



STATEMENT OF FAITH

BEING DISCIPLES - MAKING DISCIPLES



WE BELIEVE...



. . . that God is the Eternal¹ King². He is an infinite³, unchangeable⁴ Spirit⁵, perfect⁶ in holiness⁷, wisdom⁸, goodness⁹, justice¹⁰, power¹¹ and love¹². From all eternity¹³ He exists as the One¹⁴ Living¹⁵ and True¹⁶ God in three persons¹⁷ of one substance¹⁸, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit¹⁹, equal in power and glory²⁰.

We believe . . .

. . . that God's kingdom is everlasting²¹. From His throne²², through His Son, His eternal Word²³, God created²⁴, upholds²⁵ and governs²⁶ all that exists²⁷: the heavenly places²⁸, the angelic hosts²⁹, the universe³⁰, the earth³¹, every living thing³² and mankind³³. God created all things very good³⁴.

We believe . . .

. . . that Satan, originally a great, good angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him³⁵. He was cast out of God's presence and, as a usurper of God's rule, established a counter-kingdom of darkness³⁶ and evil on the earth³⁷.

We believe . . .

¹ Deuteronomy 33:27; Romans 1:20.

² Psalm 95:3; Isaiah 43:15

³ Psalm 143:5; Job 11:7-9

⁴ James 1:17

⁵ John 4:24

⁶ Matthew 5:48

⁷ Isaiah 9:3; 1 Peter 1:15-16

⁸ Psalm 104:24; Proverbs 2:6; Isaiah 28:29

⁹ Exodus 33:19; Psalm 63:2

¹⁰ Psalm 33:5; Psalm 89:14; Isaiah 30:18

¹¹ Exodus 15:6

¹² 1 John 4:8

¹³ Isaiah 43:13

¹⁴ Isaiah 45:5; 1 Corinthians 8:4

¹⁵ Psalm 42:2; Psalm 84:2

¹⁶ Jeremiah 10:10

¹⁷ John 1:18; John 10:30; 1 John 14:9; John 14:16-17; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁸ John 1:1; John 1:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17

¹⁹ Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 1:4

²⁰ Revelation 5:13; Ephesians 3:14-21

²¹ Psalm 45:6; Psalm 145:13; Daniel 4:3

²² Psalm 93:1-2

²³ John 1:1-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:1-2

²⁴ Genesis 1:1; Psalm 104:24-29

²⁵ Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3

²⁶ Psalm 103:19; Psalm 104:24-29

²⁷ Psalm 96:4-6

²⁸ Psalm 89:11

²⁹ Psalm 103:20-21

³⁰ Colossians 1:16-17

³¹ Psalm 104:5

³² Psalm 103:22

³³ Psalm 22:28; Psalm 47:8

³⁴ Genesis 1:31

³⁵ Revelation 12:7-9

³⁶ 2 Corinthians 11:14; Colossians 1:13-14; Ephesians 6:12

³⁷ Mark 3:22-26; Ephesians 2:1-2; 1 John 5:19

... that God created humankind in his own image, male and female³⁸, for relationship with Himself and to govern the earth³⁹. Under the temptation of Satan⁴⁰, our original parents fell from grace⁴¹, bringing sin⁴², sickness⁴³ and God's judgment of death to the earth⁴⁴. Through the fall, Satan and his demonic hosts gained access to God's good creation⁴⁵. Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin⁴⁶. Human beings are born in sin⁴⁷, subject to God's judgement of death⁴⁸ and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness⁴⁹. We believe . . .

... that God did not abandon His rule over the earth⁵⁰ which He continues to uphold by His providence⁵¹. In order to bring redemption, God established covenants⁵² which revealed His grace to sinful people⁵³. In the covenant with Abraham, God bound Himself to His people Israel, promising to deliver them from bondage to sin and Satan and to bless all the nations through them⁵⁴. We believe . . .

... that, as King, God later redeemed His people by His mighty acts from bondage in Egypt⁵⁵ and established His covenant through Moses, revealing His perfect will and our obligation to fulfil it⁵⁶. The law's purpose is to order our fallen race⁵⁷ and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility⁵⁸. By the work of God's Spirit⁵⁹, it convicts us of our sin⁶⁰ and God's righteous judgement against us⁶¹ and brings us to Christ alone for salvation⁶². We believe . . .

