

Statement of Faith (All Christians Affirm)

(All members of SGCC believe these teachings)

1. We believe that the Bible is the only divinely inspired and infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is One God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but through the fall of Adam, sin entered the world, and all men sin and fall short of the glory of God.
4. We believe that Jesus Christ is one of the three divine persons.
 - a. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
 - b. He was crucified, died, and buried, and rose bodily on the third day.
 - c. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - d. He ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 - e. He will come again to judge the living and the dead and receive His people unto Himself.
5. We believe that all those who trust in Christ alone as Saviour, are born again by the Holy Spirit and are therefore children of God.
6. God: Is a Spirit, not a man.
7. Jesus Christ: Is the Son of God, and the second person of the Godhead. He is fully God and fully man. He is the only way to the Father.
8. The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is a divine person, the third person of the Godhead. He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment: He enlightens the mind spiritually and impresses the heart with a sense of forgiveness, and seals unto the believer the blessing of the New Covenant.

Essential Doctrines (What we believe)

(All Members of SGCC will learn these teachings)

1. We believe the Bible to be the word of God, fully inspired and without error, in the original manuscripts.
2. We believe that the Bible is the only divinely inspired and infallible rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe that there is One God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, but through the fall of Adam, sin entered the world, and all men sin and fall short of the glory of God.
5. We believe that Jesus Christ is one of the three divine persons.
 - a. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
 - b. He was crucified, dead, and buried, and rose bodily on the third day.
 - c. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - d. He ascended into heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
 - e. He will come again to judge the living and the dead and receive His people unto Himself.
6. We believe that salvation is a gift of God's grace through faith in Christ, and not a result of good works or human merit.
7. We believe that regeneration (being born again) is a work of God's grace and is received by faith alone.
8. We believe that salvation is based upon the merit of the shed blood of Christ, through faith.
9. We believe in the eternal blessedness of the saved, and the eternal conscious punishment of the lost.
10. We believe that all those who trust in Christ alone as Saviour, are born again by the Holy Spirit and are therefore children of God.
11. We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, the bride of Christ, the new creation in Christ Jesus, and that it is the duty of the saved to join themselves to the Church in order to become members of it, and to be involved in all its activities.
12. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
13. The Trinity: the Bible teaches that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three-one God, and that they are co-equal in power, wisdom, authority, and love.
14. God: Is a Spirit, not a man.
15. Jesus Christ: Is the Son of God, and the second person of the Godhead. He is fully God and fully man. He is the only way to the Father.

16. The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is a divine person, the third person of the Godhead. He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment: He enlightens the mind spiritually and impresses the heart with a sense of forgiveness, and seals unto the believer the blessing of the New Covenant.
17. The only sexual activity that is not a sin is between one man and one woman who are married to each other.
18. Sorcerers, murderers, fornicators, idolaters, homosexuals, thieves, drunkards, revilers (habitually verbally abusive), swindlers, envious and sexually immoral people will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Also included is abortion, incest, pedophilia, bestiality. The only Christian response to such a person is to point out the obvious peril they are in of eternal damnation as an act of love.
19. Teaching others is a huge responsibility. Scripture is clear that a teacher is to be very careful to rightly divide the word of truth. In the church setting no one is to teach without permission of those in authority. Outside of church no one is to teach anything contradicting the doctrines in this document in particular or scripture in general.
20. "But from the beginning of creation, *God* created them male and female." There are two genders male and female and it is determined by God who creates each person and physically gives them a body and DNA which indicates that gender. Christians are to dress and act in a way that reflects the Gender that God has given them. The church should judge for itself what are proper, natural and modest ways to dress and act inside the culture God has placed us. (1 Corinthians 11:13-15)

Supplement Doctrines (What we teach)

(SGCC teaches these things)

