

Calvary PSL - Statement of Faith

Our Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. By clarifying some of our beliefs, we hope to provide better insight into who we are. For purposes of the Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Directors is the Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

What We Believe:

A. **Bible.** We believe that the Scriptures, which consist of the Old and New Testaments, are the fully inspired Word of God without error in the original manuscripts and the infallible rule of faith and practice. The Word of God is the foundation upon which the church operates and the basis by which the church is governed. We believe that the 66 books of the Bible supersede all earthly law in precept and principle (Isaiah 28:13; Nehemiah 8:8; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3-4 and 1:21). The Holy Bible referred to in these Bylaws is the English Standard Version of the Old and New Testament of the Christian Faith, or any later translation which may be adopted or used by the Board from time to time.

B. **Trinity.** We believe that there is one living and true GOD, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory. We believe the Trinity created all, upholds all, and governs all things (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:8 and 48:16; Matthew 28:19-20; John 10:30; Hebrews 1:3).

C. **God the Father.** We believe in the person of God the Father—an infinite, eternal, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all those who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ (Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalms 90:2; Psalms 102:27; John 3:16 and 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Titus 1:3).

D. **God the Son.** We believe in the person of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, teachings, substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal, visible return to earth (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23; Mark

16:19; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1-2, 8:58 and 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 1:2; Revelation 1:8).

E. God the Holy Spirit. We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit—that He proceeds forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He does regenerate, sanctify, and empower for ministry all who believe the biblical gospel (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 16:8-11; Romans 8:26 and 15:13,16; Hebrews 9:14). We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and functions as their abiding helper, teacher, and guide (John 6:13, 14:16-17 and 16:8-11; Romans 8:26). We believe the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a distinct and separate experience to that of regeneration, occurring either after, or simultaneous with the experience of the new birth. We believe the baptism with the Holy Spirit is evidenced in the Christian's life as a dynamic enablement to be a bold and more effective witness for the gospel.

We believe that the supreme evidence of the Spirit-filled life is the fruit of the Spirit and love (Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 13). We believe in and advocate the present-day ministry of the Holy Spirit in the church regarding the exercise of all biblical gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to the instructions outlined in 1 Corinthians 12-14.

F. Humanity. We believe that all people are sinners by nature and choice. All people have broken the law and heart of God at the level of desire, imagination, thought, and behavior, and as a result, are under God's righteous judgment (Romans 5:12, Isaiah 53:6, Ephesians 2:3).

G. Gospel. We believe the gospel—the good news that God forgives, regenerates, and saves all who come to Him through faith in the biblical gospel. This is possible because, though all humans are guilty, Jesus Christ died on the cross in our place for our sins, absorbing God's wrath on our behalf. In so doing, God is able to forgive the spiritual crimes of people without violating the demands of justice. God now offers an invitation to every sinner to believe in the gospel for reconciliation with God. We believe Jesus will ultimately renew the entire cosmos in the new heaven and earth and that all who believe the gospel will rule and reign with Him in His kingdom (Romans 3:23, Acts 3:19, Acts 20:21, Ephesians 2:1-3, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 John 2:2, John 3:16, Matthew 11:28, Revelation 22:17).

H. Eternal Security. We believe in the eternal security of every true child of God. That eternal security relies on the Lord's guarantee of each believer's adoption as His son or daughter, and His seal of the believer by the Holy Spirit. That a person who professes genuine repentance and faith in Christ immediately becomes His possession, and

nothing can snatch that person out of His or the Father's hands. That having been bought with the price of Jesus Christ's blood as complete payment for sin, Christians are not their own; they are Christ's possession. This assurance is absolutely certain, reserved in heaven, protected by God's unlimited power (Galatians 4:4-7, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14, Luke 23:42-43, Acts 2:40-41, Acts 16:30-34, John 10:27-29, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 1 Peter 1:4-5).

I. Gender Roles. We believe in the pattern and principle of male leadership and responsibility in the home and the church. We believe this limits the roles of pastoral leadership and doctrinal authority to qualified men (1 Corinthians 11:1-12, 1 Timothy 2:1-15).

J. Marriage and Parenting. We believe the Bible sets forth a clear precedent and upholds a description of God's definition of marriage. At the outset of mankind's existence, God established the institution of marriage as the union of a biological man and a biological woman (Genesis 1:27, Genesis 2:18-23). This model for marriage is exclusively maintained and endorsed throughout the biblical record (Matthew 19:4, Ephesians 5:22-28). Unions beyond the confines of this definition do not constitute biblical marriage. We believe that God's ordained order for the family unit is for husbands to sacrificially love (Ephesians 5:25) and spiritually lead their wives (Ephesians 5:26) and for wives to sacrificially submit to their husband's spiritual authority (Ephesians 5:22-23). This dynamic is ultimately governed by a mutual submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in both of their lives (Ephesians 5:21). Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) through consistent lifestyle examples and appropriate discipline, including scriptural corporal correction (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:1-4).

K. Gender Differentiation. We believe that God created mankind, both male and female. Men and women are created in God's image; as such, they are equal in value, dignity, and worth but different in function to complement and complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between males and females as the family's foundation and the basic structure of human society. Therefore, we perform marriages in accordance with the Bible, consistent with the Old and New Testament precepts (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; John 4:16-18; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 5:11, 6:9-11, 6:18-20, 7:1-3 and 7:8-9; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-7; 1 Timothy 1:9-11).

L. Sanctity of Life. We believe the Bible teaches that God is the ultimate source and sustainer of all human life (Genesis 1:27, Psalm 31:15, Isaiah 45:12, 1 Timothy 6:13) and

that human life begins at the moment of conception (Psalm 51:5, Psalm 58:3, Jeremiah 1:5). As a result, all human life is to be respected and valued as God's sacred work, and should be preserved and protected in a manner consistent with biblical ethics. Moreover, we encourage the body of Christ to speak out for those whose lives are threatened and who cannot speak out for themselves.

M. Sexuality and Sexual Behavior. We believe the Bible is also particular regarding acceptable sexual behavior. Acceptable sexual behavior is exclusively reserved to occur within the confines of a monogamous marriage union of a consenting man and woman (Matthew 5:28, 1 Corinthians 7:2- 1, Hebrews 13:4). Any sexual behavior outside of this relationship is considered to be fornication and therefore prohibited within the scope of God's will (Ephesians 5:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5).

N. Church. We believe in the universal church—the living and organic spiritual body of people-of which Christ is the Head and all born-again through faith in the biblical gospel are a part (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:15-16).

O. Ordinances. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances for the church: (a) full immersion water baptism of believers in the gospel, and (b) the Lord's Supper (or communion) (Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

P. Eternal Destiny. We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell. All those who place their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord, while those who reject Jesus' gift of salvation proclaimed in the gospel will spend eternity separated from God and His people in hell (Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:3,5:22, 18:9 and 25:31-34; Mark 9:42-49; Luke 12:5; John 3:18; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 1:4; Revelation 14:10-11 and 20:11-15).

Q. Rapture. We believe in the Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the Church through which all believers will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and be taken out of the world before the Tribulation that will then come upon the earth (Isaiah 26:20; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:36; Romans 1:18, 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-16 and 5:9; 2 Peter 2:7-9; Revelation 3:10, 5:7-10 and 7:13-14).

R. Second Coming. We believe the Second Coming of Jesus Christ will be a personal, visible return to earth. The Second Coming will coincide with establishing His millennial kingdom, the resurrection, final judgment, eternal blessing of the righteous, and eternal condemnation of the wicked (Matthew 16:27; Acts 1:11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:11-15).