

CONCLUSION:

These principles of our faith are foundations for God's continuing leadership in our lives. We realize that our statement of faith does not relieve us of the responsibility to live by faith. We gratefully acknowledge those who have served Him in ages past, and we bless them in their eternal state for their faithfulness. We acknowledge those who serve Jesus Christ now, whose doctrinal expressions may be different from our own. There may be differences that arise about the mystery of the Godhead, end-time events (our eschatology), the work of the Holy spirit in baptizing believers, etc.—but the faith must acknowledge the deity of Christ who is the Word of God

We desire to walk with all of those who are of God's family. Those who have been genuinely born of God's Spirit. We acknowledge them as brothers and sisters.

Our statements are not to be construed as walls, but as doors through which others may communicate with us and we with them.



What we believe



Our Creedal Statement

Destiny is a matter of choice—not chance. It is something to be achieved—not something to be waited for.

What we believe concerning the faith is vitally important. It is an issue of spiritual life and death. This is why we must walk out the admonition in 1 Corinthians 4:6, *"Do not go beyond what is written."* Obedience to this charge from the Apostle Paul will help prevent disunity in the church. What we believe, our doctrine, must be based solely on the Holy Scriptures.

Church leadership (eldership) is given the responsibility to protect the church from false doctrine. However, all Christians are given a charge to study the Word and know it.

(15) Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
2 Timothy 2:15

Let's examine a few more scriptures concerning "what we believe" about the faith.

- *(16) Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.*

1 Timothy 4:16

- *(2) Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage-with great patience and careful instruction. (3) For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear.*

2 Timothy 4:2-3

- *(7) Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless-not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. (8) Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. (9) He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.*

Titus 1:7-9

- *You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine.*

Titus 2:1

We believe...

- ♥ in the Bible as the inspired Word of God
- ♥ in the one, living, and true God as eternally being Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- ♥ in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ who, as very God and very man, yet one Christ, was
 - conceived by the Holy Spirit
 - born of the Virgin Mary
 - sinless in nature and life
 - full of the Holy Spirit without measure
 - authoritative in teaching and preaching
 - mighty and miraculous in ministry
 - crucified, dead, and buried
 - resurrected in power and who
 - ascended into heaven
 - intercedes before the Father on our behalf
- ♥ in the forgiveness of sins through the shed blood of Jesus alone
- ♥ in eternal life and salvation by grace through faith in Christ
- ♥ in the deity of the Holy Spirit who
 - indwells/fills us with the presence of God
 - anoints us unto fruit and good works
 - joins us together with all saints as Christ's body, the church
 - equips us in power and spiritual gifts
 - leads us in our Christian walk
- ♥ in the commissioning of the church to carry Christ's gospel - by Word, deed, and power - into all the world
- ♥ in the resurrection of the dead and in the glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ who shall come to judge the living and the dead