

OUR STATEMENT OF BELIEF

The Trinity

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit. This truth is a mystery but is nevertheless true.

The Father

God the Father is an eternal spiritual being, all powerful, all knowing, holy, sovereign and righteous. We believe that He is love and is perfectly just; and that He has life in Himself and gives life to all things. We believe that He is completely good and has no evil in Him. We believe that He created all things and that all of His purposes will be achieved in accordance with His perfect will.

The Son

Jesus Christ is God with us. He is the only son of God the Father and is both truly and fully man whilst being truly and fully God. All things were created for Him and through Him.

Despite his deity, Jesus chose to become human and live amongst us. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the body of a virgin, Mary. He lived an entirely human and yet perfectly sinless life amongst us experiencing poverty, rejection, pain and bereavement. He miraculously healed many people and performed many wondrous signs as evidence of his divinity. Jesus chose to subject Himself to humanity in order to redeem humankind from their sinfulness and rescue us from death.

Jesus was executed unjustly by the Roman authorities who were under pressure to do so from the local populace and religious leaders. In his death Jesus became the final atoning sacrifice, accepting in Himself the penalty for our wrongdoing and suffering the full just wrath of God.

However, Jesus did not remain dead. After three days, He was raised bodily from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. His resurrection was the glorious and final victory over death and stands as a promise for all those who place their trust in Him.

We believe in Jesus' present ministry as our High Priest and Advocate and in His personal and imminent return.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit – who is fully God – is the person by which God acts with sovereignty, power and authority in creation. The Holy Spirit was the creative Spirit by which all things were created and the life force by which all things which have life received life. We believe that the Holy Spirit conceived Jesus in the body of Mary and that the Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead.

The Holy Spirit comes to those who trust in Jesus, transforming them by breaking the power of sin in their lives and giving them the benefit of starting again (new birth / being born again). He then dwells with every believer from that moment onwards, helping them, teaching them and guiding them. He works in them to make them more and more like Jesus in their thoughts, attitudes, perspectives and behaviours (sanctification).

We also believe God offers us a separate, vivid and conscious experience of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. This offer brings greater life and vitality to our Christian experience and empowers and equips us to continue the work of Jesus in this world. This is what we call the baptism (immersion) of the Spirit.

We believe that the Holy Spirit continues to do God's will on earth, establishing His authority, growing the church, bringing justice and truth. He continues to work sovereignly, powerfully and supernaturally.

Sin and salvation

We believe that God created humanity, giving us life, and intending for us to dwell forever with Him in His love. However, humanity chose to reject God to live according to our own will, thereby separating ourselves from God and disconnecting ourselves from the only true source of life. This is sin and sin must result in death. All people inherit a sinful nature which issues in actual transgression involving personal guilt. We believe that because God is just he must judge us all for our own sins. We believe that the penalty for sin is death, physical and spiritual. We believe that no person can make amends for their sin themselves and thus every person is doomed to eternal death.

However, because God is also love, he has made a way in Himself to reconcile humanity to Himself. He did this because of His great love for us and because it is impossible for us to do ourselves. God achieved this by making amends for our sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus. This is our salvation.

Anyone who puts their trust (faith) in Jesus, will receive the gift of salvation. In that moment, it will be as if they have no sin and they will have the benefit of starting again in the power of the Holy Spirit (new birth / born again) unencumbered and untainted by sin. They are judged by God as righteous - declared 'not guilty'. This gift is offered to us by God without price - no preparation, effort or fee is required from us whatsoever (by grace) - and is accepted simply by believing and trusting (putting our faith) in Him.

Humankind

We believe that God created us in His image - that we carry many suggestions of His glory in our very nature. There is something about humanity which is directly inspired by and therefore reflects the character and nature of God. We believe that all of creation was made by God as a setting for humanity. We believe that humanity was created to dwell with God in perfect peace, goodness and joy for all eternity.

We believe that God's character and his intention and design in creating us sets the standard for us and defines our identity and what is good and beneficial for us.

The Scriptures

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as they were originally written are fully inspired of God and infallible when understood as the author in each case intended them to be understood.

We believe that they contain the complete revelation of God and His purposes that is necessary for humanity and therefore accept them as the supreme and final authority for faith and life - for individuals and for the church.

The Church

The Church of Jesus Christ is the whole company of all people who have placed their trust in Jesus and received salvation from Him. It has a multitude of expressions but is nevertheless one true Church.

The Church's primary function is to carry the presence of God on earth and is the primary means through which God allows us to collaborate with Him in fulfilling his purposes on earth.

We believe that the Jesus is the head and focus of the Church - we are to follow Him, serve His purposes and be inspired by His example. Jesus appointed just two observances for His church to practice:

- water baptism (immersion) - a symbolic act of obedience to be undertaken by those who have deliberately and consciously understood the salvation offered by Jesus and chosen, individually, to trust Jesus for this salvation - as a public declaration of their decision; and
- the breaking of bread (the Lord's Supper) - a symbolic act of communal remembrance which is to be undertaken regularly and which encourages us to remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our salvation through these and his future return.

We believe that Jesus Christ called His church to testify to the whole world about Him and to proclaim the good news of salvation We believe that this is a core aspect of how Christianity should be lived out.