I. Scripture

- A. God's goodness, wisdom, and power are so obvious that it's impossible for a person to not believe in God. But even though the light of nature and the works of creation and providence are so convincing, they are not enough to give us a full understanding of God's will. So God has revealed Himself in many ways, which we call the Bible. The Bible is the most important book because it contains everything we need to know about God.
- B. These are the books of the bible. Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, I. Samuel, II. Samuel, I. Kings, II. Kings, I. Chronicles, II. Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, The Gospels according to, Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, The Acts of the Apostles, Paul's Epistles, To the Romans, Corinthians I., Corinthians II., Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians I., Thessalonians II., To Timothy I., To Timothy II., To Titus, To Philemon, The Epistle to the Hebrews, The Epistle of James, The first and second Epistles of Peter, The first, second, and third Epistles of John, The Epistle of Jude and The Revelation of John All which are given by inspiration of God, to be the rule of faith and life.
- C. The books commonly called Apocrypha, not being of divine inspiration, are not part of the canon of the Bible; and therefore have no more authority than any other human book
- D. The Bible is true because God said it is true, and should be read and understood as truth.
- E. The Bible is the word of God. It is perfect and true. And we know this because the Holy Spirit lives in us and tells us so. We also know that history and nature has revealed this so that anyone could in fact recognize it if men were not by nature sinful.
- F. God has revealed all we need to know about God's glory, salvation, faith, and life; it is either specifically stated in scripture or can be understood through reason from scripture. The complete understanding of this is made possible by the illumination of the holy spirit. Some of the specifics of faith and life which are not addressed explicitly in scripture are generally addressed are the resulting doctrines are to be carefully deduced through the lens of the circumstances of the current church, and those doing so should be clear that it is only a temporary tradition of men.

- G. Some things in the Bible are not easy to understand, but the important, necessary things are explained so that any thinking person can understand them.
- H. The Bible was written in Hebrew and Greek, which were the languages of the people who lived a long time ago. But those languages aren't the ones we speak today. So we have to translate the Bible into our language to read it. It is true, and God protected it from being changed when it was translated. So we have to go back to the original languages if we want to know for sure what God meant.
- I. The Bible is the only book that tells us what it means. So when we don't understand something in the Bible, we need to look at other parts of the Bible that explain it better.
- J. Doctrines, rules, traditions and opinions are to be judged by scripture.

II. **God and the Holy Trinity**

- A. There is only one God. He is all powerful, all knowing, and all good. He is invisible, without body, parts or passions. He is all wise and all holy. He is free and absolute. He made everything, for His own glory and for our benefit. He loves us and forgives us when we ask for forgiveness by faith. He is just and terrible in His judgments, hating all sin and will punish those who do not ask for forgiveness by faith.
- B. God has life, glory, goodness, and blessedness in and of Himself. He is alone in and unto Himself, and does not need us. When He shows His glory to us, it is only His glory that shines through us. God made everything that is, and everything that is, is because of God. God can do and does do whatever He wants with His creation. God is all-knowing and all-wise. He knows everything that has happened and everything that will happen. He is completely good and righteous in his works, counsels and commands. He is due whatever worship, service and obedience he desires from angels, men and any other creature.
- C. In God there are three persons God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Father is of none, neither begotten, nor proceeding: the Son is eternally begotten of the Father: the Holy Spirit eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son.

III. **God's Eternal Decree**

- A. God from all eternity did, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass. He did this without being the author of sin, or violating the will of his creatures, or violating the normal chain of events, instead he uses secondary causes and the choices of creatures to establish his will.
- B. God has foreknowledge (knowing what will happen) and middle knowledge (knowing what would happen given any particular circumstance). He has not made his decrees based on foreknowledge, not

even in part, nor has middle knowledge been the primary basis for his decrees if at all, but his decrees are based upon the wise and holy counsel of his own will.

- C. By the decree of God, for the manifestation of His glory, some men and angels are predestinated unto everlasting life, and others fore-ordained to everlasting death.
- D. These angels and men, thus predestinated, and fore-ordained, are particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number so certain and definite, that it cannot be either increased or diminished.
- E. God chose a certain number of people to be saved. He did this before the world was created. He chose them to be saved because of His love for them, not because they had faith or good works or because they persevered in either of these things. He did this all for the praise of His glorious grace.
- F. God has chosen some people for heaven, and He has chosen some people for hell. He chose this before anyone was born. He chose this by His own free will. Those who are chosen for heaven(elected) are called to believe in Jesus Christ. They are made clean(**sanctified**), they are made right with God(**justified**), they are adopted into the family of God, and they are kept safe by God's power. Only the elect will be saved. Those he has chosen for hell he does so while also extending to them great grace and enduring them with great patience, preparing them for destruction.
- G. Predestination means that God has already decided who will go to heaven and who will go to hell. But He has told us in the Bible that we can go to heaven if we obey the Bible. So we should try very hard to obey the Bible so that God will let us into heaven.

