

Declaration of Faith

Apostles' Creed

We believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only begotten Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, We believe in the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God the Father, the Almighty, creator of heaven and earth, and of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being [substance] with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

Light a Fire Statement of Basic Truths

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship. The phraseology employed in this Statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all Biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines. We seek to promote sound doctrine, but recognize that division is not God's preferred alternative to adversity or doctrinal dispute. We choose to extend liberty in all "non-essential" doctrinal matters.

1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments (66 canonized books), are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct. We acknowledge dependence upon the Holy Spirit for their accurate interpretation and application. We recognize that Jesus is the Word (Logos) and we must treat the Word as a living person, and not exclusively a book (II Timothy 3:15-17; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21; John 1:1).

2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Christ taught a distinction of Persons in the Godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28: 19; Luke 3:22; Luke 1:35; I Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 1:3,4).

3. The Father

The Father is supreme and sovereign existence. He is the heart and mind of the Godhead. At a point in His timeless existence, His joy conceived in Him to create time, space, the universe, the heavens, the earth, every animate and inanimate thing, every concept and plan, angels, and man, the pride of His creation. Word (Logos) carried out the Joy of His heart, and this Word was His Son. The Father is the source and sustenance of all things, created and uncreated. All things are in fact an extension of

Him. The Father is invisible and mysterious; no one has ever seen Him, but the Son reveals the Father. He is Love.

4. The Son

The Son is the Word and Revelation of the Father. He is in endless existence with the Father and is one and the same as the Father. The Son fulfills all Joy of the Father in creation, law, redemption, judgment, and re-creation. He never does anything on His own, but does only the will of the Father. He is the same substance and essence as the Father. To know the Father (either personally or characteristically), one must know the Son. He manifested himself to many throughout the ages as God, the very voice of the Father and the perfect law. He appeared physically to Adam, Enoch, Hagar, Jacob, Moses, 70 elders of Israel, Joshua, the parents of Samson, David, Isaiah, and others throughout the Old Testament, as well as giving shadows throughout in the law, prophets, and types. In the fullness of time, he manifested Himself in the person of Jesus, born of a virgin, revealed as the Messiah of the Jews, fully God and fully man. Jesus, the Son of God, was rejected and condemned by the Jews and Gentiles, crucified, and killed. The third day after His sentencing, He was physically resurrected by the Father and the power of the Spirit. He was, from these acts, revealed to all creation as Savior and Lord. He then, after a time, ascended to heaven, out of sight from man. Now He sits at the right hand of the Father, His work being totally complete. He waits until the repercussions of His earthly work are complete and all His enemies are made His footstool. Still in bodily form as Jesus, He is the perpetual intercession for the saints. His words and work will, at an undisclosed future time, judge the world through Jesus. At that time, He will deliver all things to His Father. His words are life and Spirit. He is the manifestation of Love.

5. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Breath of the Father and the Revealer of the Son. He is in endless existence with the Father and Dwells within the Son. He proceeds from the Father and the Son. He searches the mind of the Father for glorification of the Son. He is a Seven Fold Spirit and is always before the Father. He was present in creation, as he hovered over the waters. He was part of the very atmosphere of created earth. He was the Breath breathed into Adam. He was manifested to many throughout the ages as the Spirit of prophesy, the spirit that spoke through all true prophets, from Enoch to John the Baptist, and the testimony of the (then hidden) Son. In the fullness of time Jesus was born of a virgin, and his words were life and Spirit. Before Jesus died, he promised that he would go away, but would send a Helper, His own Spirit. Jesus died, thus opening the heavens so that the Spirit could operate fully in the lives of believers. The Spirit

raised Jesus from the dead. On that year's Pentecost, shortly after Jesus' ascension, the fullness of the Holy Spirit fell upon and took residence in the all the apostles and 108 other believers who were in unity seeking God. The Holy Spirit is now resident inside all who believe on Jesus and His work (the cross) for the only means and end to salvation. He is Helper, Empower-er, Revealer, Glorifier of Jesus, Teacher, and the Spirit of Prophecy, the Testimony of Jesus. He constantly speaks to the hearts and spirits of believers bringing them to the knowledge of Jesus, the love of God, and their son ship. He transforms, from glory to glory, who He has made free through the work of the Son. He inhabits every son (and daughter) of the Father. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He is not separate from the Godhead, but even as the spirit of a believer is present in heaven in heaven and on earth, the Spirit of God is present on the earth and in communion within God. He is the Searcher and Knowledge of Love.

6. Man

Creation

Man was created in the image of God. Man was created with the very Glory of God upon and inside them. Man is the Joy of the Father, created to be loved by the Father. They were created to willfully glorify God by enjoying Him. God set man on the earth to subdue the earth, reign in everlasting life, and to be in constant union with God. Man was and is never intended for hell, but to make the earth as heaven. God knew every man and woman before he formed them in the womb. All human life is sacred, even before conception. God is not willing that any man would parish.

The Fall

Man was separated from fulfilling his purpose because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. All men and women descending from Adam and Eve are now born with a sinful nature, or an innate propensity toward sin (sin is defined as a thought, word, or deed, done in disobedience or disbelief of God). All men have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God. Man was separated from God because of the universal sinful nature, for there is no darkness in God, who is Light. Sickness, evil, pain, work, discord, and death are all the result of Sin. Man, by any of his efforts, can never repair the separation between himself and God. Man, by any of his efforts, can never fulfill his purpose. Because of sin and the sinful nature, God's wrath fell upon man. However, God's purpose and original intent for man discussed in the previous paragraph, has and will, never change.

