

Christ Community Church

Statement of Faith

November 2014

The doctrinal perspective of our Statement of Faith is one of classic evangelical orthodoxy, in the historical stream of the Protestant Reformation. In an effort to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, we seek to emphasize the essential tenets of biblical Christianity and to observe the time-honored practice:

In the essentials unity.

In the non-essentials liberty.

In all things charity.

1. The Bible

We believe in the full inspiration, inerrancy and infallibility of the Old and New Testaments (2 Tim 3:15-17). The Bible alone, and in its entirety, is the Word of God written, and is without error in its original manuscripts (2 Pet 1:19-21). What the Bible says, God says; therefore, it is our final authority for all matters of faith and practice (John 8:31-32).

2. God

We believe in the one triune God who is revealed in the Bible. He exists eternally as one God in three persons: God the Father (Deut 6:4), God the Son (John 1:1-5, 14), and God the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4; Rom 8:9). Each person within the Trinity possesses the same essence and attributes of deity and is co-equal in power and glory (Rom 8:9-11). God is the Creator (Gen 1:1; Isa 40:18-31), Redeemer (Ps 103:2-5), and Sovereign Ruler of the universe (Ps 103:19; 139), and is perfectly holy, just, and loving (Ex 34:6-7).

3. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, God the Son, is the second person of the Trinity. He emptied himself, set aside the glory and privileges of deity, and stepped out of eternity into human history to implement the Father's plan of salvation (Phil 2:5-8). Jesus Christ

is the eternal, only begotten Son of God the Father (John 3:16). He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:30ff). He is true God and true man (Col 2:9), and is the only mediator between God and man (1 Tim 2:5-6). To effect salvation, he lived a sinless life and died on the cross as sinful man's substitute, shedding his blood for the remission of sins (John 1:29; 2 Cor 5:21; Phil 2:5-11; Heb 9:12-14). On the third day, having triumphed over sin, death and Satan (Col 2:15), he rose from the dead, glorified, in the body which had been buried (1 Cor 15). He ascended into heaven to the right hand of His Father where he now reigns over the whole universe as King of kings and Lord of lords (Heb 1:1-4). He will come again to earth to consummate his saving work and to judge all men (John 14:1-4; 2 Thess 1:5; Heb 9:27-28).

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, came forth from the Father and the Son (John 14:16-17; 15:26). His ministry on the earth is to convict men of the reality of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:7-15); to make alive (regenerate) those who were formerly dead in trespasses and sins (Eph 2:1-5; Titus 3:5-6); to indwell, assure, cleanse, teach, comfort, strengthen, and guide those who have believed the Gospel (See Section 6, below) and committed their lives to the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:9-11); to express the character of Christ through believers by producing, with their cooperation, the fruit of the Spirit in their lives (Gal 5:22-25); and to express the power of Christ through believers by entrusting them, through no merit of their own, with His spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12:1-7).

5. Mankind

We believe that God created men and women in His own image and likeness (Gen 1:26-27; 2:21-22), and that his Image does not vary in degree from person to person. We believe that man is a created being who exists by God's design and for His purpose (Gen 1:26-27; Ps 139:13-16). God breathed life into man and he became a living soul (Gen 2:7). As a unity of body, soul and spirit (1 Thess 5:23), man was created as a free and responsible moral agent. He finds his significance and identity in his relationship to God (Acts 17:28), with whom he was originally intended to enjoy intimate and everlasting fellowship (Gen 1:26-27).

When Adam sinned, the Image of God was severely marred in all mankind and human nature fell into corruption and total depravity (Rom 3:10-12, 23; 5:12). As a result, Adam

and Eve suffered immediate spiritual death, which is separation from God, and eventually, physical death (Gen 3; Eph 2:1-3). As a consequence the entire human race inherited the undiminished guilt, corruption, condemnation and death that resulted from Adam's original sin (Rom 5:12-19).

6. Salvation

We believe that due to their fallen condition people are born spiritually dead (Ps 51:5) eternally lost and totally unable to deliver themselves from their present state of condemnation (John 3:18; Rom 3:10-18; 8:6-8; Eph 2:1, 12). Through no merit of their own, but by the free grace of God, everyone who repents of his or her sin, believes the Gospel of Christ and declares Jesus to be their final authority receives forgiveness of sins (Rom 10:9-10), becomes a new creation in Christ (2 Cor 5:17), and receives eternal life (John 3:16; Eph 1 3:12; 2:4-10).

