

# Statement of Faith

The purpose of this statement of faith is to clarify the essential doctrines we hold to as a church in order to unify the body and glorify the One who has revealed Himself to us in Holy Scripture.

It is impossible to mention all of the “shoulders we stand on” in our Protestant heritage that have helped to clarify the convictions listed below. Some of the language below is not our own but has been adopted and revised from various creeds, councils, and confessions that have gone before us. Holy Scripture is the final authority for every theological conviction we have at Roots Community Church, but we would be remiss if we didn’t mention the “shoulders we stand on” namely the early church fathers and the reformers whom God used to ensure Christian theology is born out of the pages of scripture and never imposed on them. We thank God for those who have died to give us ‘sola scriptura’ (scripture alone)!

For those pursuing formal membership at Roots Community Church, we expect covenant members to affirm these basic doctrines. Also listed below are some theological distinctives that members are not required to affirm, but should understand are integral to our biblical understanding of the Gospel and should therefore expect these doctrines to be taught by leadership at Roots Community Church and to permeate our ministries.

## The Word of God

**We believe** the Bible to be the inspired, infallible, authoritative, and inerrant Word of God. We believe the scriptures are sufficient in all matters of faith and conduct.

*2 Timothy 3:15-20; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; John 20:31; Acts 20:32*

## The Trinity

**We believe** there is one God, eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

*Genesis 1:1-2; John 1:1,3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19, John 10:30; Ephesians 4:5-6; Romans 1:19-20*

## God the Father

**We believe** in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of mankind, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

*Luke 10:21,22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16; 6:27; Romans 1:7; 1 Timothy 1:1,2 & 2:5,6; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6*

## Jesus Christ

**We believe** in the deity of Christ; His virgin birth; His sinless life; His miracles; His substitutionary atoning death; His resurrection; His ascension to the right hand of the Father; and His personal return to earth in power and glory.

*John 10:33; Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:23, Luke 1:34-35; Hebrews 4:15, 7:26; John 2:11; I Corinthians 15:3, Ephesians 1:7, Hebrews 2:9; John 11:25, I Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11-13, Revelation 19:14-16*

## The Holy Spirit

**We believe** in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit leads us to repentance, indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide.

*John 14:16,17,26 & 15:26,27; John 16:8-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19; Galatians 5:22-26*

**DISTINCTIVE:** We believe the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we see on display in the New Testament continue in the church today. We do not believe these gifts ended when Scripture was canonized and/or the apostles died (*1 Corinthians 12:1-11*).

## The Fall

**We believe** that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse

*Genesis 1:27, 31; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 2:16-17; Genesis 3; Romans 5:12; Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 6:12; Romans 3:9-18; Romans 3:9-20; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18, 32; 2:1-16; Galatians 3:10*

## Salvation

**We believe** salvation belongs to the Lord and is granted by His grace alone, through faith alone, in the sufficient work of Christ alone.

*Psalms 37:39; Jonah 2:9; Ephesians 2:8-9; Rom 3:21-22; Hebrews 7:22-25, 10:12-14*

**We believe** in the sufficiency of Christ's work for salvation. All who are saved have the perfect righteousness of Christ accounted to them as the sole basis of their right-standing before a holy God, and have been forgiven all of their sin through the atoning death of Christ on their behalf.

*Hebrews 7:22-25, 10:12-14; Ephesians 2:8-9, Rom 3:23-25; Gal 3:13, Ephesians 1:7*

**We believe** faith is the sole instrument by which we lay hold of the righteousness of Christ. This faith alone, apart from any works of the believer, is the means by which all of Christ's righteousness is imputed for salvation.

*Rom 3:21-22; Phil 3:9, Gal 2:16; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 Corinthians 15:3-6, Titus 1:1-3; Gal 3:10-11*

**DISTINCTIVE:** We believe that God is sovereign in the salvation of human souls. Before the foundation of the world, God elected His people, setting His affection and grace upon them (*Romans 8:29-30*). In love God predestined His people for adoption (*Ephesians 1:4-6*). We believe without the effectual quickening work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration, apart from any action or work on our part (*Titus 3:4-7; Ephesians 2:4-5*), no one would come to Christ (*Ephesians 2:1-3*). Apart from the divine intervention of God (*Mat. 11:25-27*), humanity cannot choose to follow Christ or worship God (*Rom.3; Eph.2:1-3*). Furthermore, the sovereignty of God in salvation is pervasive and comprehensive. God begins the good work, sustains the good work, and He will complete the good work (*Philippians 1:6; 1 Thes. 5:23*).

## The Church

**We believe** in one holy, universal Church made up of all who trust Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and supreme Treasure of their lives. We believe that God calls us to unite with other believers in local churches to help each other to value Christ above all, to praise Him together, to grow in our love and knowledge of Him, and to ultimately celebrate the glory of God through lives transformed by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Ephesians 2:10; Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 4:11-16 Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:19-21; Acts 2:42; Hebrews 10:23-25*

**We believe** that Christians should be baptized and regularly eat the Lord's Supper.

*Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 15:36, 41; 16:5; 1 Corinthians 16:1; Galatians 1:1-3; Revelations 1:4,10,11; Hebrews 10:24-25; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

**DISTINCTIVE:** We affirm and practice believer baptism by full immersion. The evidence from Scripture seems clear to us that this was the normal mode of baptism throughout the early church in keeping with the imagery that Paul articulates in *Romans 6:1-4*. For more information on baptism, see appendix I on page 17

## Return of Christ

**We believe** in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body and the final judgment of all people, leading to the eternal happiness of the righteous in the Lord's presence, and the eternal separation of the wicked from the presence of the Lord.

*Matthew 16:27; Mark 14:62; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 15:1-58; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20: 11-15; Revelation 21:1-7*