

Confession of Faith

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1. God

There is only one true God. He is the Creator and Redeemer of the universe, and He interacts personally with His creation. God is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, meaning He has control over, is present in, and knows all things concerning the past, present, and future of His creation. He is holy, loving, everlasting, and transcendent, and He is worthy of the highest praise and obedience.

Scripture References: Exodus 20:2-3; 2 Samuel 22:32-34; Job 12:7-10; Psalm 116:5; Isaiah 43:10; Isaiah 45:5; Micah 7:18-19; Matthew 6:9, 1 Timothy 1:17; James 1:17; 1 John 1:5; 1 John 4:7-9

The Trinity

God reveals Himself to His creation in three forms: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Though God reveals Himself to us in three persons, He remains one God. All three persons were present in the creation of the world because all have existed forever and will continue to exist for eternity. However, though all three persons of the Godhead form One God, each person is also distinct from the other. The perfect love and unity in the Trinity is an example for human relationships in the body of Christ.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:1-2; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 6:26-33; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 14:26-31; John 10:29-30; Romans 8:26-30; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:1-2

God the Father

God the Father reigns and cares for His creation. He guides His creation toward His greater purpose, and He is sovereign over all things. He is love, and because of this He sent His Son to pay the penalty for the sins of all humanity. He desires to have a personal relationship with His creation, and He adopts those who believe as His sons and daughters.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:1; Genesis 45:7-8; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 23, Psalm 139; Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 8:28-30; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Peter 1:3-4; 1 Peter 5:6-7; 1 John 4:7-21; Revelation 1:8

God the Son

God the Son is Jesus Christ. In his incarnation, Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, and He was humbly born in the town of Bethlehem as a baby. He is fully God and fully man, and He exhibited both of these characteristics while He was on earth. His purpose on earth was to live a perfect life and die on the cross and resurrect on the third day as the perfect sacrifice for all humanity. Through His death and resurrection, humanity can once again experience reconciliation and a relationship with God. God the Father exalted Jesus to sit at His right hand, and He serves an advocate for sinners to the Father. He will return again in all His power and glory to judge and complete the redemption of the world.

Scripture References: Genesis 3:15; Matthew 4:2; Luke 1:26-35; Luke 2:1-7; Luke 2:52; Luke 24:39; John 1:1; John 19-20; Romans 1:3; Romans 8:34; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 1:2-3; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 20:7-14; Revelation 21

God the Holy Spirit

The third person of the Godhead is the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person who performs the works of God in the conviction of sin and bestowing gifts upon believers. Once a person comes to faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit baptizes them in the body of Christ and empowers them to become more like Christ and to share their faith with others. He also inspired men to write the Scriptures and enlightens people to understand and glean truth from them.

Scripture References: Mark 1:8; Mark 13:11; John 14:25-26; John 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:4; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 2:9-13; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; Galatians 5:16-25; 2 Peter 1:21

2. The Bible

The Bible is God's Word written by men who were divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is the primary way in which God reveals Himself to humanity. All Scripture is completely true and trustworthy, pointing us to God and how to have a relationship with Him. Every doctrine of Christianity should be held to the standard of Scripture. The New Testament is the fulfillment of the Old Testament, but both are equally inspired and applicable to all peoples. All of Scripture reveals God's ultimate mission: to bless all people on earth by bringing them into a relationship with Him.

Scripture References: Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Psalm 1:1-2; Psalm 119:89, 105, 130, 142; Isaiah 55:10-11; Matthew 5:17-20; John 1:17; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25

3. Humanity

Special Creations of God

All humans are special creations of God who bear His image. All people reflect God's image and are therefore worthy of respect and kindness. No person is greater than another. God created man and woman to be unique and complement one another, but they are both equals in His sight. All people are a part of God's good creation and loved by God. One day, representatives from every people group on earth will stand before the throne of God in worship.

Scripture References: Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7, 18-23; Proverbs 22:2; Malachi 2:10; Acts 10:34-35; Galatians 3:28; Revelation 7:9-10

The Fall of Man

He also created them to have a personal relationship with Him, but they chose to reject Him and brought sin into the world, separating themselves from God. Once a person is capable of understanding right from wrong, they are responsible for their sin. Every person is born with a sin nature and deserves eternal punishment apart from God. Only God's grace through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ can reconcile someone back into a relationship with God.

