

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe...

...That the **Holy Bible** is divinely inspired (*God-breathed*), both the Old and the New Testaments. God's Word is one of the main ways He communicates with His children, reveals Himself and shows His ways. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

...In one **God**, revealed in three Persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Our God, Creator, holy and omnipotent, desires relationship with men, women, boys and girls everywhere. (Matthew 3:16-17 & 23-29; John 17)

...That **Man**, in his natural state, is a sinner, lost, undone, without hope, and without God. We also believe that man can be forgiven and know God through Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:19-23; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 2:1, 2, 12)

...In the **Divinity and Humanity of Jesus Christ**; that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is God come in the flesh, born of a virgin, and that He is both divine and human. He came, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, died on the cross, and rose from the dead that we might be restored to a relationship with God. He did all of this so that we might live out God's destiny and plan for our lives. (Matt. 27:1-26; Luke 1:26-38, John 14:1-3, Acts 2:36-3:14, Philippians 2:5-12, Hebrews 1:3-15)

...In the **Blood Atonement**; that the blood of Jesus Christ has the power to save, and His righteousness is given (or imputed) to all who believe in Him. There is no sin too great that His blood is not sufficient to cleanse and forgive. (Acts 4:12, Romans 4:1-9 & 5:1-11; Ephesians 1:3-15)

...In the **Bodily Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ**; that Jesus Christ died, was buried, and was resurrected in the same body in which he was crucified. He then descended into Hell to witness to those captive and then ascended to the Father and is presently seated at the right hand of the Father, making intercession for us. (Luke 24:39-42; John 20:24-29; John 14:1-6; Romans 8:34)

...In the **Second Coming**, the visible, bodily return of Jesus Christ to this earth to gather His Church (His Bride) and judge the living and dead. (Acts 1:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; James 5:8; Revelation 1:7). (**Note:** It is not necessary that we all believe alike concerning whether He will return before, during or after the Great Tribulation.)

...In **Salvation**. We believe that the terms of salvation are repentance toward God for sin and a personal, heartfelt faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, resulting in the regeneration (new birth) of a person. Good works are not a condition of salvation; rather, they are the fruit of salvation. This salvation is entirely by grace of our Lord and not by any good thing we do. Salvation is a love gift from God, whose love is unconditional. (Acts 3:19-20; Romans 4:1-5 & 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-10)

...In the **Holy Spirit**, the third Person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit's purposes in redeeming man are: to convict him of sin, to regenerate (give new birth to) the repentant believer, to guide the believer in understanding the Holy Scriptures, and to indwell and give gifts to believers as He wills, that they may minister as Christ would. Further, we believe that the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, as recorded in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, shall operate in present day churches that yield to the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe a believer can be baptized in the Holy Spirit during the time Jesus is regenerating him, or any

time subsequent to his regeneration experience. We believe that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (with an evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance) is for all believers as promised in Scripture by John the Baptist, witnessed by the early disciples of Christ, and is evidenced in the lives of many present day believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. What a great privilege to have the Holy Spirit empower and lead us into the plan and will of God for our lives! (Luke 11:13; John 7:37-39; 14:16-17; Acts 2:39-48; Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:4,5,8; Acts 10:44-47)

...In **Heaven and Hell**. The Holy Scriptures clearly set forth the doctrines of eternal punishment for the lost and eternal bliss and salvation for the saved – Hell for the unsaved and Heaven for the saved. We also believe that no man has to go to hell – Jesus made the provision that all people, everywhere, can be saved from an eternity without Christ and live in heaven forever. The Bible says that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. That means anyone! (Matthew 25:34, 41, 46; Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-3; Revelation 20:11-15)

...In the **Local Church**. We believe that the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a Local Expression of a Body of Believers who have been baptized in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; who are under recognized, delegate authorities; and who assemble to worship, carry forth the Great Commission and minister as the Holy Spirit leads. (Matthew 16:18, 28:19-20; Acts 2:40-47; 20:28; Ephesians 5:22-32; I Timothy 3:15)

...In a **Separated Life**. We believe that believers should seek, as the early disciples did, to practice the separated life from the world and unto Jesus Christ and to set standards of conduct which shall exalt our Lord and edify His church. (Romans 12:1-3; II Corinthians 6:17; Galatians 6:14; Ephesians 5:11; Colossians 3:17)

...In **Divine Healing**. We believe that God does use doctors, medicines and other material means for healing. However, we believe divine healing has been provided for us in the Atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ. Divine healing may be received through the laying on of hands by Elders, laying on of hands by believers, by the prayer of an anointed person gifted for healing the sick, by the anointing with oil and the prayer of faith, or by a direct act of faith where the believer receives healing directly from the Lord Jesus Christ without ministry from anyone else. (Isaiah 52:5; James 5:14-16; Mark 16:18; I Corinthians 12:9; Mark 11:23)

...In the **Ordinances of the Church**. We believe there are two ordinances of the Church as set by the Lord Jesus Christ: Water baptism and Communion(The Lord's Supper). (Matthew 3:15-16 & 28:19-20; Acts 8:38; Romans 6:1-4; Luke 22:13-20)

