



# *The Good Shepherd Fellowship*

## **Statement of Faith**

*Produced by the  
Pastoral Care Team  
in recognition of the diversity  
of Christian traditions  
represented within our  
inter-denominational community*

## **Our Statement of Faith in Brief**

**We Believe in God:  
God the Father  
God the Son  
God the Holy Spirit**

**We Believe in The Word of God, The Bible**

**We Believe in Sin**

**We Believe in Salvation from Sin**

**We Believe in Eternal Life**

**We Believe in Satan**

**We Believe in Eternal Death**

**We Believe in the Act of Baptism**

**We Believe in the Celebration of Holy Communion**

**We Believe in the Body of Christ, the Church**

**We Believe in Christ's Return**

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## **Statement of Faith**

### **We Believe in God**

Almighty God is the Creator of all things. He formed us in His own image. He knows and loves us. **(John 1 v 1 – 5)**

Omniscient: God is all-knowing; Omnipotent: God is all-powerful; Omnipresent: God is all-being. There is only one God. He reveals Himself to us in three forms, and yet He is One. We accept this holy mystery, by faith, as the Trinity (Three in One) – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **(John 10 v 30 & John 16 v 12 – 15)**

### **God the Father**

God is our Heavenly Father. His relation to us is personal. He desires our praise and worship. He showers us with blessings and love, as an earthly father would to his children.

When we pray to Him in Jesus' name, He hears and answers our prayers **(1 John 5 v 14 – 15)**. He knows best what is good for us.

When we sin against God, He is saddened. God hates sin.

We believe God loves sinners, and has prepared a way of Salvation for us, by sending us His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for our sin. **(Romans 3 v 22 – 26)**

### **God the Son**

God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to save us from eternal separation from Him.

Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, a young woman who had found favour in God's eyes. He was conceived by the Spirit of God. Lived amongst men and suffered a cruel death. But He defeated Death and rose from the dead. This was victory over the Devil and sin.

After commissioning His followers to spread the Good News (Gospel) throughout the world, Jesus ascended into Heaven **(Matthew 28 v 16 – 20)**. He is now preparing a place for all who believe in Him **(John 14 v 1 -3)**.

### **God the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' promise of a Comforter, Guide and Counselor. He told His followers that they would not be left alone, but that when the Holy Spirit comes to them, they would receive power to be witnesses. **(Acts 2 v 1 – 4)**

He, the Holy Spirit, indwells each one of us who receive Jesus Christ into our lives as our personal Saviour.

His presence and anointing in our lives, is evidenced in many ways. He endows us with special gifts with which to encourage the Church. **(1 Corinthians 14 v 12)**

We believe that the Holy Spirit and His evidences are not the reserve of the few, but available to all who open their hearts in surrender to God's will.

## **We Believe in The Word of God, The Bible**

We believe the full and complete Word of God to have been written by men through the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is God's perfect blueprint for mankind's redemption.

Within its pages are God's promises (covenants) to His people, and prophecies of things to come (**Revelations 22 v 18 – 20**).

We accept that other literature may be used to compliment the Holy Scriptures, but shall in no way contradict, deviate from, or add to, the message of God's Salvation - the Word of God.

## **We Believe in Sin**

Man was created by God and given choice; choice to do what is right, or not to. Mankind has chosen to reject and disobey God. This immediately causes a separation between God and mankind.

Without exception, all have sinned and therefore have fallen short of God's standard (**Romans 3 v 23 - 24**). Our only redemption is to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness and remission of our sin (**Romans 6 v 23**).

The definition of "Sin" is absolutely anything which displeases God. God loves the sinner – but hates the sin.

Forgiveness from our sin requires an individual to come before God and confess personally to Him in repentance. God alone can forgive sin (**1 John 1 v 9**).

## **We Believe in Salvation from Sin**

We believe there is only one way to receive God's salvation, and that is by faith in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must come to Him in repentance for our sin, which, by nature is inherited by Man's disobedience in the Garden of Eden, and personally accept God's gift of forgiveness, by trusting in Jesus Christ (**Romans 5 v 12**).

We believe that Jesus' death on the cross was the ultimate sacrifice for us, and that by believing in Him we might enjoy Everlasting Life with Him. (**John 3 v 16**)

By accepting Christ into our lives, we desire from that time onward, to live a life pleasing to God.

We believe that there is no other route to Salvation, but through the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ.

## **We Believe in Eternal Life**

We believe that our brief time on this earth is not all that there is. God desires that we should live with Him forever. However, Everlasting Life in Heaven is not automatic – it is freely offered to all but is for each one to personally accept salvation through Jesus Christ (**Romans 1 v 16 – 17**).

