

# Beliefs

**We believe** the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative, inerrant Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21).

**We believe** there is one God, eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1, Matthew 28:19, John 10:30).

**We believe** in the deity of Christ (John 10:33), His virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:35), His sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26), His miracles (John 2:11), His vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9), His resurrection (John 11:25, 1 Corinthians 15:4), His ascension to the right hand of God (Mark 16:19), His personal return in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11).

**We believe** in the absolute necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature and that we are justified on the single ground of faith in the shed blood of Christ and that only by God's grace and through faith alone are we saved (John 3:16–19, 5:24; Romans 3:23, 5:8–9; Ephesians 2:8–10; Titus 3:5).

**We believe** in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life, and they that are lost unto the resurrection of condemnation (John 5:28–29).

**We believe** in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 12:12–13, Galatians 3:26–28).

**We believe** in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (Romans 8:13–14; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19–20; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18).

**We believe** that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18–25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a biological man and a biological woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18, 7:2–5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God's command is that there be no sexual intimacy outside or apart from marriage between a man and a woman.

**We believe** that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated on the basis of Holy Scripture, which is our infallible guide. (2 Timothy 3:16–17) Since the Holy Bible does speak to the nature of human beings and their sexuality, it is imperative that we correctly understand, articulate, and abide by what the Bible teaches on these matters. We believe that God created mankind in His image: male and female, sexually different but with equal personal dignity. We believe that individuals should affirm their biological sex and refrain from any attempts to physically change, alter, or disagree with their biological sex. (Genesis 1:26–28, Romans 1:26–32, 1 Corinthians 6:9–11) We are committed to the home and family as set forth in Holy Scripture. We believe God has ordained and created marriage to exist between one man and one woman, with absolute marital fidelity.

Consequently, we believe that individuals should refrain from any sexual conduct or acts outside of this marital relationship. (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6, Mark 10:5-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 19:7-9, Revelation 21:2) It is our firm conviction that we uphold the dignity of each individual as we embrace the unchanging and longstanding principles of scriptural truth.

**We believe** that all matters of faith and conduct must be evaluated based on Holy Scripture, which is our inspired, infallible, and inerrant guide. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) Because Holy Scripture speaks to creation and human life, it is imperative that we correctly understand, articulate, and abide by what Holy Scripture teaches on this matter. We believe that every human life is sacred because God has created mankind in His image and that human life begins at fertilization. We believe every human life must be recognized, respected, and protected as having the rights of a person and the inviolable right to life. God created each person's inmost being, knitting each person together in his mother's womb. (Psalm 139:13) As God's individualized and personal creation, each person is fearfully and wonderfully made. (Psalm 139:14) God has ordained all the days of each person's life before they came to be. (Psalm 139:16) We are strongly committed to the preservation and defense of unborn human life, which compels our religious, moral, and ethical duty to defend unborn human life.

**We believe** baptism is symbolic of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. It is symbolic of the believer's transformation and a means to proclaim one's faith to others. (Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:41; 8:12, Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12; 3:12, Acts 2:38)

**This Statement of Faith** does not exhaust the extent of our religious beliefs. The Bible, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of human affairs. For purposes of the organization's faith, doctrine, practice, discipline, and policy, the Board of Directors is the organization's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.