

Zion Word Ministries International

Statement of Faith



THE GODHEAD

Our God is One God, but manifests Himself and reveals Himself in three Persons: The Father; The Son; and the Holy Ghost. They are co-equal, co-existent, co-operative, and eternal in nature, and holy in divine essence. Jesus said, "I and my Father are One" (Jn. 10:30). God said, "Let us make man in our image" (Gen. 1:26).

Scripture references: 1 Jn. 5:7-8; 1 Tim. 1:17; Rev. 1:9, 11, 17-18; Col. 2:8-10; 1 Cor. 8:6; Isa. 9:6; Phil. 2:6-7; John 1:1, 3, 14; Gen. 1:1, 26; Heb. 1:1-3,10.

THE SCRIPTURES

The Bible is the inspired Word of God as has come down to us as holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The Bible, God's Word is our infallible guide in matters pertaining to faith, doctrine, and conduct.

Scripture references: 2Tim 3:16; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21

Open prophecy: Prophecies coming forth in the body, whether by tongues and their interpretation, or otherwise. These shall be confirmed by scripture, to be accepted as valid, according to 1 Cor. 14:13, 29-32. They are for the purpose of edification, exhortation, and comfort (2Peter 1:19-21).

THE FALL OF MAN & HIS REDEMPTION

Man was created and made by the special acts of God Gen. 1:27; 2:7. He was made in the likeness and image of God in holiness, endowed with intelligence, conscience, and will, so that he could hold dominion over all things on earth and exercise free choice. His intelligence made him responsible for all his acts, but through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God and fell from his original holiness; whereby his posterity inherited a sinful nature corrupt and in bondage to Satan's dominion, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral judgment (age of accountability) or have the knowledge of good and evil: they become actual transgressors. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who by the Holy Spirit was born of the virgin Mary, took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the command of God by personal obedience, gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man back to God. Redemption was provided for all, but not all accept this redemption.

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THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

The literal resurrection of Jesus Christ is established by many infallible proofs. Christ dies for our sins, was buried and arose again after three days (72 hrs.) with a glorified body according to the scriptures. He appeared to His disciples as the Person who was with them before the crucifixion. He ascended into Heaven and is now highly exalted at the right hand of the Father God where He is the One Mediator between God and man. He will return to the earth in power and great glory to judge the world by His Word. Scripture references: 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; John 5:28-29; 20:1-9, 24-29; Acts 24:15; Matt. 28:6; 1 Tim. 2:5-6.

THE NEW BIRTH (SALVATION)

The new birth brings God's salvation to a person by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit. Godly sorrow works repentance in the heart and also produces faith in Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior. Born again people become partakers of God's nature as we believe on Jesus Christ in our hearts, and subsequently confess Him with our mouths, as Lord and Savior.

Scripture references: 1 Cor 3:18; Phil. 3:12; Acts 20:32; Romans 6:5-6; Gal. 5:24.

SANCTIFICATION

We believe in the doctrine of sanctification, as a definite, yet progressive work of grace. Sanctification is the experience beginning with the new birth, by which the believer is set apart for God's purposes and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual excellence, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Growth in grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life. The Bible teaches that without true holiness, no man can truly see the Lord.

Scripture references: 1 Cor 1:3; John 17:17; 1 Thess. 5:23; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 3:12; Acts 20:32; Romans 6:5-6; Gal. 5:24.

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THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST

The universal church is the body of Christ, with Christ as the head, expressing itself in a congregation of believers, associated by covenant in the faith and the fellowship of the Gospel. The church observes the ordinances of Christ, encouraging one another to love and good deeds, independent and autonomous (self-governing).

Scripture references: Heb. 10:24-25; 1 Cor 12:12-27; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:17-19; 1 Cor 1:2; Acts 2:41-42; Romans 12:4-5.

THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

The ordinances of a New Testament Church are water baptism and the Lord's Supper (communion). They are symbolic acts, setting forth spiritual truths.

WATER BAPTISM: New Testament baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. It is considered an act of obedience, symbolizing the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Jesus Christ. It is a testimony to his faith in the coming final resurrection from the dead.

Scripture references: Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 2:12; Romans 6:4; Acts 8: 36-39.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: This ordinance symbolizes the Lord's body and the shed blood of our Savior, our participation in the benefits of His atoning death and the covenant which He sealed with His own blood. It represents our union with Him who is the sustenance of our spiritual life. It is a memorial of His death and looks forward to His coming again. We are to search our hearts diligently and examine ourselves carefully before coming to this ordinance. We are to approach it with reverence and understanding. The "cup" the "fruit of the vine" represents the precious blood of Jesus. The bread is a symbol or emblem for the broken body of Jesus. When we partake of it in communion, we are to remember that His body was given for our physical and spiritual health/healing. It should bring us into closer fellowship with God and also each other.

