

CTC STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

In these last days when there are many winds of doctrine sweeping the earth we need to know what we believe so that we may be established in the faith. The following statements cover major doctrines of the Bible in which we have basic unity.

1. THE DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible is the verbally inspired and only infallible, written Word of God. The scriptures, therefore, are the final authority for all matters of faith and practice. It is our manual for living. (See II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:20, 21; II Timothy 1:13, Psalm 119:105,160; 138:2; Proverbs 30: 5)

2. THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

We believe in the eternal Godhead is a tri-unity (The Trinity). There is one God, eternally existent in three persons, who is infinite in power, holy in nature, attributes and purposes, as well as omniscient and omnipresent. We believe that God was revealed to us as Father in creation, as Son in redemption, and as Holy Spirit in His comforting grace that never leaves us. (See Genesis 1:26; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; II Corinthians 13:14)

3. THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-existent and equal in authority with the Father. He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless human life. He took on Himself the form of a servant and was revealed as the God-man. He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead on third day to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven and will return again to earth to reign as King of King's and Lord of Lords. (See Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; I Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; I Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13)

4. THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is co-existent and equal in authority with the Father and the Son Of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus. Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation. We believe in His sanctifying power by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life. By Him we have guidance, conviction, and revelation. He adopts and seals every believer until the day of the Lord. It is under His control that we daily bring our life. He will fill and baptize all that ask Him. (See II Corinthians. 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians. 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18)

5. THE DOCTRINE OF CREATION

We believe that God is the Creator, Preserver, and Sustainer of heaven and earth and everything therein and that all creation and creatures were created by Him and for His pleasure and all are dependent upon the Creator for their existence. None are independent but all are beneficiaries of Divine providence and care. (See Genesis 1:1; 2:1-4; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 4:11; Acts 17:23-31)

6. THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS

We believe that God created angelic beings, spirit beings, which are ministering spirits doing the will of God, and are servants to the heirs of salvation. Their chief delight is to worship God, not to be worshipped, and to do His good and perfect will. (See Hebrews 1:7, 14; Psalm 91:11; Matthew 25:22, 41; 1 Timothy 5:21; Hebrews 12:22-24; Psalm 104:4; Revelation 4-5)

7. THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN AND DEMONS

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan and fallen angels. The Bible shows that there were fallen angels who sinned along with their leader, Satan. Also that there are angels who did not rebel and these are spoken of as Elect Angels. Satan and his fallen angels, are demonic spirits, are reserved

unto judgment of the great day, and will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone which was prepared for them. (See Matthew 25:41; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; 1 Timothy 5:21; Revelation 2:7-9; 20:11-15; 14:9-11)

8. THE DOCTRINES OF MAN AND SIN

We believe people are made in the spiritual image of God to be like Him in character. Therefore man is a triune being (spirit, soul, and body) created in innocence and dependence on God. Man also is created with free will and is morally responsible and accountable creatures. Our voluntary disobedience and rebellion-called "sin"- has caused us to fall from that perfection. Sin separates us from God and causes many problems in our life. The eventual result of our sin is eternal death and hell. Man is totally spiritually depraved and is unable to attain divine righteousness. (See Genesis 1:27; 2:16-17; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; 59:1, 2; Romans 3:9-23, 5:12-21; 6:23)

9. THE DOCTRINE OF GRACE

We believe in the grace of God which is manifested towards sinful men. Grace is defined as the undeserved, unearned and unmerited favor of God bestowed upon sinful men. Man does not deserve it; he cannot earn it; there is nothing in him that merits it. The grace of God includes His love, kindness, goodness and mercy which comes to men and is through Christ. (See John 1:14-18; Ephesians 2:7-9; Titus 3:4-7)

10. THE DOCTRINE OF THE ATONEMENT

We believe that the Atonement is the all-comprehensive plan of God in and for the redemption of fallen man. The old English word "atone" means "to cover, to pardon, to appease, to reconcile" and it is a most comprehensive word in its full ramifications. It was foreshadowed in the Old Testament by the sacrifice of animals, whose blood temporarily "covered" sin. It is fulfilled in the New Testament by Christ's perfect, sinless, human and once-for-all sacrifice. His sinless, incorruptible blood not only "covers" but fully "cleanses" sin. (See 1 John 1:5-7; John 3:16-17; 1:29, 36; Hebrews 9:1-24)

