



FOREST HILLS Bible Chapel

Statement of Faith

We Believe...

- 1.) In one **God**, Almighty, who is the creator of all things. He is an immortal spirit who is infinitely perfect, holy, and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is changeless in His wisdom, power, grace, mercy, compassion, truth, and love. He is also the righteous judge of every individual. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 145:8; Malachi 3:6; John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 4:8, 11*)
- 2.) In the **Holy Bible**, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, as the inspired Word of God. It was written by prophets and apostles who were guided and directed by the Holy Spirit and is, therefore, entirely trustworthy, and without error in the original writings. It is the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of people and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life. (*Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)
- 3.) That God directly created **Adam and Eve**, the historical parents of the human race, distinct from the rest of creation in their bearing of God's image and their stewardship over creation. Their union as man and woman models God's design for marriage—the unique, lifelong relationship between one man and one woman for the purpose of reproducing His image on earth, enjoying the bond of sexual union between husband and wife, and displaying the love between Christ and the Church. Any distortion of God's gift of marriage and sexuality is sin. (*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-24; Exodus 20:14, 17; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 6:12- 20; Ephesians 5:21-33; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4*)
- 4.) That the **image and likeness of God** is borne by all human beings. This includes possessing intellect, freedom of will, language, emotions, capacity for personal relationships, and awareness of God. Human beings also have an unending self-consciousness that is capable of knowing God. Moreover, masculine and feminine gender is uniquely based in the image of the triune God and is thus an essential part of God's creation and not to be altered by human will. (*Genesis 1:26-28; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 11:8-12; Ephesians 5:21-33*)
- 5.) That **human life**, being made in God's image, is to be cherished and protected from the moment of conception until natural death. (*Genesis 1:27; 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 127:3; 139:13-18*)
- 6.) All people have sinned against our holy God, destroying fellowship with Him, and standing guilty before Him. We can receive forgiveness and complete **salvation** through a spiritual rebirth by the Holy Spirit. All who trust Christ as Savior and receive Him by faith are forgiven, "born again" of the Holy Spirit, and are preserved by the power of God. (*John 1:12; 3:3-5; 10:27-29; Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12, 19; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:4-7; 1 Peter 1:3-5*)
- 7.) In the **Lord Jesus Christ**, completely God and completely human, who in His incarnation was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, died as a perfect sacrifice for our sins, was buried, and rose bodily from the dead. He ascended into heaven, was exalted by the Father, and now intercedes as our High Priest. (*Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1, 14; Romans 1:2-4; 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Peter 2:22; 3:18; 1 John 3:5; 5:20*)



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- 8.) That the **death of Jesus Christ** was a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all people. The death and resurrection of Christ provide the only basis for forgiveness, justification, and acceptance by God and were also the complete triumph over death and Satan, the arch-enemy of God. (*John 3:16-18, 36; 5:24, Romans 3:21-26; 4:25; 5:6, 8-10; 8:1; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 2:14-15*)
- 9.) In the personal **return of the Lord Jesus** to take all Christians to be with Himself forever. His coming is to be expected at any time. All believers will appear before Christ to give account of their life and will be rewarded or deprived accordingly. (*Isaiah 2:2-4; 11:1-10; Matthew 24:4-44; John 14:2-3; Romans 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Titus 2:13*)
- 10.) In the bodily **resurrection of the dead**; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord in heaven and ultimately in the new heavens and new earth, and of the unbeliever to everlasting conscious judgment and exclusion from the presence of God in hell. (*Luke 16:19-31; 23:39-43; John 3:36; 5:24-29; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10*)
- 11.) In Christian **baptism** as an expression of a believer's identification with Christ and commitment to follow Him. Baptism is not a means of, nor an aid to salvation, but is a testimony of one's faith in Christ as Savior. It is expected of all believers in obedience to our Lord. Our practice is to baptize by immersion, symbolizing the believer's death and burial with Christ, and being raised with him to live a new life. (*Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:12, 35-39; 16:31-33; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12*)
- 12.) In the **Lord's Supper**, or Communion, as celebration to remember the Lord in His death and resurrection by breaking bread together and drinking the cup. It is the privilege and responsibility of all believers. Any person who gives a credible confession of faith is welcome to participate in communion, unless that person is willfully engaging in sin or persists in spreading false doctrine or creating divisions in the church. All believers may express their common priesthood under the leadership of the Holy Spirit to remember and worship their Lord. (*Matthew 26:26-29; Luke 22:15-20; Acts 2:42, 46; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-26; 1 Peter 2:9*)
- 13.) In the **Holy Spirit**, co-equal with the Father and the Son, who glorifies the Lord Jesus, convicts people of sin, gives new life to the believing sinner, and indwells all Christians. He guides, instructs, empowers, and gives spiritual gifts to believers for godly living, for service in building up the body of Christ and for evangelism. (*John 14:16-17, 26; 16:7-14; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:11; Galatians 5:22-23*)
- 14.) That the true **Church** is a worldwide, living, spiritual Body of which Christ is the head. It is composed of all, both living and dead, who are genuine Christians united together by the work of the Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18*)
- 15.) That the Lord has called believers to **fellowship in local congregations** that are directly responsible to Christ, the head of the church. These congregations, though autonomous in government, exist in an important spiritual union with all other true believers and assemblies of the Lord's people everywhere. As Christians, we are to join in worshiping the living God, praying, building up one another in the faith, giving of our time and money as good stewards for the work of God and proclaiming the message of Christ. (*Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 4:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25*)



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- 16.) That it is the **responsibility of each Christian to love God and neighbor**. We are to worship God in spirit and truth, study the Scriptures, pray and encourage one another in the faith so that we might glorify God in daily living. We should be filled with the Spirit, share the Good News of salvation through Christ worldwide, and be zealous of good works, as we look expectantly for the coming of our Lord. (*Matthew 28:18-20; John 4:23-24; 15:16-17; Acts 1:8; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 5:22-26; Ephesians 2:10; 5:18-21; Titus 2:11-15; 3:8*)
- 17.) That **designated leaders**, or elders, who are responsible before God, are to lead, shepherd, and guide the local church as overseers. The elders give various responsibilities to other faithful and spiritually mature men and women who serve together for development and growth of the congregation. (*Acts 14:23; 20:17, 28; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 5:2-3*)
- 18.) That the **teaching and pastoral ministry** in the local congregation is the responsibility of the elders who work in conjunction with gifted people such as evangelists, pastors and teachers. Women share with men in various spiritual ministries, except for the authoritative teaching of the Scriptures to the whole congregation. (*Romans 16:1-5; Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 2:11-14*)

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV)