

## ***Statement of Faith***

**THE HOLY SCRIPTURES** We believe the original documents of the old and new testaments, to be the (a) God-breathed, inspired Word of God, (b) inerrant in the originals, (c) complete and final revelation of God, (d) the final authority for faith and life, (e) sufficient for all of life on earth.

a. 2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20, 21

b. 2 Tim. 3:17, 1 Peter 1:23-25, Jn. 17:17, 8:51, Ro. 15:4, Heb. 4:12, Matt. 24:35

**GOD** We believe there is only one Triune (a) God, who is self (b) existent, all knowing (c), supreme ruler (d), and creator (e) of all things in heaven, and on earth, (f) Eternally existing in three persons, the Father (g), the Son, (h), and the Holy Spirit (i) co-equal in their essential nature, attributes, and perfection.

a. Is. 43:10, 1 Cor. 8:6, Deut. 6:4

b. John 5:26, Acts 17:24, 25.

c. Ps. 139:1-4, Col. 2:3, 1 Sam. 2:3

d. Gen. 21:33, Rev. 1:8, Jude 25

e. Job 42:2, Matt. 28:18, Rev. 1:17-18

f. Gen. 1:1, Rev. 4:11, John 1:3

g. 2 Cor. 1:3, Matt. 11:25, Phil. 1:2

h. Is. 9:6, John 1:1, 10:30. 14:6-7

i. Acts 5:3-4, 13:2, Gal. 4:6

**DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST** We believe Jesus Christ is the Eternal Son, was born of a (a) virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit, is fully (b) God, and fully (c) man, is equal to God the Father in all ways, and has all the divine attributes of God.

a. Matt. 1:23, Luke 1:30-35, Is. 7:14

b. Col. 2:9-10, Heb. 1:8, Jn. 1:1, 10:30, 20:28, Phil. 2:6-7

c. John 1:14, Heb. 2:14, 17, Gal. 4:4

**THE DEITY AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11, II Cor. 3:6, I Cor. 12:12-14, Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13,14).

We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; I John 2:20, 27; Eph. 5:18).

**MAN** We believe that all people are created in the image and likeness of God but in Adam's sin the race fell, are (a) sinners, both by inheritance of Adam's (b) nature, and by free exercise of our (c) individual will. In this state, the wages (d) of sin is death, resulting in eternal (e) separation from God, and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

- a. Ro. 3:23, 3:10, 1 John 1:10
- b. Ro. 5:12, 19, Gen. 3:1-6
- c. Ro. 6:16-18, 8:6-8. Eph. 2:2-3, Is. 53:6
- d. Ro. 6:23, Gal. 6:8
- e. Matt. 25:32, 41, 46, Luke 16:19-31, Rev. 20:11-15

**CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS** We believe that Jesus Christ was, and is, the (a) Lamb of God, who loves us, and (b) willingly shed His blood on the cross of Calvary, which paid (c) in full the death penalty. This is the only sacrifice (d) acceptable to God for our sins.

- a. John 1:29, Rev. 5:12, Is. 53:7
- b. Matt. 20:28, 26:53-54, 1 Tim. 2:5-6, Gal. 1:3-4, Luke 24:45-46
- c. Eph. 1:7, Matt. 26:28, Heb. 9:22, 1 Peter 1:18-19
- d. Heb. 9:22, Lev. 17:11, Ro. 3:24-26, 6:9-10, Heb. 10:10

**SALVATION** Eternal salvation from sin, death and hell is the free gift of God's grace and is based solely upon man's personal faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus voluntarily died as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins and also for the sins of the whole world. He arose bodily from the dead, thus guaranteeing salvation and resurrection to eternal life for all who believe in Christ alone for salvation. This salvation is not received by, nor based on, any sacrament, merit, or good work on our part.

- a. Acts 16:30-31, Ro. 3:28, Eph. 2:8-9, John 3:16, 18
- b. 1 Cor. 15:1-4, Ro. 10:9-10, John 11:25-26, 1 Peter 1:3-5
- c. 2 Cor. 7:9-10, Luke 24:46-47, 2 Peter 3:9
- d. Acts 4:12, John 3:3, 18, 14:6
- e. Ro. 8:15-17, Gal. 3:25-26, John 1:12
- f. Ro. 3:24, 6:23, Eph. 2:8-9

### **ETERNAL SECURITY**

We believe that a person who truly trusts Jesus as his personal Savior will never be in danger of losing his salvation. God is able to keep those who come to Him. The believer's eternal life is secure in Christ.

- John 3:15-16, 36
- John 5:24
- John 6:37
- John 10:27-30
- John 11:25-26
- Romans 8:35-39
- Philippians 1:6
- 2 Tim. 1:12
- 2 Tim. 4:18
- Heb. 7:25
- Jude 1, 24
- 1 John 5:13

**JESUS IS ALIVE** We believe that Jesus Christ (a) died on the cross, was (b) buried by men, and was (c) raised on the third day, in an eternal (d) imperishable body. He later (e) ascended into heaven, where today He sits at the (f) right hand of God the Father, making (g) intercession for the believers. The resurrection of Jesus provides us of the (h) assurance of our resurrection as believers.

- a. Matt. 26:2, John 19:16-19, Acts 5:30, Heb. 12:2
- b. Matt. 27:59-60, Luke 23:50-53, John 19:40-42
- c. Matt. 28:1-6, Mark 16:6, Luke 24:46, John 20:1-18
- d. 1 Tim. 6:15-16, 1 Cor. 15:42, 50
- e. John 20:17, Acts 1:9, Eph. 1:20
- f. Mark 16:19, Col. 3:1, Heb. 12:2, Eph. 1:20
- g. 1 John 2:1, Heb. 7:25, Ro. 8:34
- h. 1 Cor. 15:52, Phil. 3:20-21, 1 Peter 1:3

**JESUS IS COMING** We believe Jesus Christ will (a) return, (b) suddenly, (c) physically, to the earth, for His (d) own, at a time known only to the (e) Father. We believe that Jesus will come to receive to Himself all Church-age believers, both living and dead, and take them out of this world before the seven-year time of judgment, known as the Tribulation, begins.

- a. Acts 1:9-11, Phil. 3:20-21, James 5:8
- b. Matt. 24:37-41, Rev. 3:11, 22:7
- c. Mark 13:26-27, Acts 1:9-11
- d. 1 Thess. 4:16-17, John 14:1-3, Mark 13:27
- e. Matt. 24:36, 42, 44, Mark 13:32-33
- 1 Thess. 4:13-18
- 1 Cor. 15:51-54
- Rev. 3:10
- 1 Thess. 1:9-10
- 1 Thess. 5:9
- Compare Genesis 19:22

### **PREMILLENNIAL ADVENT OF CHRIST**

We believe that Jesus will return to earth, literally and bodily, at the end of the seven-year Tribulation to establish His earthly Kingdom which will last one thousand years. In this Kingdom all of Israel's covenants will be literally fulfilled.

- Acts 1:11
- Zech. 14:4
- Matt. 24:30
- Rev. 1:7
- Job 19:25
- Matt. 25:31
- Isa. 9:6-7
- Luke 1:32
- Jer. 23:5-6
- Dan. 7:13-14

Zech. 9:10  
Rev. 11:15  
Isa. 45:23  
Jer. 3:17  
Psalms 2:8-9  
Rev. 2:7

### **MATURITY, SEPARATION AND EVANGELISTIC ZEAL**

There is a balance that must be struck in the outworking of the gospel in the life of the believer. We know that progressively becoming more mature in word, deed and intention is what the Lord has for us daily. That being said, God calls believers “set apart ones” and we desire to live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon our Savior. To those ends, we renounce apostasy and worldly pleasures. That being said, one of our primary passions is to reach unbelievers with the truth of the gospel, therefore, you will find us engaging in purposeful caring relationships with the lost.

