

CONFESSION OF FAITH

SCRIPTURE

The Bible, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, has many human authors but one divine Author.

Psalms 19
2 Timothy 3:16
Hebrews 4:12-13
2 Peter 1:20-21

The words of Scripture are God-breathed (inspired) in such a way that they are the words of God and the Word of God. Therefore, Scripture is inerrant in its words, infallible in its whole, without contradiction, unified, and clear. It is authoritative for all of life and faith and always speaks truthfully and accurately.

GODHEAD

God is one – the only God, infinite, eternal, self-existent, and holy.

Deuteronomy 6:4
Isaiah 40:12-31

God is spirit and is to be worshiped in spirit and truth.

John 4:24

God is triune (a trinity), eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in nature, co-equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections.

2 Corinthians 13:14
Ephesians 2:18

JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man – eternal second member of the Godhead, the Son of God become flesh. He is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, in whom the fullness of God dwells.

John 1:1-2
Philippians 2:5-11
Hebrews 1:3
Colossians 1:15-20
Colossians 2:9

Jesus was born of a virgin, his birth a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. Thus he was fully human but without sin or guilt.

Isaiah 7:14
Luke 1:26-38

Jesus himself claimed to be God and to speak and act with God's authority as demonstrated by his teachings and miracles.

John 8:21-30
Mark 2:1-12

Jesus died on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice for sin according to the plan and will of God.

Matthew 27:24-56
John 19:1-42
Romans 5:8-11
2 Corinthians 5:14-21

Jesus conquered sin and death by rising from the dead. His resurrection was literal, physical, and witnessed by many. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father.

1 Corinthians 15:1-28
Acts 1:6-11
Ephesians 1:20-23

Jesus is Savior, Lord, King, Ruler of all things in heaven and earth, Head of his church, High Priest of his people – interceding and advocating for them. Christ is worthy of and rightfully demands the unqualified love and submission of every member of the human race.

Hebrews 7:25; 9:24
1 John 2:1-2
Philippians 2:11
Revelation 4:8-14

HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead and displays all characteristics of Deity and Personhood.

Genesis 1:2
Acts 5:1-6
1 Thessalonians 5:19

God the Spirit authenticated the life and work of Christ and testified to Jesus' Sonship.

Matthew 3:13-17

The Holy Spirit superintended the writing of Scripture ensuring the inerrancy, authenticity, authority, and power of the biblical text.

2 Peter 1:20-21
Ephesians 3:4-5

The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of the unbeliever to comprehend and receive the gospel. He regenerates, washes, indwells, seals, fills, and intercedes for the believer and illuminates the believer's understanding by giving insight, wisdom, and revelation.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16
Titus 3:4-7
Ephesians 1:13-14;
3:16-17; 5:18
Romans 8:26

The Spirit gave birth to the church as the people of Christ and God and places every believer into the body of Christ, the church, building a temple for his own dwelling.

Acts 2:1-41
Ephesians 2:18-22

God the Spirit sovereignly distributes gifts among the members of Christ's body for the work of the ministry and the edification of his people.

1 Corinthians 12:4-13
Ephesians 4:7-14

MAN

God created man uniquely in his own image and likeness – in a state of sinlessness and unhindered fellowship with God himself. God created man to be a steward over creation.

Genesis 1-3

Man sinned by disobeying God his Creator, was evicted from the garden, is now fallen, and bears God's punishment for his disobedience.

Romans 3:10-18; 24

All of mankind participated in Adam's sin, and every human being has thus inherited a fallen, sinful nature. Man is born at enmity with God.

Romans 5:12-21

Man is sinful in both nature and action – totally depraved, alienated from God, and incapable of pleasing God or remedying his lost condition.

Ephesians 2:1-3
Colossians 1:21
Titus 3:3

SALVATION

Jesus' death on the cross was a substitutionary sacrifice as an atonement for sin. His death was sufficient to satisfy the wrath of God against sin. Apart from the cross, there is no salvation from sin or judgment.