IV. Creation

- A. To show the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, God created everything visible and invisible from nothing in six literal days; and it was very good.
- B. After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, after His own image; having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfil it: and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject unto change. Beside this law written in their hearts, they received a command, not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, which while they kept, they were happy in their communion with God, and had dominion over the creatures.

V. Providence

- A. God, the great Creator of all things, is in control of everything and makes sure that everything happens the way it should according to His wise and

holy providence. He knows everything that will happen before it happens, and it is all part of His unchanging plan.

- B. Although God knows everything that will happen, and plans everything that will happen, He lets things happen in a normal chain of events either freely or necessarily.
- C. God in His ordinary providence makes use of things that happen naturally in the world, but he can also make things happen supernaturally.
- D. The power, wisdom and goodness of God are seen in his providence and extends even to the first fall and all the sins of men and angels. However even though they were decreed by God the sins of men and angels were done willingly by those creatures. God is holy and righteous and is not and cannot be the author or approver of sin.
- E. Sometimes God lets bad things happen to His children, to teach them humility, to grow their faith, to reveal their weaknesses to sin, to punish their sin or for some other holy purpose.
- F. God chose to withdraw grace from some sinners. He chooses to allow them to harden their hearts until they cannot see the truth and repent.
- G. God takes care of his church through all his providence.

VI. The Fall of Man, Sin and Punishment

- A. Our first parents disobeyed God, by eating the forbidden fruit. God let it happen, because He wanted it to happen.
- B. By this sin, Adam and Eve were separated from God and became dead in sin, defiled in body and soul.
- C. They were the first people, and they sinned. The sin was passed down to all their children, and to all their children's children, and so on.
- D. From this original sin, whereby we are all guilty of evil and unable to do good, all other sins come.
- E. When a person is born again, the old nature is still there, but it is forgiven and will not be punished.
- F. Every sin you commit is a sin against God, and was committed freely from your sin nature. A sinner is bound over to God's wrath, the curse of the law and subject to death and misery.

VII. God's Covenant with Man

- A. God loves you very much and He is the creator of everything, but He is so holy that He is not able to be with us. He knows that we need Him, so He made a way for us to be with Him forever. This way is called a covenant.
- B. The first time God made a promise to man, He made it on the condition that Adam would always keep his commands.
- C. God made a second promise to people who can not keep the first promise. The second promise is that He will give His Holy Spirit to those he chooses, so that they can believe in Jesus.

- D. The covenant of grace is like a will(called a Testament). Jesus died, and it says that when we believe in him, we will receive eternal life.
- E. In the time of the law, God's promises and teachings were given to the Jews. The law was given by Moses. They had to obey certain rules and regulations to get forgiveness for their sins and go to heaven if they had faith. People were saved through the operation of the Spirit who instructed and built up the elect in faith in the promised Messiah. This was the Old testament.
- F. Under the gospel, when Christ, the substance, was exhibited, the ordinances in which this covenant is dispensed are the preaching of the Word and the administration of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These ordinances are fewer in number and administered with more simplicity and less outward glory. They are held forth in more fullness, evidence, and spiritual efficacy to all nations, both Jews and Gentiles. They are called the New Testament. There are not therefore two covenants of grace, differing in substance, but one and the same covenant under various dispensations.

VIII. Christ the Mediator

- A. It pleased God, in His eternal plan, to choose and decide that Jesus Christ, His only Son, would be the one who would be the mediator between God and man. He would be the one who would be the Prophet, Priest, and King of His Church. He would be the one who would be the head and savior of His Church. He would be the one who would be the heir of all things. He would be the one who would judge everyone.
- B. Jesus was God, and Jesus was a man, but without sin. He was not two people, but he was two natures. He had two natures, one human and one divine. He was not a human who also happened to be God. He was not a god who also happened to be human. He was both at the same time. And he is still God and still man today.
- C. The Lord Jesus, in His human nature, was filled with the Holy Spirit, above measure, having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. It pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell in Him. He was holy, harmless, undefiled, and full of grace and truth. He was thoroughly furnished to execute His office as a mediator and surety. The Father called Jesus to be ruler of the world. The Father gave Jesus the power to judge people.
- D. Jesus willingly became a man to suffer and die for us. He was nailed to a cross and died, but did not stay dead. He was buried, but three days later he came back to life. He went up to heaven and is sitting at the right hand of God. He will come back to judge everybody.
- E. Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice, has fully satisfied the justice of God, and made it possible for God to forgive us and give us eternal life.

