

Statement of Faith

We believe the Bible is the Inspired,
Inerrant and Authoritative Word of God
and that it is sufficient for salvation and godliness.

We believe that there is one God,
eternally existent in three persons:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ,
His virgin birth, His sinless life,
His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death,
His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father,
and His personal return in power and glory.

We believe that all men are lost sinners and dead in transgression.

We believe that only by the gracious regeneration by the Holy Spirit
can a man turn to Christ in repentance and believe in His name for salvation.

We believe that man is saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit
by whose indwelling every Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost;
the saved to eternal life with Christ and the lost to eternal punishment in hell.

I. The Word of God

We believe the Bible is the Inspired, Inerrant and Authoritative Word of God and that it is sufficient for salvation and godliness.

- **What I Need to Know:** The Bible is “God-breathed” (**verbal plenary inspiration**). Because the source is God, it is without error (**inerrant**) and is the final authority over our lives. It contains everything we need to know how to be saved and how to live a life that pleases him (**sufficiency**). God superintended more than 40 authors across three continents to write 66 books over 1600 years; all writings exist within a historical context and have elements of the human author’s personality, style, and background.
 - **Common Pitfalls:** Viewing the Bible as ancient wisdom literature written by humans only. Treating the Bible as a "cafeteria" where we pick and choose truths based on what feels comfortable, or assuming we need "new revelations" or secular psychology to supplement what God has already spoken. Man-made legalism.
 - **Why This Matters for Membership:** At Cornerstone, we submit to the Word even when it is counter-cultural. We commit to being a people shaped by the Bible’s teaching, counseling, and preaching, rather than by our own shifting feelings or opinions.
 - **Key Verses:** 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Peter 1:10-12; Psalm 19:7-8
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II. The Trinity

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

- **What I Need to Know:** God is **one being** who exists eternally in **three distinct persons**. They are **co-equal** and **co-eternal**. God is love; perfect, intimate, relational love has existed within the Trinity since before time began.
 - **Common Pitfalls:** Thinking of God as one person who simply wears three different "masks" (**modalism**), or thinking of the three persons as three separate Gods with different wills (**tritheism/polytheism**), or thinking God is made of three pieces that make one whole (**partialism**). Most physical analogies (e.g. water as gas, liquid, ice; an egg having shell, white, and yolk; the sun, light, and heat) fail to describe God correctly because God is so unlike us or anything else in creation.
 - **Why This Matters for Membership:** Our unity as a church reflects the loving, relational unity of the Trinity since we are created in his image. We are invited into the "shared love" of the Triune Godhead. Membership is not just joining a spiritual club, it is joining the spiritual family of God that mirrors the relational nature of Trinitarian fellowship.
 - **Key Verses:** Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Genesis 1:26
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III. Jesus Christ

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return in power and glory.

- **What I Need to Know:** Jesus is fully God *and* fully man (**hypostatic union**) without confusion, change, division, or separation. He lived the life we should have lived and died the death we deserved. He felt the infinite pain of separation from the Father so that we would never have to be forsaken. His physical resurrection is proof that his sacrifice was accepted.
- **Common Pitfalls:** Viewing Jesus as just a "good moral teacher" or a "prophet," or believing his resurrection was only "spiritual" rather than a literal, historical, bodily event.
- **Why This Matters for Membership:** Jesus is the Head of this church. We are "co-heirs" with Christ. Our membership is grounded in the fact that he is currently seated at the right hand of God, interceding for us as our high priestly king, commissioning us to love on his behalf in this broken world.
- **Key Verses:** John 1:1, 14; Colossians 1:15-20, 2:9; 1 Corinthians 15:17-22; Mark 15:34, 37-39; Hebrews 1:3; Acts 1:9-11

IV. Salvation

We believe that all men are lost sinners and dead in transgression.

We believe that only by the gracious regeneration by the Holy Spirit can a man turn to Christ in repentance and believe in His name for salvation.

We believe that man is saved by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone.

