

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1. The Scriptures

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be inspired by God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and life.

(1 Cor. 2:13; 10:11; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21)

Section 2. The Triune God.

a. God

We believe in one God, who is Creator of heaven and earth; eternal, almighty, infallible and unchangeable; who is Spirit, light, love and truth; infinitely wise, just and holy; and that God eternally exists in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(Gen. 1:1; Ps. 86:15; Dt. 6:4; Mal. 3:6; Mt. 28:18, 19; Jn. 1:1, 14; 4:24; 10:30; Acts 5:3, 4; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 Jn. 4:16)

b. Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, the Eternal Word manifested in the flesh, our crucified and risen Lord who came to us, and shared our common lot to conquer sin and death and to reconcile the world to himself. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is true God and true man.

(Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Jn. 1:1, 2, 14, 18; 3:16; Phil. 2:5-8; 2 Cor. 5:19)

He bestows upon us His Holy Spirit; He calls us into His Church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to proclaim the gospel to all the world, to resist and overcome the power of evil; He promises to all who trust Him forgiveness of sins, fullness of grace, courage in trial and eternal life in His kingdom which has no end.

(Jn. 14:16; Lk. 9:23, 24; Mt. 28:19; Jn. 15-18; Eph. 1:7; Jn. 16:33; Lk. 1:31-33)

c. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person and is possessed of all the distinctively divine attributes. He convicts men of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals, and sets believers apart to a holy life and service; that He keeps and empowers believers day by day.

(Acts 5:3, 4; Jn. 16:7-11; 3:6; Rom. 8:2, 4; 1 Cor. 3:16; 12:13; Eph. 1:3; 1 Pet. 1:2)

Section 3. Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, after His likeness, but the whole human race fell in the fall of the first Adam. All men are lost, alienated from the life of God because of sin; darkened in their understanding of spiritual matters through ignorance and hardness of heart. They cannot see nor enter the Kingdom of God until they are born again of the Holy Spirit to accept the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.

(Gen. 1:26, 27; Rom. 1:21; 5:12; Jn. 3:3, 5; Lk. 19:10; Eph. 2:1, 5; 4:18)

Section 4. Salvation

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice to satisfy divine justice. All who believe in Him and repent of their sins are declared forgiven on the ground of His shed blood, and are born again by the quickening, cleansing work of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God. All those who receive Jesus Christ as their Saviour become children of God and have eternal life.

(1 Cor. 15:1-3; Isa. 53:5-11; Jn. 3:5-7; 36; Rom. 10:9, 10, 17)

We believe that our Lord was raised from the dead to secure our justification according to the Scriptures, and that His resurrection body is the pattern of that body which, at the return of Christ, will be given to all resurrected believers.

(Rom. 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:4, 23, 42-45; Phil. 3:20, 21)

Section 5. The Church

We believe that the Church is a living spiritual body, of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members. The Church in her invisible form is universal, the true Body and Bride of Christ. The Church in her visible form is composed of believers who assemble themselves for the purpose of worship, edification, spiritual growth and service.

(Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:31, 32; Acts 20:28; 9:31; Eph. 4:11-16)

Section 6. Sacraments

We believe that baptism is a means of grace in which the use of water is a testimony before the world that God has cleansed the believer from sin, has received him into His Church, and has claimed him as always and wholly His.

(Mt. 28:19; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:1-6; 1 Cor. 12:13)

The Chinese Evangelical Church of San Diego takes no official position as to the mode of baptism to be administered. The choice of infant baptism or dedication is left to the discretion of the parents of the child.

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament given by Jesus Christ as a memorial act in remembrance of His death on our behalf. Believers should come to the Lord's Supper with searching of heart, with inward confession of our sins to the Lord, with glad assurance of God's forgiveness in Jesus Christ, and with confidence that He will give us new strength to serve Him. When we partake the elements in this manner, the Supper is made a medium through which God does communicate grace to the heart.

(Lk. 22:17-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; 5:7; 11:28, 29)

Section 7. The Christian Life

We believe that we are called with a holy calling to live a life pleasing to God and to grow daily in grace. We need constantly be cleansed and kept by the Holy Spirit in subjection to Christ through a close walk with the Lord, feeding upon the Word of God, and devoting whole-heartedly to fellowship and prayer.

(Rom. 6:11-13; 8:2, 4; Gal. 5:16; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; Acts 2:42)

Section 8. The Future

We believe in the personal visible return of Jesus Christ. He will come for His saints to gather them to Himself; and with his saints to judge the nations and to establish upon earth His Messianic Kingdom. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just to eternal fellowship in the glory of His presence and with one another; and in the bodily resurrection of the unjust to eternal separation from God in hell.

(Acts 1:11; Jn. 14:3; 1 Th. 4:14-18; 2 Th. 1:7-10; Dan. 7:13-18, 12:2; 1 Cor. 15:23-25; Rev. 5:10; 11:15)