- F. Even before Jesus was born, God made promises that He would send a Savior to crush the serpent's head and die for our sins. These promises were made in the Old Testament and were fulfilled when Jesus was born. The benefits of this are realized by all elect at any time in history.
- G. God works in a person's life. He helps them understand the Bible and obey it. He helps them understand their sin, and how to be forgiven. He helps them understand how to live a good life. And he helps them do all this by the power of the Holy Spirit.

IX. Free Will

- A. God hath endued the will of man with that natural liberty, that is neither forced, nor by any absolute necessity of nature determined to be good or evil.
- B. A person who is a "natural man" (which means he is not a Christian) is so bad and dead in sin that he is not able to choose to be good, or even to prepare himself to be good.
- C. When God converts sinners, he puts them in a state of grace. They are freed from the bondage of sin and enabled to do good works by faith but there is still remaining sin so that a converted person still sins.
- D. Only in Heaven, your will is perfectly free to do good things.

X. Effectual Calling

- A. God chooses some people to go to heaven. He does this in His own timing. He makes them willing to go to heaven. He does this by giving them a new heart and mind and making them willing to obey Him.
- B. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man. People are quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it.
- C. Some people have been called by the preaching of the Word, and have some common operations of the Spirit, but they never truly come to Christ and so cannot be saved.

XI. Justification

- A. God forgives all your sins if you believe in Jesus. He doesn't forgive you because you are good, but because Jesus was good. This is a free gift from God, not something you earn. You can't earn it. You don't deserve it. It's a gift from God. It's not something you can work for. It's not something you can buy.
- B. Faith, which is resting on the person and work of Christ, is the only way to be justified. That faith will not be alone in you, but will always be accompanied by other saving graces. It will be a living faith that works by love.
- C. Christ, by His obedience and death, paid the debt of those that are justified, and satisfied the Father's justice in their behalf. Jesus did it freely

in obedience to the father. The elect did nothing for justification but it is by free grace that both the exact justice, and rich grace of God, might be glorified in the justification of sinners.

- D. God decided, from all eternity, to save all the people he chose. Jesus died for their sins and rose again so they could be forgiven; Jesus also died so that those who reject his sacrifice can stand fully condemned. Those who believe are not forgiven until, when the time is right, the Holy Spirit makes them right with God.
- E. Even though God forgives the sins of those who are justified, they can still fall under God's displeasure. They must ask God to forgive them, confess their sins, and return to obedience and repentance.
- F. Under the old testament, the way God forgave people was the same way he forgives people under the new testament.

XII. Adoption

- A. All those who are made right with God, God made them a part of His family, and gave them the same name and same rights and privileges as His own Son. They can ask Him for things, and He will listen. He will take care of them, protect them, give them what they need, punish them when they need it, and take care of them until the day when they will be with Him forever.

XIII. Sanctification

- A. People who have been saved from their sins by God's grace, and who have had a new heart and new spirit put inside them by God, are made more and more holy by God's Word and Spirit living inside them. The power of all sin is broken. They are made more and more holy by God's Word and Spirit living inside them.
- B. Sanctification is a work of God to make us holy. The Holy Spirit helps us become holy. The Holy Spirit always wants us to be holy, but the flesh (our old self) does not want to be holy. We have to fight against the old self to become holy.
- C. Although the remaining corruption (sin) can cause a lot of problems for a while, the people who are born again will, by God's mercy, always win in the end. They will get stronger and stronger Becoming more sanctified over time. .

XIV. Saving Faith

- A. The grace of faith, which is the ability to believe in Jesus and his saving power, is given by God through the Holy Spirit. It is usually brought about by hearing the Word of God through preaching, and prayer.
- B. Christians believe everything the Bible says is true because God says it is true. Christians live differently because they fear God's anger when they disobey his commands, and they hope for God's favor when they obey his

commands. The most important act of faith is to believe in Jesus Christ for justification, sanctification, and eternal life by grace.

- C. This faith can be weak or strong. It can be attacked many times and it can get weak. But each time it gets weaker, God will help it get stronger. It grows up to the point where it has a full assurance through Christ.

