

# Statement of Faith and Clarifying Doctrinal Statements

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

- A. We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as being the inspired Word of God and completely inerrant in its original writings. They are the ultimate and final authority in faith and Christian living.
- B. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. And the Father is the Almighty God who created and sustains the whole universe through the Son and in the Holy Spirit.
- C. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. He is true God and true man. He was crucified; he died and was buried for the atonement of sin. He rose again from the dead on the third day, and ascended bodily into heaven as our Priest and Advocate. He will return bodily to earth.
- D. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the triune Godhead. He is the Comforter who guides and inspires us to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. He leads and enlightens us in understanding God's Word and He also guides and inspires our daily walk with God.
- E. We believe that humankind was created in the image of God. Humankind sinned and fell, thereby incurring not only physical death but also that spiritual death which is separation from God. All humans are born with a sinful nature.
- F. We believe that all who repent of their sins and receive by faith Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are born of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God.
- G. We believe that the local church is the gathering of the redeemed believers on the earth in a certain locality and is a part of the Universal Church of God.
- H. We believe that every redeemed believer is commissioned to witness and make disciples both locally and worldwide.
- I. We believe that every redeemed believer is to be the light and salt of the earth. Thus, believers should lead a life that demonstrates, upholds and aids the welfare and justice of society.
- J. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the believer and of the non-believer, the everlasting blessedness of the believer and the everlasting conscious punishment of the non-believers.

## CLARIFYING DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS

- A. Women in Ministry: Epicentre recognizes the God-given leadership gifts given to women and men, as well as the biblical precedent for women exercising leadership in God's kingdom (Judges 4:4, Luke 2:36, Acts 21:9, Romans 16:7). Thus, Epicentre places women in positions of leadership, and we expect members to respect leaders of both genders equally.
- B. Miracles and the Holy Spirit: Epicentre believes that the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit are active today, just as recorded in the Old and New Testaments. We believe that Christians can be filled with the Holy Spirit and operate in all His gifts: e.g., miracles, prophecy, healing, tongues - as well as the non-miraculous gifts - service, governments, etc.

- C. Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality: We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person in God's image (Gen 1:26-27; 9:6). We believe that God intended for each person to be male or female, to have heterosexual attraction, and to have a gender-identity aligned with his or her biological sex. The two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. While we grieve the reality of human fallenness which can result in manifestations such as intersexuality, gender identity confusion or same-sex attraction, we extend love and compassion to those whose sexual self-understanding is shaped by a distressing conflict between their biological sex and their gender identity. We point all to the hope of the redemption of our bodies in Christ (Romans 8:23) and invite all to trust in Christ and experience renewal in the Gospel (1 Timothy 1:15-16). 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. (Gen 2:18-25.) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4.) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, premarital sex, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful, not leading to the full and abundant life for which God has designed us. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)
- 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. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accordance with Scripture or the values of Epicentre.
- D. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Epicentre as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to Epicentre members and the community, all persons employed by Epicentre in any capacity, or who serve as leaders, apply for membership, or otherwise participate in Epicentre activities as a representative of Epicentre, agree to and abide by this Statement of Faith and its clarifying doctrinal statements.