- **What I Need to Know:** We are "dead in transgression" and cannot save ourselves. Salvation is a "gift of God," not a result of works righteousness. On the cross, a "Great Exchange" happened: Jesus took our curse, and we received his righteousness. When God looks at a member of Christ's body, he sees the perfection of his Son.
- **Common Pitfalls:** Believing that we are "basically good people" or that our acceptance by God depends on our performance (**Moralism**). Thinking that saving faith originates with human will rather than in God's regenerating grace (**Arminianism**).
- **Why This Matters for Membership:** Our doctrine of salvation destroys pride and boasting. We are forgiven sinners who find our common identity in Christ's work, not our own. We evangelize the lost to find God's elect believers whom he has already secured in his divine providence, not to persuade people using only reason or emotions.
- **Key Verses:** Ephesians 2:1-9; Romans 3:23-26; Romans 8:1, 15-17; Titus 3:4-7; 2 Corinthians 5:21

V. The Holy Spirit & Sanctification

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling every Christian is enabled to live a godly life.

- **What I Need to Know:** The Holy Spirit is God and dwells within every believer personally and intimately. He provides **regeneration** (new life), convicts us of sin, and empowers us to grow in holiness (**sanctification**). He is the "Helper" who ensures we are never alone. Everything good we do is by the strength provided by the Spirit.
 - **Common Pitfalls:** Assuming we can live the Christian life through sheer willpower, or conversely, treating the Spirit's indwelling as a license to ignore God's commands (the Spirit empowers us to obey).
 - **Why This Matters for Membership:** The Spirit is what makes us one body. He grants spiritual gifts to each member for the building up of the whole church. We keep in step with the Spirit together as we serve one another.
 - **Key Verses:** 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; John 14:16-17; Galatians 5:16-18; Romans 8:13
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VI. The Final Resurrection

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; the saved to eternal life with Christ and the lost to eternal punishment in hell.

- **What I Need to Know:** This life is a "vapor." There is a literal future judgment and a material eternal reality. For the believer, this means a "new heaven and a new earth" where God dwells with his people, wipes away every tear, and makes all things new. The weight of this **future glory** is so great that the sufferings of this present time cannot be compared with it and will be remembered only as light and momentary affliction.
- **Common Pitfalls:** Over-optimizing this life for comfort, success, or selfish gain (**earthly mindedness**). Living as if this world is all there is (**materialism**), or assuming that everyone goes to the same place regardless of their relationship with Christ (**universalism**). Over-worrying about the pain and suffering of this current life. Believing hell is not real or that unbelievers do not experience punishment (**annihilationism**).
- **Why This Matters for Membership:** The promise of a final resurrection gives our church a sense of urgency and hope. We invest our time and resources into eternity. We join this church to help one another "set our minds on things above" and to reach those who are currently lost but will be saved and disciplined as members of God's elect.
- **Key Verses:** Revelation 20:12-15; Mark 9:43, 48; Revelation 21:1-4; Colossians 3:1-4; Romans 8:18; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51-57

APPENDIX: KEY VERSES

I. The Word of God

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

1 Peter 1:10-12

10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully, 11 inquiring what person or time the Spirit of Christ in them was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories. 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Psalms 19:7-8

*7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure,
making wise the simple;
8 the precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is pure,
enlightening the eyes;*

II. The Trinity

Deuteronomy 6:4

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Matthew 28:19

19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

John 10:30

30 I and the Father are one."

Genesis 1:26

26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness..."

III. Jesus Christ

John 1:1, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Colossians 1:15-20

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Colossians 2:9

9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,

1 Corinthians 15:17-22

17 And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

Mark 15:34, 37-39

34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (cf. Psalm 22:1)

37 And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last. 38 And the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. 39 And when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

Hebrews 1:3

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Acts 1:9-11

9 And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. 10 And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, 11 and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

IV. Salvation

Ephesians 2:1-9

1 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins 2 in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— 3 among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the flesh and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— 6 and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Romans 3:23-26

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Romans 8:1, 15-17

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Titus 3:4-7

4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:21

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

V. The Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, 20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Galatians 5:16-18

16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Romans 8:13

13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

VI. The Final Resurrection

Revelation 20:12-15

12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. 13 And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. 14 Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Mark 9:43, 48

43 And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire.

48 'where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.'

Revelation 21:1-4

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Colossians 3:1-4

3 If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. 3 For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

Romans 8:18

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18

17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

1 Corinthians 15:51-57

51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

“Death is swallowed up in victory.”

55 “O death, where is your victory?

O death, where is your sting?”

56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE CHRISTOLOGICAL CYCLE