... that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King⁶³, God established the monarchy in Israel⁶⁴ and made an unconditional covenant with David⁶⁵, promising that His heir would restore God's kingdom reign over His people as Messiah forever⁶⁶. We believe . . .

³⁸ Genesis 1:26-27

³⁹ Genesis 1:26

⁴⁰ Genesis 3:1; Revelation 12:9

⁴¹ Genesis 3:8; Romans 1:21; Romans 5:16

⁴² Romans 5:12

⁴³ John 5:14

⁴⁴ 1 Corinthians 15:22

⁴⁵ John 8:44; 1 John 5:18

⁴⁶ Romans 8:20-23

⁴⁷ Psalm 51:5

⁴⁸ Ezekiel 18:4; Romans 2:5; Romans 2:12; Hebrews 9:27

⁴⁹ Galatians 1:3-5; Galatians 4:8-9; Colossians 1:13

⁵⁰ Psalm 24:1; Psalm 96:10

⁵¹ Isaiah 40:22; Hebrews 1:3

⁵² Romans 9:4

⁵³ Ephesians 2:12

⁵⁴ Genesis 17:3-8; Genesis 12:2-3; Genesis 15:4-6; Romans 4:3-5; Romans 4:16; Romans 4:20-25; Galatians 3:6-9; Galatians 3:13-14

⁵⁵ Exodus 15:3-18

⁵⁶ Exodus 19:3-6; Exodus 24:3-4; Exodus 24:7; Romans 8:3-4; Romans 8:12-14

⁵⁷ Deuteronomy 5:1-3; Deuteronomy 30:15-18; Galatians 3:23-25

⁵⁸ Psalm 25:8-10; Romans 7:7

⁵⁹ John 15:26; John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:14-17

⁶⁰ Romans 7:13; Galatians 3:19; Galatians 3:21-22

⁶¹ Romans 2:1-11

⁶² Galatians 3:24; Philippians 3:8-9

⁶³ 1 Samuel 8:6-8

⁶⁴ 1 Samuel 8:21-22; 1 Samuel 9:15-16; 1 Samuel 10:1; 1 Samuel 10:24

⁶⁵ 2 Samuel 7:11-16; Psalm 89:34-37

⁶⁶ Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:1-5; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Ezekiel 34:23

. . . that in the fullness of time⁶⁷, God honoured His covenants with Israel and His prophetic promises of salvation⁶⁸ by sending His Son⁶⁹, Jesus, into the world⁷⁰. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary⁷¹, as fully God and fully man in one person⁷², He is humanity as God intended us to be⁷³. Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and empowered by the Holy Spirit⁷⁴, inaugurating God's kingdom reign on earth⁷⁵, overpowering the reign of Satan by resisting temptation⁷⁶, preaching the good news of salvation⁷⁷, healing the sick⁷⁸, casting out demons⁷⁹ and raising the dead⁸⁰.

Gathering His disciples⁸¹, He reconstituted God's people⁸² as His Church⁸³ to be the instrument of His kingdom⁸⁴. After dying for the sins of the world⁸⁵, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day⁸⁶, fulfilling the covenant of blessing given to Abraham⁸⁷. In His sinless, perfect life⁸⁸, Jesus met the demands of the law⁸⁹ and in His atoning death on the cross⁹⁰ He took God's judgement for sin⁹¹, which we deserve as law-breakers⁹². By His death on the cross He also disarmed the demonic powers.⁹³

The covenant with David was fulfilled in Jesus' birth from David's house⁹⁴, His Messianic ministry⁹⁵, His glorious resurrection from the dead⁹⁶, His ascent into heaven and His present rule at the right hand of the Father⁹⁷. As God's Son and David's heir⁹⁸, He is the eternal Messiah-King⁹⁹, advancing God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today¹⁰⁰.

We believe . . .