Scripture References: Genesis 3; Psalm 14; Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:9, 23-24; Romans 5:12-14; Ephesians 2:1-3, 8-9

4. Salvation

Salvation is the means by which humanity is reconciled to God. No person can be saved apart from having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. One must confess with their mouths that Jesus is Lord and believe in His death and resurrection in order to be saved. While heaven is one benefit, it is not the main goal of salvation. When a person is saved, they enter into the Kingdom of God immediately, becoming a new creation. Salvation also includes the processes of sanctification and glorification. Sanctification is the process by which a person grows more like Christ through God's pruning and with the help of the Holy Spirit indwelling inside them. This then leads to glorification, the final state during which God will remove all spiritual defects of the saved.

Scripture References: Psalm 68:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; John 3:16-17; John 14:6; Acts 2:21; Romans 5:6-11, 15-21; Romans 8:30; Romans 10:9,13; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:20; Colossians 3:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:9-12; 2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 2:11-14; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 9:15, 23-28; James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:2-9; Revelation 21

5. Church

The church consists of followers of Christ meeting together, serving the community, and sharing the gospel with those around them. While there is one universal church, the church is separated into individual congregations. The New Testament provides guidelines in regard to the organization and practices of the church, and each congregation operates with Jesus Christ as the head and is responsible to Him. The church is made up of a variety of people of all ages and languages and cultures.

Scripture References: Matthew 18:20; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 15:7-11; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 1 Corinthians 9:14; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 2:18-22; Ephesians 4:15; Ephesians 5:22-32; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 10:24-25; Revelation 7:9-10; Revelation 21:1-6

Leaders and Authority

According to Scripture, the two officers of the church are deacons and pastors. Both men and women are equally gifted for service within the church, including in the area of teaching, but the

position of pastor is reserved for men who meet Scriptural qualifications. Members in the congregation also have authority, but the pastor leads and shepherds the people to be more like Christ, who is the true Head of the church.

Scripture References: Matthew 18:15-17; Acts 6:3-6; Acts 14:23; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; James 5:14-15; 1 Peter 5:1-11

Ordinances

The two ordinances of the Christian faith as described in Scripture are baptism and the Lord's supper. Believers' baptism is the symbolic action of being immersed in water to demonstrate one's faith and belief in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. While baptism does not save a person, it is a prerequisite for church membership and the Lord's supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic action to help believers remember the death of Christ and look forward to His coming again. Through the taking of the break and the cup, the church reflects on Christ's sacrifice.

Scripture References: Matthew 3:13-17; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 1:9-11; Mark 14:12-25; Luke 3:21-22; Luke 22:7-23; John 3:22-23; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-11; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Evangelism and Missions

God desires to use His church to spread the gospel to all the earth. Every believer has the responsibility to evangelize and disciple those around them, and this involves the verbal proclamation of the gospel and living a life which reflects Christ. God also calls some specific people to travel overseas to proclaim His gospel to the unreached, and the sending church is responsible for praying and supporting these missionaries.

Scripture References: Psalm 117; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 9:35-38; Matthew 24:14; Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:14-16; Luke 10:1-11; Luke 24:45-48; John 15:1-17, 26-27; Acts 1:8; Acts 13:2-3; Ephesians 3:7-13; 2 Timothy 4:5

6. Last Things

In His own perfect timing, Jesus Christ will personally return to earth and God will destroy the current world and create a new heaven and a new earth. The dead will be raised and Jesus will judge all people according to His righteousness. Those found unrighteous will be apart from God forever, but those found righteous in the sight of God will experience resurrection and dwell forever in the presence of the Lord.

Scripture References: Matthew 16:27; Matthew 19:28-30; Matthew 24:27; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 13; Luke 12:35-40; Luke 17:22-37; Acts 1:10-11; 1 Corinthians 15:50-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Timothy 6:13-16; Revelation 20-22