

STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Holy Scriptures are the God-breathed, inspired word of God, and the final authority for faith and life for a Christian. **(2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)**

THE TRINITY

We believe in one God that eternally exists as three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, each of whom is fully God, co-eternal, co-equal, and yet come together to make one God. **(Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14)**

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is the central story that the entire Bible tells. We talk about the gospel story in 5 big stages: Creation, Fall, Redemption, Renewal & Restoration.

1) Creation - God created the world as it should be.

God created humanity in his own image as male and female, and God gave them dominion to rule over all of creation. **(Genesis 1-2; 1:31)**

2) The Fall - Human sin brings personal & systemic brokenness.

Sin separates us from our relationship with God, ourselves, others & creation. Each of us, through our attitudes and actions, have sinned against God in the very same way, choosing our way instead of trusting in God's way. **(Romans 3:23-25)**

3) Redemption - Life, Death & Resurrection of Jesus to restore what was broken.

Jesus lived the perfect life that we could never live (he was without sin), he died the death we deserve to die (in our place), & rose from the dead, defeating death & bringing eternal life to all who believe. Our relationship with God, ourselves, others & creation is restored. **(Colossians 1:19-20)**



4) Renewal - Emerging glimpses of personal & systemic life as it was meant to be.

God pours out the Holy Spirit on all who believe to affirm our salvation, guide us into truth, empower us for his purposes, and make us more like Jesus. The church is God's people living out the way of Jesus - the "Kingdom of God." We experience much of the new life in the kingdom of God now, but we also experience the not yet of its full expression (now, but not yet). **(2 Corinthians 5:17)**

5) Restoration - All things as they were meant to be.

Together we wait for the day when Jesus will return to judge the world, bringing an end to injustice and restoring all things to God's original intent. We are giving our lives to living out that future reality now. **(Matthew 6:10; Revelation 21:1, 3-4)**

Two Thieves of the Gospel - Legalism/Moralism/Religion & Relativism/Irreligion

"Legalism/moralism/religion" stresses truth without grace.

"Relativism/irreligion" stresses grace without truth.

Jesus came full of grace AND truth (John 1:14). Any religion that de-emphasizes one or the other of these truths falls into legalism or into license.

LEGALISM,
MORALISM,
RELIGION



RELATIVISM,
IRRELIGION

OTHER ISSUES

Sex: We believe in the goodness of sex within the frame of covenant marriage between a man and a woman.

Women in Ministry: We believe and affirm that women can hold the office of pastor in the church.