Having turned to Jesus in faith and repentance, every believer is accountable to God for living a life separated from sin (Col 1:22; Titus 2:11-12) and characterized by the fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22-24; 2 Pet 1:5-11). Every believer has the responsibility to grow in grace (2 Pet 3:18), edify the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:7; 14:26), and participate by word and deed in taking the Gospel of Christ to the whole world and making disciples of all nations (Matt 28:19).

7. The Church

We believe that Jesus Christ is the founder and sustainer of the church (Matt 16:18), which came into being on the Day of Pentecost when, at the Son's request, the Father poured out his Spirit on believers (John 14:16-17; Acts 2).

The universal Church is comprised of all those in heaven and on earth who have believed in Jesus Christ and trusted him for their salvation (Gen 15:6; Matt 8:11; Luke 13:28; Rev 5:9-10; 7:9-10). Under the New Covenant they have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit, believed the Gospel, repented of their sins and are born again. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5-7). The church is both the Bride of Christ (Ps 45; Rev 19:7; 22:17), and the Body of Christ comprised of many members (Rom 12:4-5; 1 Cor 12:12-13) and united by the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:1-6) with Jesus Christ as its head (Eph 5:23; Col 1:18). The church is also the pillar and support of the truth (1 Tim 3:15), and the temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 3:16). Paul likened her to a building whose chief cornerstone is Jesus Christ (Eph 2:19-22).

While it is universal in nature, the church finds expression in local congregations of believers (Acts 9:31; Rom 16:16). Although there is only one church throughout the whole world, each local assembly possesses everything it needs to obey the Great Command (Matt 22:36-40) and carry out the Great Commission (Matt 28:19-20; 1 Cor 12:13; 1 Thess 2:14; 2 Pet 1:3-4).

8. Christ's Return and Final Judgment

We believe that at some time in the future Jesus Christ will personally and visibly return to earth (2 Pet 3:3-14): to gather all believers to himself (John 14:2-3; 1 Thess 4:7-18), to complete the establishment of his kingdom on earth, and to judge all men (2 Cor 5:10; 2 Thess 1:6-10; Heb 9:27-28). We believe Christians should expectantly look for his appearing, giving full attention to obedience until he comes (1 John 3:2-3). We believe that at the end of this present age all who have died will be resurrected (John 5:25-29): the righteous in Christ will enter into full possession of eternal life in the presence of God; and the unrighteous, that is, those outside of Christ, will be condemned to eternal death (2 Cor 5:10).

9. Individual Destiny

We believe that at the moment of physical death a person's eternal destiny is sealed (Heb 9:27-28). While the body is consigned to the grave, the soul and spirit of believers go into God's presence to await the resurrection when they will be united with their glorified bodies (Eccl. 12:7; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Cor 5:8; 1 Cor 15:51-52; Phil 1:21-24; 1 Thess 4:15-16). The souls of unbelievers go to a place of physical torment where they await a bodily resurrection in which they will face the final judgment and an eternal, conscious existence in hell. (Luke 16:19-31; Rev 20:11-15).

Hell

We believe that hell is a literal place and the eternal destiny of human beings who have sinned against God and have not received forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. It is the place where the enemies of God – Satan, demons and human beings - will never cease to experience unbearable mental anguish and excruciating physical torment as the punishment for their willful rebellion against God (Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31; Heb 10:28-31; Jude 6-7; Rev 20:10-15).

Heaven

We believe that Heaven is also a literal place. It is the abode of God and the future everlasting home of all believers (Ps 11:4; 73:25; Matt 6:9; John 14: 1 - 6). It is where Jesus Christ and the throne of God are physically located (Acts 1:11; 7:55; 1 Pet 3:22; Rev 4:2, 10-11). Heaven is described as a place where the effects of sin: (namely, sickness, sorrow, pain, and death), are absent (Isa 25:8-9; Rev 2:4). In their place is the incomparable love, beauty, peace, and joy of eternal life as could only exist in the glorious presence of God (Isa 35:10; 1 Pet 1:3-4; Rev 21-22)