⁶⁷ Mark 1:15; Galatians 4:4

⁶⁸ Romans 1:2-4

⁶⁹ John 1:14

⁷⁰ John 1:17-18

⁷¹ Luke 1:30-35

⁷² John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-7

⁷³ Romans 5:19; 1 Corinthians 15:22; 1 Peter 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:29

⁷⁴ Luke 3:21-22; Luke 4:16-21

⁷⁵ Mark 1:14-15; Luke 11:20; Luke 17:20-21

⁷⁶ Luke 4:1-13

⁷⁷ Luke 4:43

⁷⁸ Luke 4:40

⁷⁹ Luke 4:41

⁸⁰ Luke 7:14-17

⁸¹ Mark 1:16-17

⁸² Mark 3:13-15

⁸³ Matthew 16:18

⁸⁴ Luke 9:1-2; Luke 10:1-17

⁸⁵ John 1:29; John 6:51; John 4:9-10

⁸⁶ Mark 8:31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

⁸⁷ Galatians 3:13-14

⁸⁸ Acts 3:14-15; Hebrews 4:15

⁸⁹ Romans 5:18-19

⁹⁰ 1 Peter 2:24

⁹¹ Galatians 3:13; 2 Corinthians 5:21

⁹² Romans 1:18; Romans 1:32; Romans 2:12; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10

⁹³ Colossians 2:13-15

⁹⁴ Matthew 1:1

⁹⁵ Luke 1:68-72; Luke 2:10-11; Matthew 9:27

⁹⁶ Acts 2:24-28

⁹⁷ Acts 2:29-36

⁹⁸ Romans 1:1-4

⁹⁹ Hebrews 1:1-3

¹⁰⁰ 1 Corinthians 15:24-26; Ephesians 1:19-23; Revelation 5:5

... that the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church at Pentecost in power¹⁰¹, baptising believers into the Body of Christ¹⁰² and releasing the gifts of the Spirit to them¹⁰³. The Spirit brings the permanent indwelling presence of God to us¹⁰⁴ for spiritual worship¹⁰⁵, personal sanctification¹⁰⁶, building up the Church¹⁰⁷, gifting us for ministry¹⁰⁸, and driving back the kingdom of Satan by the evangelisation of the world¹⁰⁹ through proclaiming the word of Jesus¹¹⁰ and doing the works of Jesus¹¹¹.

We believe . . .

... that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ¹¹² and that He is our abiding Helper¹¹³, Teacher¹¹⁴ and Guide¹¹⁵. We believe in the filling or the empowering of the Holy Spirit¹¹⁶, often a conscious experience¹¹⁷, for ministry today¹¹⁸. We believe in the present ministry of the Spirit¹¹⁹ and in the exercise of all of the biblical gifts of the Spirit¹²⁰. We practise the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit¹²¹, for healing¹²², and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church¹²³.

We believe . . .

... that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture¹²⁴ so that the Bible is without error¹²⁵ in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments¹²⁶ as our final, absolute authority, the only infallible rule of faith¹²⁷ and practice¹²⁸.

We believe . . .

... that the whole world is under the domination of Satan¹²⁹ and that all people are sinners by nature¹³⁰ and choice¹³¹. All people therefore are under God's just judgement¹³². Through the preaching of the Good News of

¹⁰¹ Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4

¹⁰² 1 Corinthians 12:13

¹⁰³ 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

¹⁰⁴ John 14:16-17

¹⁰⁵ Romans 12:1; Ephesians 5:18-20

¹⁰⁶ Romans 8:3-4

¹⁰⁷ 1 Corinthians 14:12; 1 Corinthians 14:26

¹⁰⁸ Romans 12:4-6

¹⁰⁹ Luke 11:20; 1 John 3:8b

¹¹⁰ Ephesians 6:10-20

¹¹¹ John 14:12-13; Romans 15:18-19; 1 Corinthians 4:20

¹¹² Romans 8:9-10

¹¹³ John 16:7

¹¹⁴ John 14:26

¹¹⁵ John 16:13-15; Romans 8:14

¹¹⁶ Luke 24:49; Acts 4:31

¹¹⁷ Acts 8:18-19; Acts 19:1-2

¹¹⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 2 Corinthians 4:7; 2 Corinthians 6:4-7

¹¹⁹ Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:15-17

¹²⁰ 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; 1 Corinthians 14:1; 1 Corinthians 14:5; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21