XV. Repentance unto Life

- A. Repentance to get to Heaven is an "evangelical grace", and it's what ministers are supposed to preach.
- B. If you are sorry for your sins and want to stop doing them, you need to ask God to forgive you. Then you need to be determined not to sin anymore.
- C. Although repentance is not to be relied on, as any kind of payment for sin, or any way to earn the forgiveness of sin, which is the act of God's free grace in Christ; yet it is so absolutely necessary for all sinners, that no one can expect to be forgiven without it.
- D. Every sin no matter how small deserves damnation and there is no sin so great, that it can bring damnation upon those who are saved by grace..
- E. As every person is bound to confess his sins to God in private, asking for forgiveness, so he who offends his brother or the Church of Christ should be willing to confess his sin in public and ask for forgiveness.

XVI. Good Works

- A. Good works are only the ones that God has told us to do in the Bible, not the ones that people make up without any authority from God.
- B. These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the proof that we have faith, and by them we show our thankfulness, strengthen our assurance, and help our brothers and sisters. They show that God has made us to be holy and that we will live with Him forever.
- C. We can do good works because of the Holy Spirit, but we can't just sit around and wait for the Holy Spirit to do all the work. We have to work with Him.
- D. People who are obedient can't do more than what God requires, but they can do less.
- E. We can't get God to forgive us by doing good works.
- F. The good works of believers are accepted by God even though they are not perfect.
- G. Works done by unregenerate men, although they may be good things, they are not pleasing to God, because they are not done in a right manner according to the Word, nor to a right end, the glory of God.

XVII. Perseverance of the Saints

- A. Every believer should be diligent to make sure that they are called and elected. Those who are truly elect can never totally or finally fall away from

the state of grace. They will certainly persevere in that grace to the end, and be eternally saved.

- B. The saints' perseverance is not their own doing, but the result of God's love, and Jesus' merit and intercession.
- C. Even if you try your best to be good, you might still sin. And if you do sin, you will be sorry, feel guilty and ashamed. You will grieve God's Holy Spirit. You will hurt yourself and others. You may bring God's punishment on yourself. You may lose some of the blessings God has given you.

XVIII. Assurance of Grace and Salvation

- A. Although some people might think they are saved, and have hope to live with God forever, they are wrong. But if you truly believe in Jesus as your savior, love him and endeavour to walk in all good conscience before Him, you can be sure you are saved, and will never be ashamed of it.
- B. Assurance is not a bare conjecture or guess, but an assurance based on the truthfulness of God's promises, the evidence of the grace of salvation, and the testimony of the Spirit that we are God's children.
- C. If you are a Christian you can be sure that God loves you and has a plan for your life. You can know this because the Holy Spirit gives you special feelings in your heart when you read the Bible. This is not the same as seeing God or hearing him speak to you. You can't always feel the Holy Spirit, but if you read the Bible and pray, and if you try your best to do what God wants, you will feel more and more sure of his love.
- D. True believers may have the assurance of their salvation shaken, diminished, and interrupted by negligence, falling into some special sin, having God's light withdrawn by temptation, and being allowed to walk in darkness for a time. Yet they are never so utterly destitute of God's seed of faith, love of Christ, sincerity of heart, and conscience of duty that they cannot be revived in due time.

XIX. The Law of God

- A. God made a promise to Adam, that if he obeyed God's laws, he would be rewarded with eternal life. And if he disobeyed God's laws, he would be punished with eternal death. Then God gave Adam the ability to obey Him.
- B. This law, after Adam's fall, was a perfect rule of right and wrong. God gave it to Moses on Mount Sinai, in ten commandments. The first four commandments tell us how to be right with God. The other six rules tell us how to be right with our neighbors.
- C. Besides the law that is commonly called moral, God gave the people of Israel, as a church under age, ceremonial laws that are now abrogated. These ceremonial laws contained several typical ordinances, partly of worship, prefiguring Christ, His graces, actions, sufferings, and benefits; and partly holding forth diverse instructions of moral duties.

- D. God also gave the Jews political laws which expired when the Theocracy ended.
- E. The Ten Commandments and other moral laws are for everyone, no matter if you are a Christian or not. You are still responsible to obey them. It is not up to you if you like them or not. God gave them to us and we must obey them. Jesus did not take away the moral laws, he just made it easier for us to obey them.
- F. People who believe in God are not under the law as a way to make them right with God, or to make them be punished. But, the law is useful for them, and for other people. The law shows them what God wants them to do, and it shows them how they can know what is wrong and what is right. The law also shows them how sinful they are. They can see how bad sin is, and how much they need Jesus, and how perfect Jesus was when he died on the cross.
- G. The law is good. It tells us what God wants us to do. It is not against the Gospel. The law helps us be more like Jesus.

