

What We Believe

Our Statement of Faith

God the King and the Holy Trinity

WE BELIEVE that God is the Eternal¹ King². He is an infinite³, unchangeable⁴ Spirit⁵, perfect⁶ in holiness⁷, wisdom⁸, goodness⁹, justice¹⁰, power¹¹ and love¹². From all eternity¹³ He exists as the One¹⁴ Living¹⁵ and True¹⁶ God in three persons¹⁷ of one substance¹⁸, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit¹⁹, equal in power and glory²⁰.

God the King: The Creator and Ruler of All Things

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom is everlasting²¹. From His throne²², through His Son, His eternal Word²³, God created²⁴, upholds²⁵ and governs²⁶ all that exists²⁷: the heavenly places²⁸, the angelic hosts²⁹, the universe³⁰, the earth³¹, every living thing³² and mankind³³. God created all things very good³⁴.

Counterfeit Kingdom: Satan and Demonic Hosts

WE BELIEVE that Satan, originally a great, good angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him³⁵. He was cast out of God's presence and, as a usurper of God's rule, established a counter-kingdom of darkness³⁶ and evil on the earth³⁷.

The Kingdom in the Creation of Man, the Fall and The Doctrine of Original Sin

WE BELIEVE that God created mankind in His own image, male and female³⁸, for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth³⁹. Under the temptation of Satan⁴⁰, our original parents fell from grace⁴¹, bringing sin⁴², sickness⁴³ and God's judgment of death to the earth⁴⁴. Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation⁴⁵. Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin⁴⁶. Human beings are born in sin⁴⁷, subject to God's judgment of death⁴⁸ and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness⁴⁹.

God's Providence, Kingdom Law and Covenants

WE BELIEVE that God did not abandon His rule over the earth⁵⁰, which He continues to uphold by His providence⁵¹. In order to bring redemption, God established covenants⁵² that revealed His grace to sinful people⁵³. In the covenant with Abraham, God bound

Himself to His people Israel, promising to deliver them from bondage to sin and Satan and to bless all the nations through them⁵⁴.

WE BELIEVE that as King, God later redeemed His people by His mighty acts from bondage in Egypt⁵⁵ and established His covenant through Moses, revealing His perfect will and our obligation to fulfil it⁵⁶. The law's purpose is to order our fallen race⁵⁷ and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility⁵⁸. By the work of God's Spirit⁵⁹, it convicts us of our sin⁶⁰ and God's righteous judgment against us⁶¹ and brings us to Christ alone for salvation⁶².

WE BELIEVE that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King⁶³, God established the monarchy in Israel⁶⁴ and made an unconditional covenant with David⁶⁵, promising that his heir would restore God's kingdom reign over His people as Messiah forever⁶⁶.

Christ the Mediator and Eternal King

WE BELIEVE that in the fullness of time⁶⁷, God honoured His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation⁶⁸ by sending His Son⁶⁹, Jesus, into the world⁷⁰. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary⁷¹, as fully God and fully man in one person⁷², He is humanity as God intended us to be⁷³. Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit⁷⁴, inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth⁷⁵, overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation⁷⁶, preaching the good news of salvation⁷⁷, healing the sick⁷⁸, casting out demons⁷⁹ and raising the dead⁸⁰. Gathering His disciples⁸¹, He reconstituted God's people⁸² as His Church⁸³ to be the instrument of His kingdom⁸⁴. After dying for the sins of the world⁸⁵, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day⁸⁶, fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham⁸⁷. In His sinless, perfect life⁸⁸ Jesus met the demands of the law⁸⁹ and in His atoning death on the cross⁹⁰, He took God's judgment for sin⁹¹ which we deserve as law-breakers⁹². By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers⁹³. The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house⁹⁴, His Messianic ministry⁹⁵, His glorious resurrection from the dead⁹⁶, His ascent into heaven and His present rule at the right hand of the Father⁹⁷. As God's Son and David's heir⁹⁸, He is the eternal Messiah-King⁹⁹, advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today¹⁰⁰.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power¹⁰¹, baptizing believers into the Body of Christ¹⁰² and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them¹⁰³. The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us¹⁰⁴ for spiritual worship¹⁰⁵, personal sanctification¹⁰⁶, building up the Church¹⁰⁷, gifting us for ministry¹⁰⁸, and driving back the kingdom of Satan by the evangelization of the world¹⁰⁹ through proclaiming the word of Jesus¹¹⁰ and doing the works of Jesus¹¹¹.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ¹¹² and that He is our abiding Helper¹¹³, Teacher¹¹⁴, and Guide¹¹⁵. We believe in the filling or empowering of the Holy Spirit¹¹⁶, often a conscious experience¹¹⁷, for ministry today¹¹⁸. We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit¹¹⁹ and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit¹²⁰. We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit¹²¹, for healing¹²², and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church¹²³.

The Sufficiency of Scripture

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture¹²⁴ so that the Bible is without error¹²⁵ in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments¹²⁶ as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith¹²⁷ and practice¹²⁸.

The Power of the Gospel Over the Kingdom of Darkness

WE BELIEVE that the whole world is under the domination of Satan¹²⁹ and that all people are sinners by nature¹³⁰ and choice¹³¹. All people therefore are under God's just judgment¹³². Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the Kingdom of God¹³³ and the work of the Holy Spirit¹³⁴, God regenerates¹³⁵, justifies¹³⁶, adopts¹³⁷ and sanctifies¹³⁸ through Jesus by the Spirit¹³⁹ all who repent of their sins¹⁴⁰ and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord¹⁴¹ and Saviour¹⁴². By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign¹⁴³.

The Church: Instrument of the Kingdom

WE BELIEVE in the one¹⁴⁴, holy¹⁴⁵, universal Church¹⁴⁶. All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour are regenerated by the Holy Spirit¹⁴⁷ and form the living Body of Christ¹⁴⁸, of which He is the head¹⁴⁹ and of which we are all members¹⁵⁰.

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism¹⁵¹ and the Lord's Supper¹⁵². Both are available to all believers.

The Kingdom of God and the Final Judgment

WE BELIEVE that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ¹⁵³, that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church¹⁵⁴, and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ¹⁵⁵ - His

return to the earth as King¹⁵⁶. After Christ returns to reign¹⁵⁷, He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works¹⁵⁸, the resurrection of the dead¹⁵⁹, the final Judgment¹⁶⁰ and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked¹⁶¹. Finally, God will be all in all¹⁶² and His kingdom, His rule and reign¹⁶³, will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth¹⁶⁴, recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells¹⁶⁵ and in which He will forever be worshipped¹⁶⁶.

References

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