

## MORNINGSTAR COMMUNITY CHURCH - STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible, in 66 books, is infallible in its entirety in the original manuscripts,<sup>1</sup> since its very words are God-breathed.<sup>2</sup> The Scriptures are authoritative and sufficient<sup>3</sup> as the basis for all Christian belief and practice. The Bible is complete and is the means by which God discloses and applies His truth to mankind.<sup>4</sup> He is giving no extra-biblical revelation to His people.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Psalm 19:7-9; John 10:35 <sup>2</sup>Matthew 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:15-17 <sup>3</sup>Matthew 4:4; 2 Peter 1:3-4,19-21 <sup>4</sup>Hebrews 4:12; <sup>5</sup>Revelation 22:18-19; Proverbs 30:5-6

There is one God<sup>1</sup> who has revealed Himself as infinite in being and perfection,<sup>2</sup> eternally existing<sup>3</sup> in three persons— Father,<sup>4</sup> Son or Word<sup>5</sup> and Holy Spirit<sup>6</sup>—the same in essence but differing in working, each equally deserving of our obedience and worship.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Deuteronomy 6:4 <sup>2</sup>Malachi 3:6; Matthew 5:48 <sup>3</sup>Exodus 3:14; Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17 <sup>4</sup>Romans 1:7 <sup>5</sup>John 5:18; 1:14; <sup>6</sup>Acts 5:3-4 <sup>7</sup>Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, was conceived without sin by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.<sup>1</sup> Jesus Christ, being fully God yet fully man<sup>2</sup> lived without sin<sup>3</sup> and willingly laid down His life,<sup>4</sup> shedding His blood in death on the cross to redeem mankind.<sup>5</sup> He became sin for man,<sup>6</sup> imputing His righteousness to all who believe.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Luke 1:31-35 <sup>2</sup>Hebrews 1:8; Luke 2:52 <sup>3</sup>Hebrews 4:15 <sup>4</sup>John 10:14-18 <sup>5</sup>1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:5-6 <sup>6</sup>2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24 <sup>7</sup>Romans 4:22-25

Jesus, on the third day after His burial, was raised from the dead<sup>1</sup> in the same body in which He suffered,<sup>2</sup> in which He also ascended into Heaven,<sup>3</sup> where He sits at the right hand of His Father, making intercession for believers.<sup>4</sup> Jesus has been given authority to judge all men.<sup>5</sup> He shall return bodily<sup>6</sup> and reign for 1,000 years on the earth.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>1 Corinthians 15:3-4 <sup>2</sup>Acts 13:37; Luke 24:36-43 <sup>3</sup>Acts 1:9-11 <sup>4</sup>Hebrews 1:3; 7:25 <sup>5</sup>John 5:25-29; Acts 17:31 <sup>6</sup>Revelation 1:7 <sup>7</sup>Revelation 20:6

The Holy Spirit convicts and regenerates unbelievers<sup>1</sup> and seals and fills believers.<sup>2</sup> At salvation, it is through the Spirit that Christ baptizes believers into His body.<sup>3</sup> The Holy Spirit indwells believers<sup>4</sup> and distributes various gifts to enable them for ministry.<sup>5</sup> The teaching and guidance of the Holy Spirit are manifested as He illuminates the Word of God to the mind of the believer.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>John 3:3; 16:8; Titus 3:5 <sup>2</sup>Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18 <sup>3</sup>Matthew 3:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13 <sup>4</sup>Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19 <sup>5</sup>1 Corinthians 12:7,11,29-31 <sup>6</sup>1 Corinthians 2:10-12; 1 John 2:20,27

Mankind was created by the direct act of God in His own image.<sup>1</sup> Man (Adam) freely chose to sin,<sup>2</sup> incurring the wrath of God<sup>3</sup> under which all men now exist,<sup>4</sup> being sinners by nature.<sup>5</sup> God requires just payment for sin.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Genesis 2:7; 1:27 <sup>2</sup>Genesis 3:6; 1 Timothy 2:14 <sup>3</sup>Romans 1:18 <sup>4</sup>John 3:36 <sup>5</sup>Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:3 <sup>6</sup>Romans 3:5; Acts 17:30-31

Salvation is received by grace through faith alone apart from human works.<sup>1</sup> Christians are set apart to God and persevere in the faith because salvation has been secured by Christ.<sup>2</sup> True Christians can never be lost<sup>3</sup> and enjoy fellowship with Christ as they walk with Him.<sup>4</sup> Saving faith rests on Christ and His righteousness alone,<sup>5</sup> and is evidenced by good works,<sup>6</sup> being a living rather than a dead faith.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Romans 4:5; Titus 3:5 <sup>2</sup>Ephesians 1:4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2 <sup>3</sup>John 10:27-29; Romans 8:38-39 <sup>4</sup>John 15:10-11; Romans 8:14-16 <sup>5</sup>Romans 3:24-28; Galatians 2:20-21 <sup>6</sup>Ephesians 2:8-10 <sup>7</sup>James 2:14,17,26

Those redeemed by Jesus Christ will experience a conscious eternity of joy in heaven, where the glory of God's mercy is displayed. Unbelievers will experience a conscious eternity of suffering and torment in hell, where God's justice and wrath are displayed.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Romans 9:21-23; Matthew 25:46; John 14:1-3; Mark 9:47-48

The local church body exists for the purposes of worship, evangelism, edification, fellowship, and service.<sup>1</sup> God commands His children to make themselves accountable to and to diligently participate in a church family.<sup>2</sup> Believers are commanded to share the Gospel<sup>3</sup>, making disciples personally, locally, regionally and among all peoples of the world.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Acts 2:41-47 <sup>2</sup>Hebrews 13:17; Acts 2:41-42 <sup>3</sup>1 Corinthians 15:1-4 <sup>4</sup>Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8

God commands that the Christian make his faith publicly known<sup>1</sup> through the ordinance of water baptism. Baptism by immersion<sup>2</sup> pictures the believer's identification with the Lord's death, burial and resurrection<sup>3</sup> and is a symbol of his prior regeneration.<sup>4</sup> Believers are to participate in the Lord's Table, a thoughtful, memorial celebration of Christ's death until He comes. This ordinance promotes self-examination, unity, and hope among God's people.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Acts 2:38; 10:48 <sup>2</sup>Acts 8:38-39 <sup>3</sup>Romans 6:3-4 <sup>4</sup>1 Peter 3:21 <sup>5</sup>1 Corinthians 11:17-34