Isaiah 53:4-6
Romans 5:1-11
Hebrews 9:11-26
1 John 2:1-2

Salvation is found only by faith in Jesus Christ alone. There is no other way to God or means of pleasing him.

Romans 3:21-26
Acts 4:12
John 14:6

Salvation is the gift of God, by grace through faith. It is undeserved and cannot be earned or obtained by human effort or merit.

Romans 4:1-8
Ephesians 2:8-10
2 Timothy 1:9

God the Father must call the unbeliever and enable that person to respond to the gospel with faith.

John 6:44
John 8:42-47
1 Thessalonians 1:4-5
1 Peter 1:1-2

True salvation involves repentance from sin and transformation of a person's heart, attitudes, and behavior as that person is conformed to the image of Christ.

Romans 6:1-23
2 Corinthians 4:7
Ephesians 4:1
1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

The believer's salvation will be completed with the future resurrection and the transformation of his body into a glorious body.

Philippians 3:20-21
1 Corinthians 15:42-49

CHURCH

The church is a spiritual organism made up of all believers in this present age – believers of every race, ethnicity, and culture – and constitutes the people of God in this age.

1 Peter 2:4-10
Ephesians 2:13-18
Ephesians 4:1-6
Galatians 3:28
Colossians 3:11

The church was a mystery, once hidden but now revealed, and began on the Day of Pentecost with the promised coming of the Holy Spirit. Though sharing some similarities in purpose and calling, the church is distinct from Israel.

Ephesians 3:1-12
Colossians 1:24-27
Acts 2:1-4; 33-41

The church is the body of Christ, of which he is the Head and in which believers as individual members are made one. The church is the bride of Christ, betrothed to him and destined to be presented to him pure and blameless at his coming. The church is the flock of God over whom Christ is the Chief Shepherd. The church is the temple of the Spirit of God, his dwelling place being built into a household.

Colossians 1:18
Romans 12:5
1 Corinthians 12:12
Ephesians 5:25-27, 32
Revelation 19:6-8
1 Peter 5:4
2 Corinthians 6:16-18
Ephesians 2:19-22

Local churches are the visible, experiential expressions of Christ's community (the universal church) whose members are commanded to assemble to worship God and minister to one another according to the Scriptures.

Hebrews 10:24-25
Ephesians 5:18-21
Colossians 3:15-17
1 Thessalonians 5:14-22

Local churches are self-governing and are to be led by gifted, humble shepherds (pastor-elders) who will give an account to Christ for the church's spiritual well-being.

Acts 20:28
Ephesians 4:11-14
1 Peter 5:1-4
Hebrews 13:17

Christ instituted two ordinances for his church, the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

Matthew 26:26-29
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Matthew 28:19
Acts 2:38

ETERNITY

We eagerly await the personal and imminent return of Jesus Christ for us. This is our blessed hope, our hearts' great desire.

Hebrews 9:27-28
1 Thessalonians 4:16-18
Titus 2:11-14
1 Peter 1:8-9

God the Father has given all judgment to the Son. Jesus will return in glory to execute God's justice on earth, inflicting wrath on God's enemies and rewarding his people.

1 Corinthians 15:23-28
2 Thessalonians 1:5-10
Revelation 19:11-21

Christ will reign 1000 years on earth with absolute authority over the nations and will bring all of God's covenant promises to fulfillment, after which he will judge Satan, his host, and all unredeemed mankind with eternal damnation.

Isaiah 11:1-9
Revelation 20:1-15

God will create a new heavens and new earth, and his angels and glorified saints will dwell in his undiminished presence for all eternity.

Revelation 21:1-4
Revelation 22:1-5

This hope purifies his people and gives them the strength to endure until Jesus Christ returns and God fulfills all his promises.

1 John 3:2-3
1 Thessalonians 5:9-11
Revelation 22:6-13