2 Cor. 6:14-18  
Rom. 12:1-2  
Titus 2:11-12  
1 John 2:15  
James 4:4  
Maturity  
Heb 5:11-14  
Eph 4:13-16  
Zeal  
Luke 7:34-50  
II Tim 2:24-26  
I Pet 3:15  
Col 4:5-6

### **THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER**

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Any claims that the old nature is eliminated during this life are unscriptural.

Rom. 6:13  
Rom. 8:12,13  
Gal. 5:16-25  
Eph. 4:22-24  
Col. 3:10  
I Peter 1:14-16  
I John 3:5-9

### **GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT AND OFFICES OF THE CHURCH**

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today and, that

speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (I Cor. 12:4-11; II Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12).

2 Peter 1:19-21

Deut. 4:2

Deut. 12:32

Rev. 22:18-19

Eph. 4:11-12

1 Cor. 12: 1-14:40

We believe that the gift of tongues was the ability to speak in an unlearned foreign language.

Acts 2:1-13

The gift of tongues was a sign gift for non-believing Israel.

1 Cor. 14:21-22

The offices of Apostle and Prophet were foundational offices for a specific time period and are no longer active after the death of the final Apostle.

Ephesians 2:20

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:3-4

II Pet 3:2

Jude 3-4

Acts 12:1-2

I Cor 13:8-12

We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will for the sick and afflicted.

John 15:7

1 John 5:14-15

James 5:14

### **BAPTISM**

We believe that baptism is for those people who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Baptism will be by immersion.

Matt. 28:19

Acts 8:12

Rom. 6:4-5

Acts 2:38

Acts 8:36-38

### **LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that the Lord's Supper should be observed by believers until His return. A person should examine himself and his relationship with the Lord before partaking of the Lord's Supper. Anyone who partakes of the Lord's Supper unworthily will bring judgment on himself. At ABF, we practice open communion, that is, communion is not reserved for members but for believers.

1 Cor. 11:23-34

Mark 14:12-26

Matt. 26:17-30  
Luke 22:19-20

### **THE DOCTRINE OF ELECTION**

We believe God is sovereign. He can do what He pleases. It is God's expressed desire that all would be saved. Therefore, He has offered salvation to everyone. God in His sovereignty has required man to make a decision of faith in Jesus Christ for personal salvation. He knows beforehand who will trust Christ as their Savior without predetermining this response.

Deut. 29:29  
Job 36:22-26  
Isaiah 40:6-28  
Acts 16:31  
Romans 8:28-30  
Romans 11:33-36  
Eph. 1:4, 5  
2 Thess. 2:13, 14  
1 Tim. 2:3-6  
1 Peter 1:2  
2 Peter 3:9  
Hebrews 11:6

### **MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

We believe that God has wonderfully and immutably created each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. We believe that the rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, same sex intimacy, pornography) is sinful and is an offense to a holy God.

Gen. 1:26-27  
Gen. 2:18-25  
1 Cor. 6:18  
1 Cor. 7:2-5  
Heb. 13:4  
Matt. 15:18-20  
1 Cor. 6:9-10

### **REQUIREMENT TO ABIDE WITHIN MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STATEMENT**

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Area Bible Fellowship as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the members and attendees of Area Bible Fellowship as well as our surrounding communities, it is imperative that all persons

employed by Area Bible Fellowship in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality.

Matt 5:16

Phil 2:14-16

1 Thess 5:22

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Acts 3:19-21

Rom 10:9-10

1 Cor 6:9-11

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Area Bible Fellowship.

Mark 12:28-31

Luke 6:31

**Additionally, you will hear the following taught at ABF:**

Young Earth, Literal 7-day creation

Free-Grace understanding of salvation

Literal Historical Grammatical Hermeneutic - for studying the Bible

Dispensational theology as opposed to Covenant Theology

Though we see some truth in many of the tenants of Calvinism, we see a middle ground in the scriptures somewhere between Calvinism and Arminianism.