XX. Christian Liberty, and Liberty of Conscience

- A. Christ has bought for us freedom from the guilt of sin, and from the curse of the law, and from sin's power, and from death, and from hell, and from Satan, and from all the bad things that are in this world. Christians have greater freedom to go to God, and to obey him because they love him. They also have greater freedom to be filled with the Spirit, than those who lived under the law.
- B. God alone is Lord of your conscience, and he has left it free from doctrines and commandments of men, which are in any way contrary to his word. To believe such doctrines or to obey such commands out of conscience is to betray true liberty of conscience. And the requiring of an implicit faith and an absolute and blind obedience is to destroy liberty of conscience and reason also.
- C. Those who, on the excuse of being Christian, do any sin or cherish any lust, do thereby destroy the end of Christian liberty, which is that we might serve the Lord without fear all the days of our life.
- D. If you say it's OK for gay people to marry, or that there are more genders than male and female, or that it's OK to have sex before marriage, or that it's OK to have an abortion, or that a woman should be allowed to preach to men, or that women should have authority over men you are resisting God's authority.

XXI. Worship and the Sabbath-day

- A. Nature shows that there is a God who has authority and power over all things and is good to all things. God is to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served with all the heart, soul, and might. The way to

worship God is to follow the instructions He gave in His Word, the Bible, and not use any other way or worship Him in any other way.

- B. God is the only one who deserves to be worshiped. He is the creator of all things and he is the ruler of all things. God loves us so much that he sent Jesus Christ to die for us. Jesus Christ was sent by God to die for our sins so we could be forgiven. God is the only one who deserves to be worshiped; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- C. Prayer, with thanksgiving, is one of the special parts of religious worship. God requires it of everyone. It must be made in the name of the Son. By His Spirit, we pray according to His will with understanding, reverence, humility, fervency, faith, love, and perseverance. If you pray out loud in church, you should do it in a language you understand.
- D. You can pray for anything that is lawful, and for anyone that is alive or will be alive. You can pray for yourself and for your friends. You can pray for your teachers and your family. But you can't pray for dead people or people who have sinned unto death.
- E. The reading of the Bible, with fear and respect, the preaching of the word, and receiving it with understanding and faith, singing hymns with grace in your heart, the proper administration of the sacraments, and the worthy receiving of them, are all parts of the worship of God.
- F. You don't have to go to a building, or a church, to worship God. God is everywhere, and you can worship Him anywhere. In your own home, alone, or with your family, or in a public place where you don't have to worry about what other people think of you. God wants you to worship Him in spirit and in truth. God has also commanded believers to not neglect the public assembly of the church.
- G. God (the Lord) told us to take one whole day out of the week, and that day is Sunday. This change of sabbath day, from Saturday, is found in scripture following the death and resurrection of Christ the church met on the first day of the week which, in Scripture, is called the Lord's Day. He told us to do this because He wants us to worship Him. It is a day to remember God and thank Him for His many blessings.
- H. On Sunday, you should not do your own work, or think about things that aren't about God. You should do things that are about God.

XXII. Lawful Oaths and Vows

- A. Oaths are a part of religious worship.
- B. The name of God is the only thing we should swear by. We should use it with all holy fear and respect.
- C. When you take an oath, you need to think about whether it is really a good and just thing to do. You should not take an oath to do something that is wrong or that you are not sure you can do.

- D. If you make a promise or an oath, you have to keep it. You can't make an oath to do something bad, like telling a lie or killing someone. An oath is a promise you have to keep, even if it hurts you.
- E. A Vow is like an oath and should be made with the same care, and kept with the same faithfulness.
- F. No man may promise to do anything that is against God's Word, or that would keep him from doing what God wants him to do, or that he does not have the power to do, and for which he has not been promised the ability by God.

XXIII. Government

- A. God has set up government leaders to be, under him, over the people. He has given them the power of the sword for the defense and encouragement of those who are good and for the punishment of those who do evil.
- B. It is OK for Christians to be a leader and make laws for other people when they are called to do it. They should make laws that are fair and good for everyone. They can also go to war if it is necessary, or use force to maintain law and order.
- C. The government cannot tell the church how to teach the Bible, but the government can tell the church to teach the Bible and to not teach things that are not in the Bible. Governments should not be the church.
- D. It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute or other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience' sake. Infidelity, or difference in religion, does not void the magistrates' just and legal authority, nor free the people from their due obedience to them.

