

Statements of Faith

- *Sola Scriptura* – Bible Alone, *Sola Fide* – Faith Alone, *Sola Gratia*, - Grace Alone, *Solus Christus*, Christ Alone, *Soli Deo Gloria*, To God Alone Be the Glory. These are the basis and pillars for all the others. (Read Below for further details) These are what are essential and are most important.

THE APOSTLES' CREED	BIBLE REFERENCES
I believe in God,(1) the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth,(2)	1. Isaiah 44:6; 45:5 2. Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Acts 14:15
And in Jesus Christ,(3) His only Son,(4) our Lord,(5) who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,(6)	3. Luke 2:11; John 20:28 4. John 3:16; Proverbs 30:4 5. John 20:28 6. Luke 1:35 7. Luke 1:27
born of the Virgin(7) Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,(8) was crucified,(9) dead(10) and buried.(11)	8. Luke 23:23-25 9. John 19:20; Acts 4:10; all Gospels 10. 1 Corinthians 15:3 11. 1 Corinthians 15:4
He descended into <u>paradise</u> . (A)	A. 1 Peter 3:18; Luke 23:43
The third day (12) He arose from the dead,(13) He ascended into Heaven(14) and is seated at the right hand of God,(15) the Father Almighty.	12. 1 Corinthians 15:4 13. 1 Corinthians 15:4 14. Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51, Acts 1:11
From thence He shall come to judge the quick* and the dead.(16)	15. Mark 16:19; Hebrews 1:3 16. 2 Timothy 4:1; John 5:22
I believe in the Holy Spirit,(17) the church universal,(18) the communion ** of saints,(19) the forgiveness of sins,(20) the resurrection of the body,(21) and life everlasting.(22)	17. John 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-14; Acts 13:2 18. Galatians 3:26-29 19. Revelation 19:14; Hebrews 10:25 20. Luke 7:48 21. 1 Thessalonians 4:16; John 6:39 22. John 10:28; 17:2-3
* "quick" means "spiritually alive" ** "communion" refers to "coming together"	

These are my Core Statements of Faith. All the usual statements of faith are built from these, with the addition of church doctrinal separation issues and “in-house” debates. I prefer to stick with the “what we know”, “what we can know”, “what we should know”, and “what we need to know” doctrines of the scripture. Not “church” doctrine, but Bible doctrine. Remember, Jesus condemned the Pharisees for this: “*You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men*” (In Context: Mark 7:4-8) When statements are excerpted from these

scriptural ones, because they are subject to manipulation, twisting, and private interpretation, unfortunately, many times they are skewed with denominational intentions. HOWEVER...having shared the 5 Solas and the Apostles Creed, Please scroll to the last page to see my Traditional Statements of Faith.

Further explanation of the 5 Solas

Scripture Alone (Sola Scriptura) is the final, and infallible, court of appeal as to the truthfulness of any opinion which it (Scripture) addresses. In particular, we learn who God is, who we are, what God requires, and what God provides, in the Bible alone.

We are justified (declared to be not guilty, and therefore accepted by God into his family) by **Grace Alone** (Sola Gratia) - that is, by a gift of God, not dependent upon goodness that is within us.

We receive this gift of God by **Faith Alone** (Sola Fide) - that is, solely by depending or relying on God, and not by doing anything. The good works which we do are a result of God's gracious work in us, and not a cause of it in any sense.

The salvation was paid for through the work of **Christ Alone** (Solo Christo) - that is, Jesus lived a perfect life, always totally pleasing the Father, and never displeasing Him. When Jesus died on the cross, He was being punished for sin, but NOT His own sin. Rather, he was punished as a substitute for sinners. The sin of God's people was counted to Christ and He was punished as their substitute when He died on the cross; the perfect life and obedience of Christ is counted to God's people as they are joined to Him, and they are accepted in Christ, the Beloved, and thereby blessed with life in Him.

And finally, this entire scheme of redemption is to **the Glory of God Alone** (Soli Deo Gloria) - God chooses a people, provides for their redemption, draws them to Himself, and ultimately glorifies them with Himself - all to the praise of His glorious Name and the grace He gives.

Please see Traditional Statements of Faith below.

Statements of Faith

The Bible

I believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the revelation of God to mankind, is verbally and fully inspired by Him, is sufficient for the knowledge of God and His will that is necessary for the eternal welfare of mankind, is infallible and inerrant in its original manuscripts, and is the supreme and final authority for all Christian faith and conduct. (**2 Timothy 3:16,17**; **2 Peter 1:21**; **1 Corinthians 2:13**; **Deuteronomy 29:29**; **2 Timothy 3:15**; **John 10:35**)

God

I believe that there is but one God, whose essential nature is that of a living, personal Spirit. He is infinitely perfect in all of His attributes, He is the creator and sustainer of all things, and He exists in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (**1 Corinthians 8:4**; **John 4:24**; **5:26**; **Genesis 1:1**; **Colossians 1:16,17**; **Matthew 28:19**)

Jesus Christ

I believe that Jesus Christ is true God and true man; that is, He is fully divine and also fully human. He preexisted eternally with the Father, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, lived a perfect life and died a substitutionary death for the sins of mankind. I believe that He arose bodily from the grave, that He ascended to heaven, where He is presently High Priest and Advocate for His people, and that He will return personally and bodily to the earth at the close of this age. He is the world's only Savior and is the Lord of all. (**Philippians 2:5-11**; **John 1:1**; **Matthew 1:23-25**; **1 Peter 2:22**; **1 Corinthians 15:3**; **1 Timothy 2:6**; **1 Corinthians 15:20**; **Hebrews 4:14-16**; **John 14:3**; **Acts 4:12**)

