



Statement of Faith

(All Bible citations unless noted otherwise are according to the English Standard Version.)

I. God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory, and that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all.

A. Father

We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power, and ruling over all from His throne in heaven (Matthew 5:16; Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 1:2; Psalm 103:19). We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Matthew 6:1-18; Ephesians 1:3-12; 1 Peter 1:2).

B. Son

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, eternally God's only begotten Son, in His incarnation conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and sinless in His life (John 1:1-2,14; John 1:3; Luke 1:31,35; Matthew 1:18-25; Colossians 1:16). We believe that He is both fully and truly God and fully and truly human (Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13; Philippians 2:5-7; John 1:14; 1 Timothy 2:5). We believe in His actual death on the cross, His bodily resurrection and appearance to His disciples, His ascension into heaven to the right hand of the Father, His high priestly intercession for His Church, and His mediation between God and humanity (1 Corinthians 15:3-7; John 20:17; Mark 14:62; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 8:1-2,6; 1 Timothy 2:5). We believe in His imminent, personal, visible and triumphant return to the world according to His promise and that He will reign unendingly as King of kings and Lord of lords (Luke 12:40; Revelation 1:3; Acts 1:11; Revelation 11:15; 19:11-16).

C. Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from God to convict the world of sin and to convince the world of righteousness and judgment (John 15:26; 16:8-11). We believe that He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21). We believe that the Holy Spirit exalts Jesus Christ and regenerates, gifts, sanctifies, enlightens and empowers those who believe in Him (John 16:13-15; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:1,4,7; Romans 15:16; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; Ephesians 1:17-18; Acts 1:8). We believe that the Holy Spirit baptizes, seals and indwells each believer in Jesus Christ at the moment of salvation and that He is an abiding Helper, Teacher and Guide (Matthew 3:11-12; Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:12-14; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 3:16; John 14:16-17,26; Romans 8:14).



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II. Humanity and Salvation

We believe that humanity was uniquely created in the image of God as the crown of His creation (Genesis 1:26). We believe that humanity sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God, and that all human beings thereby are sinners by nature and by free choice (Romans 5:12). We believe “God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16, NASB). We believe that by His death Jesus Christ made a perfect atonement for humanity’s sin, providing justification by the law, propitiation of God’s wrath, and redemption from sin’s bondage for all those who would receive His substitutionary sacrifice (Romans 5:11; 3:21-26; Galatians 2:16; Romans 5:9; 1 Peter 1:18-19). We believe that all who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are forgiven of their sins, born again of the Holy Spirit, become adopted children of God, and are eternally secure in their salvation (Colossians 1:12-14; 1 Peter 1:23; Romans 8:14-15; 8:38-39). We believe that this salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-10). We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and the unsaved, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the unsaved (Acts 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:12-23; Revelation 20:4-5).

III. Church

We believe that the Church is the living, spiritual body, having Jesus Christ as its Head and all true believers in Jesus Christ as its members (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14). We believe that among Church members there is no distinction by God for ethnicity, social rank or gender (Galatians 3:27-28). We believe that the Church gathers to worship the Lord, to preach and teach the Word of God for edification, to pray, to have fellowship with one another, and to exercise the ordinances (John 4:23-24; Acts 2:41-42). We believe that the Church goes out to bring the Gospel to the unsaved and to bring Christ’s healing to the brokenness of humanity (Matthew 28:19-20). We believe that the Church is founded upon Jesus Christ and formed, led and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:4-6; Acts 1:8).

IV. Ordinances

We believe that Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances for His Church: baptism and communion (taking of the Lord’s Supper).

A. Baptism

We believe that water baptism is commanded by the Lord but is not effectual in being saved (Matthew 28:19). We believe that baptism by immersion is an outward affirmation, in obedience, of the inward transaction of salvation, and symbolizes the believer’s death to sin, burial of the old life, and resurrection to the new life (Romans 6:3-10). We believe that believers should be



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baptized as soon as possible after they are saved and so affirm (Acts 2:41; 8:35-38; 10:47-48; 16:29-33). We believe that children should be baptized when they are old enough to believe in Jesus Christ, and have so affirmed, and to understand the true meaning of water baptism (Romans 10:13-15).

B. Communion (Lord's Supper)

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death on the cross and an anticipation of His return (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). We believe that only those who believe they are truly saved and have examined themselves accordingly should take of the Lord's Supper; others should not participate (1 Corinthians 11:27-29).

V. Gender and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God and His plan for procreation (Genesis 1:26-28). Rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the work of the Creator and the image of God within that person. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other and that He has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of such a marriage (Hebrews 13:4). We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, 18).

VI. Marriage

We believe that God designed marriage for humanity. We believe that marriage is a God-ordained, covenant relationship—a “one-flesh” union of two into one—between one biological man and one biological woman, as first described in Genesis and later affirmed by Jesus (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6). This lifelong, sexually exclusive relationship brings children into the world and thus sustains the stewardship of the earth (Genesis 1:28; 1 Corinthians 7:2-5). We believe that biblical marriage—marked by faithfulness, sacrificial love and joy—uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33). We believe that biblical marriage also serves as the foundational unit of a stable society and the best context for raising children (Psalm 127:2-5; Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21).

VII. Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred, having been created by God in His image. We believe that human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception



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through natural death (Psalm 139; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Luke 1:39-44; Leviticus 19:14,32). We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Acts 20:35; 1 Peter 2:17).

VIII. Final Authority on Matters of Faith and Conduct

We believe that the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God and is inerrant in the original writings. This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. We believe that the Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God, speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of humanity, and is the sole and final source of all that we believe (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Acts 17:11). For purposes of South Shores Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Deacon Board is South Shores Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.