XXIV. Marriage and Divorce.

- A. One man and one woman are allowed to marry each other. It's not allowed for a man to marry more than one woman, or for a woman to marry more than one man. At the same time. Any sexual, union outside of marriage between a biological man and woman, is sin.
- B. Marriage was ordained to help the husband and wife, to have children, and to help the church with good people.
- C. It is the duty of Christians to marry only those who are also Christians. They should not marry people who believe in other religions, or non-believers.
- D. Marriages between people who are too closely related are not allowed. They are against God's law. You cannot change this by any law of man or by the consent of the people getting married.
- E. If you are engaged or married to someone, and they commit adultery, your promise is broken. It is okay for the person you made the promise to to

end the engagement. It is okay for the person you married to become divorced.

- F. If one spouse wants to become divorced to the other. Every holy attempt to rectify the relationship must be made. This is to be done as part of church discipline if possible. If the spouse is unwilling to submit to scripture after many attempts and much effort. He or she has left the authority of scripture and may be assumed to be a non-believing spouse wishing to divorce a believer. They may divorce and be unbound.
- G. An abusive spouse is obviously not faithful to the marriage vows, scripture or to the biblical requirements of marriage. An abusive spouse is absolutely not living as a believer. Scripture does not address this as a cause for divorce, But reason makes it plain that separation is warranted. If the abuser once separated wishes under these circumstances to become divorced it would be scripturally acceptable. Scripture does not address separations due to physical abuse; let it be left to the conscience of the spouse who was abused to stay separate or to divorce.
- H. Re-marriage can only occur if the divorce was biblical as described in this section. If the ex-spouse is still unmarried the believer is bound to rectify the marriage that was abandoned. If the ex-spouse is remarried this is impossible the believer must repent of sin and is free to remarry.

XXV. The Church

- A. The Church is made up of all Christians who have ever lived, are living, or will live. It is the body of Jesus Christ, and He is the head of the Church.
- B. The Church is the one true Church. It's not just for one nation like it was before, but now it's for everyone in the whole world. It's the kingdom of God on Earth, the family of God, and out of this family there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.
- C. This Church is the whole group of people who believe in Jesus. Jesus Christ has given to it the teachings, the Bible, and the way to get to heaven.
- D. Jesus gave the church the Bible, the pastor, and the sacraments, to help us be good Christians.
- E. Church sometimes has been more, and sometimes less visible. And particular churches, which are members of it, are more or less pure, according as the gospel is taught and embraced, ordinances are administered, and public worship is performed more or less purely in them.
- F. Even when the church is pure, it is still subject to both error and corruption. Some churches have so degenerated, as to become no churches of Christ, but synagogues of Satan.
- G. There is no other leader of the Church, but Jesus Christ. The Pope of Rome, in any sense, cannot be the head of the Church. The Pope is that

anti-Christ, that man of sin, and son of perdition, who exalts himself against Jesus Christ and all that is called God.

XXVI. Communion of the Saints

- A. All Christians who are in Christ by the Holy Spirit and by faith have fellowship with Jesus Christ in His grace, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory. They are united to one another in love and have communion in each other's gifts and graces. They are required to do the things that help them to grow spiritually.
- B. People who are holy because they know God, and have faith in Jesus, should help each other. They should worship God together and help each other by sharing their food and money. They should do this in their own place, and also when they travel to other places.
- C. This communion which the saints have with Christ does not make them, in any way, equal with Christ, or partakers of the substance of His Godhead. To say otherwise is impious and blasphemous.

XXVII. The Sacraments

- A. The sacraments are special holy signs and seals of the promise made by God. They show us that we belong to God. They also show us what God has done for us. And they make a very special promise to us, that we will love and serve God as long as we live.
- B. In every sacrament, there is a connection between the sign (what you see) and the thing signified (what it represents). For example, when you eat the bread in holy communion, you know it is a sign of the body of Jesus which was broken for you.
- C. The grace that is given to people who receive the sacraments is not given by the power of the sacrament, but by the Spirit. The power and meaning of the sacrament is described in scripture.
- D. There are only two sacraments ordained by Christ our Lord in the Gospel; that is to say, Baptism and the Lord's supper
- E. The Old Testament ceremonies were the same as the New Testament ceremonies, but they signified and showed spiritual things.

