

NEW CITY STATEMENT OF FAITH

The doctrinal convictions of New City Fellowship is reflected in the following statements:

THE SCRIPTURES

WE BELIEVE GOD WROTE THE BIBLE THROUGH MEN WITHOUT ERROR. The Old and New Testaments, in their entirety, constitute the written Word of God and are without error, both inerrant and infallible, in the original manuscripts. They were written by men, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and are therefore fully authoritative in all matters for the follower of Christ.

THE GODHEAD

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD EXISTS ETERNALLY IN TRINITY: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT. There is one God, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, love, justice, goodness, and truth, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-equal in power and glory, who desires that we should know Him intimately and live a life of fulfillment through the pursuit of His glory.

THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST

WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SECOND PERSON OF THE TRINITY WHO BECAME A MAN WITHOUT CEASING TO BE GOD, LIVED A SINLESS LIFE, DIED ON A CROSS, WAS BURIED, AND ROSE BODILY FROM THE GRAVE TO REDEEM SINFUL HUMANITY. He is True God of True God, begotten, not made. He became human, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and made His dwelling among us, living a full life without sin. His perfect life and death on the cross provide the only atonement that satisfies the righteous requirements of God for the sinner. The death of Jesus Christ fully and finally paid for sin, and was redemptive, substitutionary, and efficacious. The historic fact of Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead testifies powerfully to His deity, and is itself humanity's ultimate hope. These truths are the content of the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God. He will make a personal and imminent return to the earth; this return is a sanctifying "hope" having vital bearing on the life of every Christian.

THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SUPERNATURAL AGENT IN SALVATION, BAPTIZING ALL CHRISTIANS INTO THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH AT CONVERSION, INDWELLING AND SEALING THEM UNTIL THE DAY OF CHRIST'S RETURN. The Holy Spirit bears persuasive testimony to the realities of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is the personal, divine third member of the Godhead. He convicts the world of sin and its consequences; He brings repentance and faith to the believer; He indwells the believer with the radical life of Jesus Christ; He gives gifts to every believer for mutual service within the body of Christ; He unites each believer in the Body of Christ and seals them in that relationship; He bears the fruit of Christian character in the lives of every believer; He guides, instructs, and empowers the believer for godly living and service. He is worshipped with the Father and the Son.

HUMANITY AND SALVATION

WE BELIEVE ALL HUMANS ARE SINFUL AND IN NEED OF SALVATION. SALVATION IS THE GIFT OF GOD BROUGHT TO HUMANS BY GRACE ALONE, AND RECEIVED BY REPENTANCE AND

PERSONAL FAITH IN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. A TRUE CHRISTIAN WILL BE KEPT BY GOD'S POWER FOREVER. God has created every person in the image of God, but we have fallen into sin, and are therefore lost. Man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his spiritual condition. Only through the regeneration by the Holy Spirit alone can we obtain salvation and spiritual life. All humans are sinners and face the judgment of God. The shed blood of Jesus Christ and His resurrection provide the only ground for justification and only those who place faith in Jesus Christ and initiate a relationship with God on the basis of the work of Christ are delivered from the wrath of God toward sin required by His holy character (the gospel). Those who receive Jesus Christ by faith are said by Holy Scripture to be regenerated, justified, redeemed, and adopted into the divine family as co-heirs with Christ of all the blessings of the Godhead. We proclaim that all persons must consciously repent of their sins and confess that Jesus Christ is Savior and Lord. All who are truly redeemed will be kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

SANCTIFICATION AND HOLINESS

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD WILL BRING ABOUT SANCTIFICATION AND HOLINESS IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER BY MEANS OF THE GOSPEL, THROUGH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND WITH THE ACTIVE EFFORT OF THE INDIVIDUAL. The gospel of Jesus Christ is both for salvation and sanctification. Transformation and change to Christ-likeness is a promise and result of the gospel. The processes of salvation and sanctification are both aspects of the gospel, but are distinct from one another. The process of sanctification is all of grace and includes both the active and passive participation of the believer. Perfection in this life is not promised or possible with the remnants of indwelling sin; nor is sanctification completely passive resulting in pursuits of spiritual experiences or higher life Christianity. Therefore sanctification is progressive in the life of a regenerated person and evidence of true justification. All believers are called to a life of holiness and to pursue a life of holiness through the power of the Spirit and the ongoing active pursuit of the death of remaining sin.