There are no other guarantees, shortcuts, or exceptions (**Ephesians 2 v 8 – 9**), but by receiving salvation through His sacrifice on the cross at Calvary (**Galatians 6 v 14**).

## **We Believe in Satan**

The Devil (aka Satan) is alive and active on planet Earth **(2 Corinthians 11 v 14)**. He is the bearer and the force which causes mankind to turn from the Truth, and it is he who causes pain and suffering. He takes pleasure in Sin.

We believe that society has embraced Satan in many subtle guises, allowing worldly pleasures to entice many away from God. He is a deceiver.

But we believe the Devil has been defeated by Christ's victory over Death.

In the final reckoning, he, Satan, will be banished. **(1 Corinthians 15 v 54 – 57)**.

## **We Believe in Eternal Death**

We believe that Heaven is the reward that God has prepared for all who believe in Him, but we also believe there must be a place of eternal separation from God for those who, sadly, do not receive His gift of Salvation **(Isaiah 59 v 2 – 3)**.

God does not choose to send anyone to Hell; mankind chooses by rejecting the love of God.

Hell offers no second chances **(Luke 16 v 26 & Hebrews 9 v 27)**. We believe it is our duty to spread the Gospel (Good News) of Jesus Christ in order that others might be saved from eternal death.

## **We Believe in the Act of Baptism**

God rejoices in the growth of His Church, and so we embrace the act of welcoming believers into our Fellowship. Baptism is a picture-language testimony of how Christ's sacrifice of death has brought us into newness of life **(Romans 6 v 1 – 8)**. Jesus commanded His followers to baptize in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit **(Matthew 28 v 19)**, and the Apostle Paul reiterated that this should be practiced by all who repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ **(Acts 2 v 38 & 41)**.

This Believers Baptism is demonstrated by being immersed fully in water, "dying to self", and then being brought up out of the water to walk "in newness of life" **(Romans 6 v 4)**.

We accept that there are various ways in which the Church chooses to welcome newborn infants into the Body of Christ, just as Jesus Himself blessed the children who came to Him **(Matthew 19 v 13 – 15)**. Such celebrations are a special way of declaring, before God, and before the Church, that our intention is to bring up, teach and nurture this young child in the ways of God, whilst fully recognizing that they must, one day, make their own decision to follow Christ.

We believe that Baptism, in whatever mode, is never a free ticket to Heaven. It is an act of obedience, declaring an intention to follow Jesus Christ and own Him as Lord.

## **We believe in the Celebration of Holy Communion**

Jesus, when He ate His last meal, before His crucifixion, with the gathered disciples, broke bread and shared a chalice of wine with them. He told them to do this whenever they met together, because the bread represented His body when He died on the cross, and the wine represented His blood poured out for the remission of sins **(Luke 22 v 19 – 20)**.

We believe that sharing in this Holy Supper is a command for us to celebrate what Jesus has accomplished for us in bringing us Salvation.

We accept that this special celebration has many variations and emphases within its practice. However, the Emblems of Bread and Wine must be the central theme. We believe that they are, in themselves, just picture-language, but that their pure, emblematic significance is very holy to us **(1 Corinthians 11 v 23 – 26)**.

## **We Believe in the Body of Christ, the Church**

The Church is not a building or structure made by man's hands. The Church is the living Body of Christ. We are His Church **(1 Corinthians 12 v 27)**.

The Body of Believers comes with many denominational nametags and traditions. But we are all bound in God's family by His love **(1 John 4 v 7 – 10)**.

We believe that we are His People. And as we gather together in Jesus' name, we are One, although we are many.

The Church is described in the Bible as Christ's Bride. One day in the future, He, the Bridegroom, will receive His Bride for the "Great Wedding Banquet" in Heaven **(Revelations 19 v 7)**.

We accept that no particular denomination or doctrinal emphasis has formed the perfect Church, but we do recognize that God makes us perfect through His Grace, and one day we will see and know Him face to face **(1 Corinthians 13 v 12)**.

## **We Believe in Christ's Return**

Much has been written and preached on the doctrine of Christ's return to receive all the faithful unto Himself in Glory. We believe, although not yet fully understanding how or when Jesus will come again, that He will keep His promise and take into Heaven all who own Him as their personal Saviour **(1 Thessalonians 4 v 14 – 18)**. We, by faith, look forward to our reward in Heaven. Jesus said, "I will come again, soon, and receive you unto Myself" **(John 14 v 1 – 6)**.