XXVIII. Baptism

- A. When you get baptized, it shows that you are a member of the Church and that you are a Christian. It is a sign that you have been saved and forgiven for your sins. It shows that you are now a Christian and will live a new life. It is a sign of being a Christian forever.
- B. The outward element to be used in this sacrament is water. It is to be used in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. Baptizo in the Greek is the word used for baptism that is spoken of in the new testament in every case it means 'to immerse' in the most common and obvious meaning.

- D. Baptism is to be administered to those who profess faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ.
- E. It's a sin to not get baptized, but you can still be saved if you don't get baptized.
- F. In scripture people who become believers become baptized. Those who were baptized as infants should be baptized after becoming a believer.

XXIX. Lord's Supper

- A. Jesus, in the night he was betrayed, made a promise to his church, to remember him every time we eat bread and drink wine, to remember what he did for us. He wants us to remember him, so we will remember to be good and kind to each other.
- B. In this sacrament, Jesus is not offered up to his father, nor is any real sacrifice made at all for the remission of sins of the living or the dead. Instead, it is a remembrance of the one offering up of himself, by himself, upon the cross, once for all. It is also a spiritual offering of all possible praise to God for that same sacrifice. Therefore, the Popish sacrifice of the Mass (as they call it) is most abominably injurious to Christ
- C. The Lord Jesus has, in this ceremony, appointed His ministers to tell the people what they are doing. They pray and bless the bread and wine, and set them apart from a common to a holy use. They take the bread, cup, and give both to the people who are present.
- D. People must not take communion in an unworthy manner.
- E. The bread and wine (the outward elements) that are used in Communion represent the body and blood of Christ (the inward element). The outward elements are not really the body and blood of Christ, but they are used to remember what happened on the cross.
- F. The idea that the bread and wine actually turn into the body and blood of Jesus is wrong, because it is not what the Bible says, and it does not make sense. It causes people to believe in false things, and to do bad things, like worshiping a piece of bread.

XXX. State of Man After Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

- A. After we die, our bodies will be dead forever. But our souls will live forever. Our souls will go to either heaven or hell.
- B. On the last day, those who are found alive will not die, but will be changed. The dead will be raised up with the same bodies, but different qualities. They will be united with their souls forever.
- C. When you die, you will go to either Heaven or Hell. When you get to Heaven, you will have a new body. The bodies of the people who are in Hell will stay in Hell.

XXXI. Judgment

- A. God has set a day when He will judge the world. God has appointed Jesus Christ to do this. Jesus Christ has all power and judgment given to Him by

the Father. On that day, not only the bad angels will be judged, but also all people who have ever lived on earth will appear before Jesus Christ to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds. They will also receive what they deserve, whether good or evil.

- B. When God decided to send his Son, Jesus, to earth to save us from our sins, he knew that some people would not believe in Jesus and would not accept his gift of salvation. Those people will go to hell and be punished forever because they disobeyed God.
- C. Jesus wants us to be sure there is a day of judgment, so that we will not sin, and also to give us hope in times of trouble. But He doesn't want us to know when it is coming, so that we will always be ready for Him.

XXXII. Gender

- A. The bible only recognizes two genders male and female. They are to be assigned each person based on the most prominent sexual features present at birth. Any other gender or sex than that which was given by God is sin.
- B. Each believer shall act, dress and style themselves in accordance to the gender corresponding to their birth sex. Any other behavior is sin.

XXXIII. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- A. There is nothing in scripture to indicate the gifts of the holy spirit spoken of in Acts have ceased.
- B. Modern Christians even if they have gifts of the Holy Spirit, are not apostles. Apostles were with Jesus at the time of his ministry and spoke with the authority of scripture. There are no living Apostles.
- C. Prophecy or speaking tongues is not to be done as part of a worship service. Scripture is sufficient for doctrine. Any prophecy which could be given would not edify more than reading and preaching scripture. Any prophecy which could be given that did not contain doctrine would not edify the body but may be beneficial to someone. This is to be given to an elder so that it may be tested against scripture.
- D. Speaking in tongues is either a personal prayer language or an uninterpreted prophecy.
- E. Christians may seek gifts of the Holy Spirit but realize not everyone has the same gifts.
- F. Special care should be taken to not take gifts lightly or to Blaspheme by being overly anxious to pursue gifts that are from the spirit and not from ourselves.