



STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. About God

There is only one eternal, true, and living God. He is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. He is all powerful, all knowing, and present everywhere all the time. He never changes. He has eternally existed in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God (Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; 3:22; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 19:1-3; 90:2; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

- **God the Father**

God the Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all-powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father to those who become children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. (Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Matthew 6:9ff; 7:11; 28:19; John 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Peter 1:17).

- **God the Son**

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless human life, perfectly revealing and doing the will of the Father. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days, demonstrating His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of kings, and Lord of lords (Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22, 23; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15).

- **God the Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and gives the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily (John 16:7-13, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18).

2. About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word—God's revelation of Himself to man. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error (Psalm 119:105, 160; 12:6; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Timothy 1:13; 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

3. About Human Beings

People are made in the spiritual image of God to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin." This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life, including the sentence of eternal separation from God (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1-2; Romans 3:23).

4. About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we are called to personally receive it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith (John 14:6; 1:12; Romans 5:1; 6:23; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

5. About Eternal Security

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security (John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

6. About Eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is eternal death in hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in heaven. Heaven and hell are real places of eternal existence (John 3:16; 14:17; Romans 6:23; 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9; Revelation 20:15).

7. About the Priesthood of the Believer

As God's chosen people, Christians are called to live holy lives as they praise God, serve God, and proclaim God's name to a lost world. Through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, Christians have been given direct access to the throne of God. At Christ Jesus' death on the cross, God tore the temple veil that covered the doorway to the Holy of Holies in two. By this act, God signified that the Old Testament priesthood was no longer necessary as believers could now come directly to God through the great High Priest, Christ Jesus (Matthew 27:51; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16; 10:12, 26; 1 Peter 2:5-9;).

8. About Baptism

Believer's baptism by immersion in water is an expression of the believer's faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. It is also an expression of the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Baptism does not save but is an external testimony to the work that the Holy Spirit has done in the heart of the believer. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper (Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 3:23; Acts 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

9. **About the Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper, or communion, commemorates the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and anticipates His second coming. The physical elements of bread and the fruit of the vine are not the actual body and blood of Christ but are symbolic of Christ's body broken for us and His blood shed for our justification before God (Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29).

To learn more, go to <http://www.sbc.net/bfm2000/bfm2000.asp>.