...in **Biblical Marriage**. As the creator and author of marriage, God alone has the authority to define it. This He did in Genesis where God, having created both male and female in His image, brought them together personally and a benediction was pronounced over the couple; "Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." For this reason, Christian believers now hold, and have always held, that marriage is: a faithful, exclusive, covenantal, lifelong relationship between one man and one woman, as instituted by God for the purpose of producing godly offspring, and being a true representation of the nature of God's relationship with mankind. It is sealed by the exchange of covenant vows, and is intended for the whole of natural life, until death. (Genesis 1:26, 2:28; Malachi 2:15; Matthew 19:1-10; Ephesians 5:22-25; Hebrews 13:4)

...in the **Sanctity of Marriage**. Not only does God ordain marriage, but He also established and outlined the confines for sexual relations within this marriage relationship. According to Scripture, any sexual activity, mental or physical, outside of Biblical marriage, is considered to be sexual immorality. Sexual immorality includes, but is not limited to sexual contact or relations with the following: anyone outside of or prior to marriage, parents, siblings, children, another's spouse, animals, dead people, or those of the same sexual gender. Pornography, sexting, virtual sex —looking at or distributing to others—is included in the mental aspect of sexual immorality. (Leviticus 18; I Corinthians 5, Exodus 20, Matthew 5:27, and 19:1-10)

...In the **Government of the Church**. We believe that the New Testament Church should be apostolic in nature and governed by delegated authorities. Those authorities at New Covenant Church are the Elders and Pastors with translocal apostolic oversight. We understand and believe that God's order of government for the local church is one of the church being birthed under the oversight of an apostolic ministry with the elders and pastors being raised up under the oversight of that apostle. Once that level of local church government is established, the church operates in an autonomous manner under the oversight of an apostle in an on-going relationship. This relationship is to be one by mutual consent of the apostle and the pastor and elders of the local church. (Acts 6:1-7, 15:6-29, Ephesians 4:7-11; Titus 1:5-9; I Timothy 3:1-13)

...In the **Priesthood of the Believer**. We believe that each believer is a priest of the Lord Jesus Christ and has direct access to the Father through the Lord Jesus. Each person must believe for himself, be baptized for himself, obey for himself and answer to the Creator for himself. (Revelation 1:6; I Peter 2:9)

...In **Tithes and Offering**. We believe that God's plan of finance for His work is by tithes and offerings, given cheerfully, and that it is a joy for His children to acknowledge His Lordship in this manner. (Malachi 3:6-12; Genesis 14:17-20; Hebrews 7:1-10; Matthew 23:23; II Corinthians 8 & 9; Acts 20:35)

...In **Christ-likeness**. We desire that by the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' love, mercy, grace, truth, purity, power, and integrity would shine through all that we are and all we do. (Ephesians 5:2; Galatians 5:16-26)

...In **Being Spirit-led**. We honor Jesus as our Head and the Holy Spirit as our Counselor, teacher, and Helper. The Holy Spirit will abide in us forever. We seek to be responsive to the Holy Spirit in life and ministry. (John 14:16-17; Colossians 1:15-18; Romans 8:14)

...In **Covenant Relationships**. We are honored by every person and group with whom God allows us to work and relate. We aim to work together to build the church by maintaining mutual respect, open communication, determined cooperation, and believing and speaking the best about each other. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

...In **Discipleship**. We desire for every individual to grow as a disciple (learner and follower) of Christ and to make disciples of others. (Matthew 28:18-20)

...In the **Individual**. Single or married, we honor whatever gift, calling or anointing each person enjoys. We respect unique ministries in the Body of Christ and work not to overshadow, minimize or discount them. (Romans 12:9-10; I Cor. 12:1-11; Eph. 4:11)

...In **Integrity**. It is important for us to speak the truth, have honest dealings, and live uprightly. (Ephesians 4:15)

...In the **Kingdom of God**. We aim to move in the signs of the present fulfillment of the kingdom, desiring the Spirit's powerful presence, ministering through the Spirit's gifts, and seeing God heal and work wonders. (Mark 1:14-15)

...In the **Mercy and Grace of God**. We believe that grace and mercy are fundamental to all that God does in salvation. We, therefore, aim to live a life of grace, extending mercy to one another and those to whom we minister. (Colossians 3:12-13; Ephesians 2:8-10)

...In **Prayer**. We believe that prayer is essential as our primary means of communion with God, as well as God's primary means of accomplishing His purposes in the world. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Philippians 4:6)

...In the **Pursuit of God**. We are hungry to know God's presence, hear His voice and follow hard after Him. (Psalm 63:1-3)

...In **Reality and Excellence**. We desire to walk in the Spirit and see real, supernatural works of God. We aim also to function in excellence and wisdom. (James 1:5)

...In **Servant Leadership**. We believe that Christ has put significant leadership and spiritual responsibility into the hands of church leaders. We aim to exercise that authority in caring for God's people with humility, selflessness, grace, and a sincere desire to build up the Body of Christ. (Mark 10:37, 45; Eph. 4:11-16)

...In **Simplicity**. We wish to do nothing for "religious effect" but rather to operate in natural low-key, non-hype patterns. We desire to do the ministry of Christ with joy. (Philippians 4:4)

...In **Unity**. We are convinced that all who belong to Christ are one in His body, the church. We aim to maintain unity by honoring all who call on Jesus' name. (John 17:21-23)