. 2:2, 15; 3:16, 17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 Jn. 1:3), by keeping the ordinances (Lk. 22:19; Acts 2:38-42), and by advancing and communicating the gospel to the entire world (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8).

"And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you, 13 so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints" (1 Thess. 3:12, 13).

