



# DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

## GOD

We believe that God is the creator and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. In love, God the Father redeemed and reconciled mankind to himself through his son, Jesus Christ.

*Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:2; Genesis 1:26; 3:22; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:3-14*

## JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless human life<sup>4</sup> and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on the cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. We believe in the present high priestly ministry of Jesus Christ, being accomplished on our behalf, at the very right hand of the throne on High.

*Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13. Hebrews 8:1-13*

## HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. The Holy Spirit is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. The Holy Spirit provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. The Holy Spirit gives every believer a spiritual gift(s) when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to yield and submit to the Spirit's work in our daily lives.

*2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, Ephesians 1:13; John 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Galatians 5:25; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; Ephesians 5:18*

## THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible is God's Word to us. It consists of the 66 books as adopted by the Protestant faith—Genesis through Revelation. It is verbally inspired of God, inerrant in the original

writings, and is the supreme and final authority of faith and conduct. To the believer, it is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for equipping believers to live a life glorifying to God.

*Psalm 19:7-14; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5, Psalm 12:6, Psalm 119:105, 160; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 10:31*

## **HUMAN BEINGS**

We believe that man was created by God in His own image; that he sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and remain sinful by choice and therefore under condemnation.

*Genesis 1:26, 5:2; Genesis 3, Romans 3:10-18, Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12, Isaiah 59:2; Romans 5:16, 18*

## **SALVATION**

We believe that salvation is God's free gift to those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior. Those saved are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become new creatures; delivered from condemnation and receive eternal life. God chose in Christ before the foundation of the world those who would become holy and blameless in His sight.

*Romans 6:23; I John 1:9; John 3:16, John 1:12-13; Titus 3:4-7; II Corinthians 5:17; John 5:24; Ephesians 1:4-11; Ephesians 2:8-9*

## **ETERNAL SECURITY**

We believe that God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ; the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If a person has been genuinely saved, they will persevere in faith. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

*John 10:27-29; 2 Timothy 1:12, Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; Heb. 3:6, 12-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5*

## **ETERNITY**

We believe that people were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is to be in Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is to be in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

*John 3:16-18, Ecclesiastes 12:7; Romans 6:23, Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9*

## **SATAN**

We believe that Satan is a created being cast from heaven due to his sinful rebellion. He is the enemy of God and man. He exercises control over this world system for evil. The Lord Jesus Christ triumphed over Satan and his emissaries at the cross. He and his demons are destined to eternal

punishment in the lake of fire for eternity. He actively opposes the work of the church and the spiritual vitality of Christians.

*Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:11-19; Luke 10:18; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12, 1 John 5:19; Colossians 2:15; Revelation 20:10; Ephesians 6:12, 2 Corinthians 10:3-4*

## **THE CHURCH**

We believe in the global church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church consisting of a body of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, discipleship, and service.

*Acts 1:8; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 5:19, Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:12; Galatians 5:13-14*

## **CHURCH ORDINANCES**

We believe that there are two ordinances of the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that God's Word commands every believer to be baptized by being immersed in water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Though baptism has no saving merit; it is a sign of our incorporation into the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a confession of one's faith and identification with the triune God. It is a symbol of washing of regeneration and forgiveness of sin.

We believe that the Lord's Supper or communion is a provision of bread and the cup, which are symbolic of Christ's broken body and shed blood; that the Lord's Supper is partaken of by believers in commemoration of the suffering and death of their Lord and anticipation of His coming again, and as a witness to their faith.

*Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-7; Luke 12:8-9; Titus 3:5; Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

## **WORSHIP**

We believe that human beings are created with the primary function to worship. We worship God as enabled by the Holy Spirit, and through the saving work of Jesus Christ. We worship in Spirit; as well as in truth. Christians will never cease to worship for the rest of eternity. As Christians, we direct our worship to the creator God, rather than one of His creations. When a person chooses to elevate God's creation to a place of honor and in place of Him, that person commits sin. The purpose of our worship is to bring pleasure and glory to God. Our corporate worship of God can take place in different ways: through singing, prayer, communion, baptism, and through the preaching of the gospel.

*John 4:20-24, Romans 12:1, Romans 1:25, 1 Corinthians 10:31; Psalm 150*

## **MISSIONS**

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the Gospel locally in Cottonwood, regionally in south Shasta County and globally to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

*Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-48, John 20:21; Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:20; Matthew 28:19*

## **LOVE**

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions.

*Luke 6:31, John 13:34-35, Romans 12:9-10; Romans 17-21, Philippians 2:2-4, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, Titus 3:2, 1 John 3:17-18; Matthew 5:44-48*

## **MARRIAGE**

We believe that marriage has been ordained by God and is an exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by the church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found in this statement.

*Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2, 1 Corinthians 7:10, Ephesians 5:22-33*

## **HUMAN SEXUALITY**

We believe that God's intent for human sexual relations are to be exercised solely within marriage between a man and a woman. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage (referred to in the New Testament as "porneia") including but not limited to, adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further, lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness.

*Genesis 2:24; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1: 26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4*

## **HUMAN LIFE**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender

selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. However, we also believe it is our calling, as Christians, to continue to show love to anyone who has experienced an abortion, and to comfort them with the emotional stress they will experience. God does not stop loving them, and neither should we.

*Psalm 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44 Exodus 20:13, 23:7; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28; Rom. 8:38-39.*

## **GIVING**

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to financially support their local church. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel.

*Proverbs 3:9-10; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; Genesis 14:20; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Acts 4:34-37*