7. Grace

Pre-Christ Era

Before God created the world, God planned in advance to redeem the world (including man) from sin, the sinful nature, the resulting evil, and the devil (a finite, fallen angel, who is a hater of God and adversary to man). After Adam's disobedience, God showed the total depravity of man and complete futility on man's part to reconcile himself to God. Neither moral code (law), nor miraculous displays (deliverance of Israel), nor wisdom (Solomon), nor judgment (the great flood), nor threatening (prophets), nor sacrifice (temple cult) nor any other thing was able to bring about reform sufficient to rid man of his sinful nature or permanently forgive his sin.

The Finished Work of Jesus

In the fullness of time, God sent his own Son, born of a virgin. This Son, Jesus, was fully God and fully man. Being God, His nature, Spirit, and personality was divine. He was free from the inherit nature of sin and never sinned. Being human, He had the limitations, temptations, processes, of a naturally born man in right relationship with God. He was crucified, taking the sins of all the world, fulfilling the entire law, and drawing all the judgment of God unto Himself on the cross. On the third day, God raised Jesus from the dead, defeating the great enemy of death itself.

Salvation

All men can receive salvation instantly by faith (trust and complete reliance) in the finished work of Jesus. This includes forgiveness (freedom from hell), justification (right standing before God), righteousness (a sinless life free of the sinful nature), holiness (complete cleanliness and set apart to God) eternal life (perpetual reconciliation with God) and the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The grace of God for this Redeeming act, allowing us to fulfill God's original intent for the earth, comes absolutely free. Any work or effort on the part of man to reconcile himself to God voids the work of Christ. It comes only by belief, for the entire work of God is to believe in the one God sent, Jesus. True faith is of the heart and not just the mind (Romans 10:10). Good works and godly practices are a fruit of true faith, and all men are called to repentance and holiness. However, good works and practices have no bearing on our acceptance, standing or approval with God, all of which were accomplished by the cross of Jesus Christ alone. We believe that physical, emotional and spiritual healing is all available through the person and work of Jesus Christ on the cross. In conclusion, we confirm that salvation is received by faith in Christ alone, which brings about repentance, a change of mind, and transforms the believer into a new creation.

8. The Saints/Church

In Christ

All men who have believed on Christ and been reconciled to God are called saints. The collective group of saints, both living and dead, is called the church. The church is the Body and the Bride of Christ, the kings and priests of God's Kingdom. All saints and

the church as a whole are mystically seated in heaven, in Christ. No believer is ever removed from their place in Christ. All saints and the church are the righteousness of God, sons and daughters of the Father, embody the Holy Spirit, and are blessed with, have possession of, and access to every spiritual blessing and gift. They have the empowerment by grace to fulfill man's created purpose as outlined in Statement of Basic Truth number 6, paragraph 1. All who believe on Christ have crucified the entire sinful nature with Christ once and for all. There is therefore no sinful nature and no condemnation that remains in the life of a believer. While it is not impossible for a believer to sin, it is not part of their nature or flesh. We believe that the believer is completely sanctified at the moment of entering into Christ by faith. No works are necessary to increase or decrease acceptance in the Beloved. There is no obligation on the part of the Church to fulfill any part of religious law, because it has already been fulfilled in Christ. Therefore, any form of legalism is strongly discouraged.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the baptism of the Spirit and the accompanying gifts, power to witness, graces and fruit of the Spirit. We accept, acknowledge, encourage and seek all of the biblical gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit as present and vital for the church to accomplish her full purpose today. We believe in the five-fold ministerial governing of the church, not as a hierarchical lording-over, but a foundation of empowerment to build upon. The foundation is the apostles and prophets, with Christ as the Cornerstone. Upon these, God set evangelists, pastors, teachers, and every other gift and calling. We recognize that our knowledge and understanding of the Lord is limited, and our goal is to grow into a fuller recognition of Him (1 Cor. 13:12). We recognize that God is still restoring truths and light to His church, and therefore, we place no limit on further revelation. However, all revelation must be substantiated according to the Scriptures. We believe that all truth was ultimately revealed on the cross.

The Blessed Hope

We believe that the church has and will persevere victoriously through many tribulations, including what is called the great tribulation, before the second coming of our Lord. We recognize that many true believers do not hold this belief and we do not seek to divide over this issue. We believe that the church will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air preceding His second coming, and that they will judge all men and angels. All believers are presently and will continue to live in constant communion with the Godhead.

9. Ordinances

We acknowledge the ordinances of water baptism and of the Lord's Supper, however, neither are for the purpose of remission of sins. Water baptism is a visible representation of our death, burial and resurrection with Christ. The Lord's Supper is a

means of fellowship with the spiritual body of Christ. Both of these ordinances offer spiritual benefits, but the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross is the sole means of remitting sins. We acknowledge the sacrament of marriage as being a holy union between one man and one woman. We acknowledge the sacrament of ordination into ministry as being a means of grace by the endowment of power through the laying on of hands, however, this is eclipsed by the greater truth that all believers are a "royal priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9).

10. Resurrection

We believe, at a coming, imminent, and yet undisclosed time, the Lord Jesus Christ will physically return to the earth. Every man and woman ever born will be physically resurrected on Judgment Day. They will be judged by Christ according to their works. And the work of God is to believe on the One who God sent. All men either be judged as worthy of eternal life through the acceptance of God's grace or as worthy of eternal damnation with the devil and his angels because of their rejection of God's grace. Christ will rule the earth for a literal one thousand years with the saints. At the end of that time, God will permanently destroy the devil and the remainder of all evil, and he will create a new heaven and a new earth. There he will rule and reign in perfection forever.

Please note: Some of the wording was borrowed from the *Sons of Thunder Statement of Fundamental Truths* (John Crowder, 11/28/2008) and *The Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God*.