The Holy Spirit

I believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, the third Person of the Trinity. I believe that He was sent from the Father by the Son to convict the world, to regenerate and indwell those who trust in Christ, to baptize them into the Body of Christ, to seal them for the final day of redemption, to guide them into truth, to fill them for a life of holiness and victory and to empower them for witness and service. I believe that He gives spiritual gifts to believers for the proper functioning of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. (**Acts 5:3,4**; **John 16:7-14**; **3:5-8**; **1 Corinthians 2:9-12**; **3:16**; **12:3-13,28-31**; **Ephesians 1:13,14**; **Acts 1:8**)

Man

I believe that man was originally created by a definite act of God in His own image and is dependent upon and accountable to his Creator. Through disobedience, the first man sinned and fell from his original state of moral perfection. As a consequence, he brought upon himself and upon the whole human race the penalty for sin, which is spiritual and physical death. Since Adam, every person is born with an inherently sinful nature and becomes a sinner in thought, word and deed. Every person, therefore, stands under the just condemnation of God and is unable to save himself or to present deeds worthy of merit before God. (**Genesis 1:26,27**; **2:7**; **Romans 2:6-16**; **5:12-21**; **6:23**; **Matthew 5:20-48**; **John 3:36**)

Salvation

I believe that a person is saved by God's grace alone, made possible through the shed blood of Christ, whereby He died a substitutionary death for mankind, and through the Resurrection of Christ. Salvation becomes effective when a person, by an act of faith, acknowledges Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and Lord. The benefits of this salvation include the forgiveness of sins and a new standing before God, the impartation of new life and all the privileges that accompany a new family relationship with God. The assurance of salvation as a present possession is the privilege of every believer in Christ. (**Ephesians 2:8,9**; **1 Corinthians 15:3**; **Acts 16:31**; **Romans 10:9**; **Acts 3:19**; **Romans 3:28**; **John 3:16**; **John 1:12**;**10:28**; **Philippians 1:6**)

The Christian Life

I believe that God expects every believer to live a life of obedience, in which every area of his life is brought under the lordship of Jesus Christ and the fruit of the Spirit becomes increasingly evident in his life. The goal of the Christian life is to be conformed to the image of Christ. This life is characterized supremely by self-giving love for God and for others. The life and character of Christ, which grows through the Holy Spirit, is noticeably distinct from the life of the world. A believer who resists the gracious working of the Holy Spirit and fails to grow in obedience is chastened in infinite love by his Heavenly Father so he may learn obedience. (**John 14:21**; **2 Corinthians 10:4,5**; **Galatians 5:22,23**; **2 Corinthians 3:18**; **Matthew 22:37-40**; **1 John 2:15-17**; **Hebrews 12:5-14**)

The Church

I believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is the universal company of God's redeemed people, His Body, of which He is the head, His Bride, whom He loves infinitely, and His temple, in which He dwells. This universal Body of Christ is visibly expressed in local assemblies, whose purpose is to glorify God through worship, fellowship, instruction in God's Word, observing the ordinances and training in service to the world. The supreme task in the mission of the Church is to make disciples for Christ in all the nations through the proclamation and teaching of the Gospel. The Church is also to demonstrate the love and compassion of Christ, through word and deed, in an alienated world. (**1 Peter 2:9,10**; **Ephesians 1:22,23**;**5:25-27**; **2:19-22**; **1 Thessalonians 2:14**; **Ephesians 3:6-10**; **Acts 2:42**; **Ephesians 4:11-13**; **Hebrews 10:25**;**Matthew 28:18-20**; **26:26-29**; **1 John 4:17**)

The Future Life

I believe in the return of Christ to take His people to be with Him and to judge and rule the earth in righteousness. I believe in the resurrection of the body for both believers and unbelievers. I believe that the believer goes to be with Christ in conscious blessedness immediately after death, having escaped the condemnation of his sins through the death of Christ. He will, however, stand before God to receive rewards for works approved by God or to suffer loss for works disapproved. The believer will live eternally in the immediate presence of God, while the unbeliever must face the eternal and holy Judge, who will sentence him for his sins. He will experience the punishment of eternal separation in hell from the presence of God. (**John 14:3**; **1 Thessalonians 4:16,17**; **Revelation 11:15**; **1 Corinthians 15:20,23**; **Philippians 1:23**; **Romans 8:1**; **2 Corinthians 5:10**; **Revelation 20:11-21:5**; **Romans 2:11**)

Satan

I believe in the personality and depraved character of Satan, who is the great enemy of God and man. I believe that he, along with the company of demonic beings serving him, works out his evil plans through the ungodly world system, limited only by the sovereign rule of God. I believe that he was judged by Christ at the cross and will ultimately meet his doom in the lake of fire, where he will remain eternally. (**Matthew 4:3-11**; **Genesis 3:1**; **John 8:44**; **Revelation 12:9,10**; **2 Corinthians 4:4**; **1 John 5:19**; **Job 1:6-12**; **1 John 3:8**; **Revelation 20:10**)