Scripture references: 1 Cor. 11:27-32; Matt. 26:26-27; 1 Cor. 11:24; Matt. 26:28-29. Ps. 22:14, 34:20; Jn. 19:36

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BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST

The baptism in/with the Holy Spirit is a gift from God, as promised by Jesus, to all believers. This experience is accompanied by the speaking in new or other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives the utterance. The Spirit brings power for service and ministry. In fact, the nine gifts of the Spirit can and should operate through the believer who has received the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Scripture references: Acts 19:1-7; John 14: 16-17; Matt. 3:11; Acts 2:4; Mark 16:16-18; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38-39.

STEWARDSHIP

God is the source of all temporal and spiritual blessings. All that we have and all that is good, we owe to Him. We are therefore under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, and material blessings and should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God in helping others. Christians should cheerfully, regularly, proportionately and liberally contribute of their means to advancing the Redeemer's cause in the earth. We believe in the principles of tithing and in the principles of sowing and reaping. One always reaps more than he sows.

Scripture references: Mal. 3:8-10; Matt. 25:14-20; 2 Cor. 9:6-12; 2 Cor. 8:1-7; Luke 12:42-43; 16:10-13; 12:15; Matt. 22:21; Ps. 126:6; Gal. 6:7-9; Gen. 26:12.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the teachings, traditions and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained therein. We also believe in a free church (called out ones, existing on earth or in Heaven)) in a free state.

Scripture references: Matt. 16:18; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; Matt. 15:1-6; Mark 7:5-13; Romans 13:1-7. See also Deut. 18:22

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DIVINE HEALING

Sickness and death came upon the human family (race) because of sin. Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God through the prayer of faith, the laying on of hands and by anointing with oil. The Lord committed this healing ministry to all believers. It is provided for in the Atonement of Christ for all who will receive this provision by faith.

Scripture references: Rom. 5:12; Mark 16:15-20; James 5:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24; Matt. 8:17; Isa. 53:4-5.

HEAVEN AND ETERNAL BLISS

We believe in Heaven as a literal place prepared by Jesus for all true believers and is the abode of all who have departed this earthly life in the faith and grace of God.

Scripture references: John 14:1-4; 2 Cor 5:1-4; Rev. 21:27; Luke 23:42-43; Ps. 16:11; 1 Cor. 15:41-44, 53; 1 Jn. 3:2.

HELL AND ETERNAL RETRIBUTION

The one who physically dies in his sins without accepting Christ's salvation is hopelessly and eternally lost to be placed in the lake of fire, and therefore, has no further opportunity of hearing the gospel and repenting. The Lake of Fire is literal! The terms "eternal" and "everlasting" used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of the saints in the Heaven and the presence of God.

Scripture references: Rev. 20:12-15; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 19:20; Matt. 25:46; Mk. 9:44-48; Rev. 21:8; Jn. 15:6; Ps. 7:11.

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RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND THE RETURN OF OUR LORD

The angels said to Jesus' disciples, "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into Heaven." His coming is imminent. When He comes, "the dead in Christ shall rise first; then, we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air." Following the tribulation to come (7 yrs.), He shall return to the earth as King of kings, and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, the kings and priests, He (to include the good angels also) shall reign a thousand years during which time Satan, fallen angels and all demons shall be bound.

Matt. 25:31-32; Acts 1:9-11; I Thess. 4:16-18; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-4.

THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

We believe God is the Creator and the Sustainer of all life. We believe that human life is made in God's image having eternal value and is therefore sacred. God's sovereignty is involved in every stage of life including the pre-birth process, for human life begins at conception, and nothing is added to it after conception so as to make it fully human, either spiritually or physically. God bestows on human life great value regardless of age, intelligence, physical advantage or social opportunity. God has said He has a purpose for each human life potentially involving coming to faith and newness of life in Christ Jesus the Lord. We believe that abortion and euthanasia are sins against the human race but especially against the Sovereign God which will meet with His righteous judgment.

Scripture references: Gen. 1:27; Col. 1:16-17; Ps. 139:13-16; Jer. 1:5; Ex. 4:10-11; Isa. 46:3-4; Luke 14:13-14; Proverbs 6:16-17; Ex. 23:7.

CHRISTIANS AND GOVERNMENT

We believe that Christians should take an active part in the privileges of voting, having their voices heard for what is just and righteous in the sight of God, and taking an active part in political issues that concern our future. We should all take a stand for the things that are moral and for the principles God has given us in His Word to live by. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto, in all things not contrary to the revealed will (Word) of God.

Scripture references: Romans 13:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:4-5; Luke 20:22-25.

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EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

It is the duty of every believer and the church corporate to seek to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. It is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all other methods sanctioned in the gospel of Christ. Not only is this our duty, but a true privilege.

Scripture references: Matt. 10:5-13, 18-23; 22:9-10, 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16, 19-20; Luke 24: 46-53; Acts 1: 5-6; 1 Thess. 1:8; Heb. 3:1.