

## Statement of Faith – Core Doctrines

### Section 1 – Introduction

The doctrine of this fellowship shall be based on a literal interpretation of the Bible, taken in context, and kept in harmony with the total view presented by the Word of God.

### Section 2 – The Bible

We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible are the only inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, the final authority for our beliefs, lifestyle, and ministry (1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:21).

### Section 3 – The Trinity

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three co-equal, co-eternal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 15:26).

### Section 4 – Jesus Christ

We believe in the full deity and full humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, His present ministry as our High Priest and Advocate, and in His future personal return in power and glory (Matthew 1:23; Mark 16:19; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14–16; 1 John 2:1; Matthew 24:29–31).

### Section 5 – Salvation

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; that all men are sinners by birth and by choice (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19).

We believe that salvation is the gift of God and that all who by faith repent and believe in Jesus Christ are justified (made righteous) by His grace, apart from any works (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

### Section 6 – The Holy Spirit

We believe in the active and ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit, who regenerates and indwells all believers and who sanctifies and enables them to live a godly life and serve the Lord effectively (John 14:16 –17, 16:13; Romans 8:5–11, 26–27; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 6:11; Titus 3:5).

### Section 7 – Judgment

We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost (2 Thessalonians 1:5–10; John 5:29; 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Revelation 20:11–15).

#### Section 8 – The Church

We believe in the Church as the worldwide fellowship of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 17; Ephesians 2:14–22; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27).

### Article III

#### Practices

##### Section 1 – Baptism

As an act of obedience to our Lord's teachings, and in following His example, we believe every new believer in Christ should be baptized. The act of baptism contributes nothing toward salvation; it serves as a physical expression of spiritual rebirth. We practice baptism by immersion.

##### Section 2 – Lord's Supper or Communion

This ordinance is celebrated periodically, preferably at least monthly. Participation in the act of communion contributes nothing toward salvation; it serves as a graphic reminder of our relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ. Our communion table is open to all who profess Jesus Christ as their personal Savior regardless of their church affiliation. The taking of the elements by children is left to the discretion of their parents who know the spiritual condition of their children.

##### Section 3 – Dedication of Infants

We do not baptize babies, but similar to the examples of Hannah with Samuel (I Samuel 1:28), and Joseph and Mary with Jesus (Luke 2:22-40), we dedicate newborn babies to the Lord. This dedication can only be meaningful when there is at least one parent who is a born-again Christian. They shall promise before God to train their child in the Word, both by instruction and example in the home and through church attendance.

##### Section 4 – Prayer for the Sick

For those who are physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually in need of healing, provision is made to fulfill the biblical injunction in James 5:14,15.