

Statement of Faith

Regarding The Gospel:

The Gospel is the cornerstone of our Christian faith, encapsulated in the person of Jesus Christ. Through Him, we find redemption and reconciliation with God. It is the true way in which we live our lives as Christians. We should always refer to the Gospel as we live as Christ's followers. As stated in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

Regarding God The Father:

God the Father is eternal, without beginning or end, the Creator of all things. In Him, we find our existence and purpose. We live through God and want to be with our Father in heaven. Scripture affirms this in Psalm 90:2, "Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God."

Regarding Jesus:

Jesus, the image of the invisible God, is our Savior who willingly laid down His life for the forgiveness of our sins. His sacrifice on the cross exemplifies God's love for humanity. I love people regardless of who they are and want to show that even the most sin-filled people can be saved. Romans 5:8 declares, "But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Regarding The Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit, co-eternal with the Father and the Son, is our counselor and guide. He empowers believers for righteous living and spiritual growth. Acts 1:8 affirms, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." The Holy Spirit was active in the conception of Jesus Christ and presented with the Father at His baptism to affirm His identity as the Son of God. Jesus said He should go so the Holy Spirit may come to us. Following the ascension of Jesus and into the present age, the Holy Spirit is the Paraclete for all who trust Jesus, acting as our helper, teacher, comforter, counselor, and Advocate. John 14:16-17 says, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you."

Regarding The Trinity:

While human language falls short in comprehending the divine mystery of the Trinity, we acknowledge one God in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. As stated in Matthew 28:19, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The Trinity should not be considered $1+1+1=1$, which is mathematically inaccurate. Instead, the Trinity is equated as $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. We see that God times Himself; times Himself equals Himself. In the ethereal realm of ideas, the equation works, and yet when imparted to physical reality on paper, there are three 1s, and yet mathematically equal to only 1.

Regarding Spiritual Gifts:

Spiritual gifts are bestowed upon believers to improve the Church and advance God's kingdom. My top five gifts are administration, exhortation, hospitality, help, and craftsmanship. They are to be used in service to one another. 1 Peter 4:10 encourages, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

Regarding Mankind:

Humanity was designed in God's image for relationship with Him and stewardship over Creation. Genesis 1:27 also affirms, "So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." However, we have fallen due to sin entering the world and we are seeking redemption through Jesus Christ. Romans 3:23-24 says, "For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins."

Regarding Women in Ministry:

In God's kingdom, gender is not a barrier to serving Him. Both men and women are called to leadership and ministry roles. Galatians 3:28 proclaims, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Because Eve was the first to sin, people believe women should not be in leadership. Women are capable of leading. When I hear a message from God from a truly spiritual level, I don't look at the gender of the one speaking. I see the holy spirit working first.

Regarding Salvation:

Salvation is available to all through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Ephesians 2:8-9 declares, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." Salvation through Jesus Christ is the only way to eternal life with God. Salvation through Christ, we must love people and care for one another in this life.

Regarding the Bible:

The Bible, inspired by God, is God's authoritative and infallible Word. It reveals God's character, will, and plan of redemption for humanity. 2 Timothy 3:16 states, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and training in righteousness." The Holy Spirit guided the early Church to establish the 66 books "the Bible" as biblical canon. The Bible solely includes the writings God has deemed necessary for His Church while excluding others.

Regarding Baptisms:

Baptism by immersion signifies our identification with Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It is a public declaration of our faith and commitment to Him. Romans 6:4 affirms, "We were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life."

Regarding The Church:

The Church is the body of Christ, called to proclaim the Gospel, make disciples, and demonstrate God's love to the world. Matthew 28:19-20 instructs, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

Regarding Communion:

Communion is the act of being one with Christ, taking the flesh and blood through Christ, and showing what he sacrificed. It is a sacred ordinance where believers remember Christ's sacrifice and proclaim His death until He comes again. 1 Corinthians 11:26 states, "For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

Regarding Angels:

Angels are spiritual beings created by God to worship and serve Him. They carry out His will and minister to believers. Hebrews 1:14 confirms, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"

Regarding the Enemy:

The Devil, also known as Satan, opposes God and seeks to deceive and destroy humanity. He was the fallen angel who God loved so much and trusted him. He then led a group of angels in rebellion against God and is the enemy of God and man. However, through Christ's victory on the cross, we have authority over him. James 4:7 exhorts, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

Regarding Eternity:

Humanity, created with eternal souls, faces a choice of eternal destiny. Those who accept Christ will experience eternal life with Him, while those who reject Him will face eternal separation from God. John 3:36 proclaims, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him." Jesus Christ will return bodily to establish His eternal kingdom on earth, where He will judge and separate the righteous from the unrighteous. The righteous in Christ will live in bodily resurrection in God's presence for all eternity, while the unrighteous will be shut out from the presence of the Lord.