IMAGE OF GOD: MALE AND FEMALE

WE BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS CREATED ALL HUMANS IN HIS IMAGE. HE HAS CREATED THEM UNIQUELY FEMALE AND MALE. All humans are created in God's image; therefore all human life is sacred. In creating humans as male and female, God communicated His image in harmonious interpersonal relationships, equality of personhood and importance and a distinction in role and authority.

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

WE BELIEVE THAT THE CHURCH IS A SPIRITUAL ORGANISM MADE UP OF ALL BELIEVERS EVERYWHERE FOR ALL TIME. All Christians in all times and in all places have been united into a single body by an operation of God. This resultant union is called the Body of Christ, the Universal Church.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

WE BELIEVE IN THE AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AND RECOGNIZE BELIEVERS BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER. Christ commanded that all Christians band together in assembly for instruction, worship, service, and fellowship. These assemblies are called local churches. As a local church, New City Fellowship embraces the rich and vibrant traditions of the Universal Church. Only those who are members of the Universal Church shall be eligible for membership in the local church. Baptism of believers by immersion and the Lord's Supper are the only two ordinances to be observed by the local church in the present age. These ordinances are not to be regarded as means of salvation.

CONSUMMATION: LAST THINGS

WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS WILL RETURN TO EARTH TO JUDGE ALL PEOPLE AND TO RULE AND REIGN WITH HIS SAINTS FOREVER. All people will be resurrected to give account of their lives before God. The believer in Christ will be resurrected to everlasting blessedness and joy in the presence of God. The unbeliever will be resurrected to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment.

We hold these truths in humble conviction and believe them to be fully taught and validated by Scripture. If you have any questions about any of these doctrinal points please email the elders of New City Fellowship.

STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEF

I believe...

- the Scriptures are true, authoritative and sufficient (**Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21**).
- There is only one true God, Creator of heaven and earth, who eternally exists in three distinct Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (**Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6, 46:9-10; John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 2:5; Genesis 1:26; Psalm 45:6-7, 110:1; Matthew 3:13-17, 28:17-20; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6**).
- All things exist for the glory of God (**Psalm 148; Proverbs 16:4; Isaiah 61:3; Romans 11:33-36; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:15; Ephesians 1:3-14**).
- I am, along with all humanity, (Christ excluded) sinful by both birth and action. (**Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:23, 5:8, 5:12-21, 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-3**).
- The deserved penalty for sin is physical and spiritual death (**Genesis 2:15-17, 3:19; Romans 5:12, 6:23; James 1:14-15**).
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human (**Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:52; John 1:1-4, John 1:14; Colossians 1:15-20; Hebrews 1:1-3**).
- Jesus Christ died as the sacrificial substitute to pay the penalty for my sin (**John 1:29, 10:1-18; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 1:4; 1 Peter 3:18**).
- Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and will one day physically return (**Matthew 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-53; John**

1:20-21:25, 14:3; 1 Corinthians 15:12-34; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7).

- There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Only those who turn from sin and to Jesus in faith and repentance will be raised to eternal reward.³ Those who do not turn from sin and to Jesus will be raised to eternal punishment **(Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)**
- Only through faith in the Person and work of Jesus Christ and repentance from sin can one be reconciled to God and experience true life and joy **(John 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:21-26; 1 Timothy 2:5-6).**

SECONDARY BELIEFS

While the doctrines expressed in the Statement of Basic Beliefs are recognized to be universal and primary within the Church, there are a number of secondary beliefs that we are passionate to proclaim. Not all Christians hold these beliefs, but they are nonetheless important and true as we understand the Scriptures. Complete agreement is not required for the sake of membership, but it should be known that we will preach, teach and counsel in accordance with these convictions.

These secondary beliefs represent four areas of doctrine and practice:

- Sovereignty in Salvation
- The Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- The Complementary Roles of Men and Women
- Baptism by Immersion¹

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