



# Gateway's

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### *The Scriptures*

We believe that the 66 books of the Holy Bible are the inspired and only infallible authoritative Word of God. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Cor. 2:13).

### *God*

We believe in the Eternal Godhead, who has revealed Himself as one God existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; distinguishable but indivisible (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13-14).

### *Creation*

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth. We believe that God created man and woman as a unique species, and thereby reject the theory of evolution as man having descended from lower, more primitive life forms. We believe in the test and fall of man as recorded in the book of Genesis, his depravity, and inability to attain to divine righteousness (Rom. 5:12, 18; Gen. 1 and 2; Ex. 20:11; Eph. 2:1-3).

### *Jesus Christ*

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14, 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36, Rom. 3:23-26, 1 Peter 2:24, Eph. 1:7, 1 Peter 1:3-5).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our high Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24, 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ also dwells in each person who has accepted Him as their Lord and Savior (John 3:16); Christ dwells in us, the hope of glory (Col. 1:27; Rom. 8:10).



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## Salvation

We believe in the salvation of sinners by grace, drawn by the Father through repentance and faith in Christ and His precious blood, by which we obtain remission of sins (Eph. 2:8-9; John 6:44, 65; Rom. 5:9-11; Heb. 9:12, 22; 1 John 1:9), not by works but by His mercy and the washing, regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

## Redemption

We believe that Christ gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a people, eager to do good works (Titus 2:14), and that the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing in answer to believing prayer (Isa. 53:4-5; 1 Pet. 2:24; Matt. 8:16-17; James 5:14-16).

## Water Baptism

We believe in water baptism by immersion as an act of obedience by every believer. (Matt. 3:13-17; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-4; Matt. 28:19).

## The Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit as an experience subsequent to salvation (Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 10:4-46; Gal. 3:14-15). We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Spirit as enumerated in 1 Corinthians 12-14 and as manifested in the Early Church. We believe that the Holy Spirit leads us into all truth and is our counselor. We believe in the operation of the manifestations of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7) in the local church. These manifestations are listed as gifts, administrations, operations, and ministries, and the Holy Spirit distributes to every one as He wills. All do not have the same gifts or office (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12).

## Sanctification

We believe God has equipped us to live the Spirit-filled life, a life of freedom from the bondage and sin of the world, and a perfecting of holiness in the fear of God as an expression of Christian faith (Ephes. 5:18; James 1:17; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1).



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### *Resurrection*

We believe in the resurrection of both believers and the unbelievers: The believers to everlasting life (1 Thess.4:16-17) and the unbelievers to everlasting punishment (2 Thess. 1:9, Rev. 20:11-15). We believe that the souls of the redeemed, at death, are absent from the

### *Satan*

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan as a defeated foe, and that he is the open and declared enemy of God and of man. (Luke 10:19; Ephes. 1:19-21; 1 Peter 5:8). He and his angels shall be finally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10-15).

### *The Church*

We believe that there is one body of Christ, the Church, which is comprised of many members in particular, all having been baptized into the one body by one Spirit. These members are set in the body as it pleases God, and every member has their own particular function with Christ as the head (Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 12:13, 17, 18; Ephes. 4:4; Rom. 12:4-5).

We believe that the Church, which is the body and the bride of Christ, is made up of born-again persons (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor.11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27).

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15: 19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:4).

We believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the Church in this age (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:18; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).



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## *Financial Stewardship*

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of a portion of God's wealth entrusted to him or her, should support their local church financially. 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 (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts, 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

## *The Great Commission*

We believe that God has given the Church the great Commission to proclaim the Gospel 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. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to disciple the nations and not wait for them to come to us (Mark 15:16; Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8).

## *Unity*

We believe that it is absolutely essential to promote the Unity of the Spirit within our local church and among the other members of the body of Christ (Eph. 4:1-13; Psalms 133, 1 Cor. 1:10; Phil 1:27).

## *Equipping Ministries*

We believe that God gives apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to the Church, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, until we all come to the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God (Eph. 4:7-16; 1 Cor. 12:28).

## *Character*

We believe that the development of Christ-like character in each Christian's life, as a work of grace, is a fundamental principle of the Kingdom of God and that it is the Biblical foundation for all gifts, ministries, and activities of the church (Matt. 5:1-10; 1 Cor. 13).



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## *Sexual Purity*

We believe it to be clear from the Scriptures that God's will for sex is for it to be enjoyed within the bounds of marriage between a man and a woman. As such, sexual perversion as listed or understood by the scriptures is a violation of God's will for us as human beings. This includes homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, sexual exploitation, and pornography (Gen. 2:21; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

## *Sanctity of Life*

We believe that all human life is precious to God and to us, including unborn children, those with mental or physical handicaps, the terminally ill, and the elderly (Job 3:16; Psalm 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; Isa. 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; Luke 1:44).

## *God's Order of Government*

We believe that the local church is to be governed by elders, called and ordained of God, who serve with the presiding elder or senior minister to oversee the flock and its activities (Acts 20:28; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Tim. 5:17; Heb. 13:7, 17; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-10).

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) The Home, 2) The Church, and 3) Civil Government. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. However, the Church is called by God to Biblically influence the home and civil government. (Acts 4:19; Rom 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

## *Worship in Song*

We believe the essence of worship is a voluntary response toward God, whereby we lovingly acknowledge His supreme worth as the one and only eternal God. It is an attitude of being surrendered and submitted to God, consumed by Him and His purposes. Our participation in the flow of the worship service prepares our hearts to be more sensitive and responsive to God's presence in our lives (Psalm 96:1-9; Psalm 150; John 4:23-24; Acts 24:14; Phil. 3:3).



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### *Communion*

We believe in the frequent partaking of Communion by all believers as a command of Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul. In partaking together we demonstrate the Lord's death (work and benefits of His sacrifice) until He comes. This is practiced in remembrance of Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world by His own personal bodily sacrifice and shed blood (1 Cor. 11:23-24; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; John 1:29; John 6:53-58). This is an ordinance of the church and constitutes the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

### *Laying on of Hands*

We believe in the laying on of hands for blessing (Mark 10:16), for healing (Mark 16:18), for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17; 19:6), for prophesy, and for special commission or ordination (1 Tim. 4:14, Acts 13:2-3, 1 Tim. 1:18, 2 Tim. 1:6).

### *Solving Personal Disputes*

We believe that Christians should strive to resolve disputes through Biblical principles. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members (Matthew 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32).