11. THE DOCTRINES OF SALVATION

We believe salvation is GOD's free gift to us who believe in His son, Jesus Christ. This gift must be accepted. The death of Christ is the way that men can come to God from their sin. The only means of being cleansed from sin is by repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus into his life by faith. (See Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 14:6, John 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1; John 3:16; Romans 5:8)

Therefore, because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God. It is God's grace and keeping powers that assures us of our eternal hope. (See John 10:29; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 10:10, 14; I Peter 1:2-5)

Furthermore, we believe that all those who are saved are to be baptized by immersion in water to identify him with Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. Every church member is commanded to be baptized. (See Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:16; 19:5; Colossians 2:12; Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:27)

Also, we believe that there is an experience subsequent to salvation in which the believer is filled with the Holy Spirit, which the scriptures call power from on high. The baptism of the Spirit in this manner is a one time act however the fillings of the Spirit are continual throughout a Christian's life. (See Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 19:6; Ephesians 5:18-19)

12. THE DOCTRINE OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that the redeemed should be wholly sanctified in spirit, soul and body; that they should live a life that is Spirit-filled, a life of separation from sins of the world, the flesh and the Devil and seek to perfect holiness in the fear of the Lord. Without holiness no man shall see the Lord. Because God is holy He can demand no less from His creatures and all who desire to live with Him in His holy heaven

throughout eternity. (See 1 Peter 1:16-18; Ephesians 5:18; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Hebrews 12:14; Ephesians 5:23-27; Leviticus 11:44)

13. THE DOCTRINE OF DIVINE HEALING

We believe in the healing of the body by Divine Power as practiced by the Early Church by faith in the name of Christ. (See Acts 4:30; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 12:9; James 5:14)

14. THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church is the instrument of God in the earth to extend God's kingdom and God's purposes. It is the sacred duty of every believer to identify ourselves with the visible Church of Christ. Believers are to be committed to and actively involved in a specific local church to realize their full potential in Christ, to become mature in their personal growth and to find full release and expression in the ministry that God has given them in the body of Christ. (See Acts 16:5; Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:10-12; Hebrews 10:25)

- God has set the five-fold ascension ministry-gifts in the church of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher. (Ephesians 4:9-16)
- The Bible identifies three areas of government in society: the home, civil, and the church. Without government, structure or, order there is chaos, lawlessness, anarchy and disorder. We believe that every local church is autonomous and self governed by a biblically qualified team of elders, headed up by a senior pastor or set man. (See Hebrews 13:7,17; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1, Acts 12:17; 15:19; 20:28; 21:18)
- The nine-fold fruit of the Spirit is the evidence of the Divine nature and character, and should be in every believer's life. (Galatians 5:22-23)
- The nine gifts are operations of the Spirit and reveal the attributes and power of God in the church and are given to the members of the Body as He wills, and are still for the Church today. (1 Corinthians 12:1-13)
- Every believer is a member of the Body of Christ in particular and is called to function and operate in the Body where the Lord has placed him. Every believer is to find his place in the Local Church. (1 Corinthians 12)
- We believe that the method ordained of God for the support of the ministry and the furtherance of the gospel is by giving tithes and free-will offerings. (See Malachi 3:10, 2 Corinthians 9:7; Genesis 14:20; Matthew 23:23; Hebrews 7:1-4; Numbers 18)
- We believe that the Lord's Supper, or Table of the Lord, is a sacrament of grace for all believers. (1 Corinthians 11:23-32)
- The Lord's purpose concerning the Church will be fulfilled and He will present to Himself a glorious Church, a perfect Church without spot, or blemish, or wrinkle, or any such thing. The Church will be a victorious Church and a suitable bride to be married to Christ. (See Matthew 16:18-19; 2 Corinthians 11:1-3; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 12; Revelation 19:7-9)
- All who are added to the Church should continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, in fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayers. (Acts 2:42)
- The Church should maintain the Divine standard of Christian life, taking care of the flock of God, by caring, feeding, teaching, preaching, exhorting and disciplining its members. (See 1 Timothy; 2 Timothy; Titus; Acts 20:20-28)

15. THE DOCTRINE OF FINAL THINGS

We believe that the end of the age will close with the literal, actual, visible, bodily and personal second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in like manner as He went. His return will involve a resurrection of the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation. (See Acts 1:9-11; John 5:29; I Thessalonians. 4:13-17)