¹²¹ Acts 8:14-17; Acts 19:6

¹²² Mark 1:41; Luke 6:18b-19; Mark 16:18

¹²³ Acts 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6

¹²⁴ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; John 14:26

¹²⁵ Psalm 19:7-9; Psalm 119:30; Psalm 119:43; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:17-18; John 3:34; John 10:35; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; Revelation 22:6

¹²⁶ Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 3:15-16; Revelation 22:18-19

¹²⁷ Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 24:35

¹²⁸ Matthew 7:21; Matthew 7:24; James 1:22-25

¹²⁹ Luke 4:5-7; 1 John 5:19

¹³⁰ 1 Corinthians 15:22; Ephesians 2:1-3

¹³¹ Romans 1:21-23; Romans 1:32

¹³² Romans 1:18; Romans 2:5; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 5:6

Jesus and the Kingdom of God¹³³ and the work of the Holy Spirit¹³⁴, God regenerates¹³⁵, justifies¹³⁶, adopts¹³⁷ and sanctifies¹³⁸ through Jesus by the Spirit¹³⁹ all who repent of their sins¹⁴⁰ and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord¹⁴¹ and Saviour¹⁴². By this they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign¹⁴³.

We believe . . .

. . . in the one¹⁴⁴, holy¹⁴⁵, universal Church¹⁴⁶. All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour are regenerated by the Holy Spirit¹⁴⁷ and form the living Body of Christ¹⁴⁸, of which He is the head¹⁴⁹ and of which we are all members¹⁵⁰.

We believe . . .

. . . that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: water baptism¹⁵¹ and the Lord's Supper¹⁵². Both are available to all believers.

We believe . . .

. . . that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ¹⁵³, that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church¹⁵⁴, and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible and triumphant appearing of Christ¹⁵⁵ – His return to the earth as King¹⁵⁶. After Christ returns to reign¹⁵⁷, He will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works¹⁵⁸, the resurrection of the dead¹⁵⁹, the final judgment¹⁶⁰ and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal punishment of the wicked¹⁶¹. Finally, God

¹³³ Mark 1:14-15; Acts 8:12; Acts 28:31

¹³⁴ John 16:7-11

¹³⁵ John 3:5-8

¹³⁶ 1 Peter 1:23

¹³⁷ Romans 5:1-2; Romans 5:9

¹³⁸ Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6

¹³⁹ Ephesians 5:25; Hebrews 13:12; 1 Peter 1:1-2

¹⁴⁰ Acts 2:38

¹⁴¹ Romans 10:9

¹⁴² 1 John 4:13-15

¹⁴³ Colossians 1:13-14; Philippians 3:20

¹⁴⁴ John 17:20-21; Ephesians 4:3-6

¹⁴⁵ 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

¹⁴⁶ Matthew 16:17-18; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 2:18-19; 1 Peter 2:9-10

¹⁴⁷ Titus 3:4-7

¹⁴⁸ Romans 12:4-5

¹⁴⁹ Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 5:23

¹⁵⁰ 1 Corinthians 12:27

¹⁵¹ Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁵² 1 Corinthians 10:14-17; 11:23-26

¹⁵³ Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 4:23; Matthew 12:28

¹⁵⁴ Matthew 6:10; Matthew 10:7-8; Matthew 24:14; Mark 13:11; John 15:26-27; Romans 14:17-18

¹⁵⁵ Mark 13:26; Acts 1:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:8

¹⁵⁶ Revelation 19:11-16

¹⁵⁷ Matthew 25:31-32; 1 Corinthians 15:23-25

¹⁵⁸ Revelation 20:10

¹⁵⁹ 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

¹⁶⁰ John 5:28-30; Revelation 20:11-15

¹⁶¹ Matthew 25:31-46

will be all in all¹⁶² and His kingdom, His rule and reign¹⁶³, will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth¹⁶⁴, recreated by His mighty power, in which righteousness dwells¹⁶⁵ and in which He will forever be worshipped¹⁶⁶.

¹⁶² 1 Corinthians 15:24-28

¹⁶³ 1 Timothy 6:13-16

¹⁶⁴ 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:5

¹⁶⁵ Revelation 21:27

¹⁶⁶ 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 7:9-12