



STATEMENT OF FAITH

LIVING HOPE CHRISTIAN CENTER

ARTICLE ONE

THE WORD OF GOD

We believe
The Scriptures,
of both Old & New Testaments,
to be the inspired word of God:
which means that it is the authoritative
record of God's revelation,
the vehicle of that revelation
to those who apprehend it by faith,
and the final authority for matters
of life and of faith.

We believe the Bible to contain the History of God's love. Its writings tell us the story of how God has demonstrated his love on the stage of human history from the creation of the world to the end of the age.

We believe that Jesus is the central figure in the story of the bible. The story of his life, death, and resurrection are the central features of the bible as a whole. He is the interpretive key to the whole story.

We believe the Scriptures to be the vehicle of the Spirit: the breath of the Spirit (according to 2 Timothy 3:16) came upon the writers of Scripture to inspire what they wrote, that breath of God remains upon the pages of Scripture themselves, and that same breath of God is imparted to us as we turn our hearts toward the Lord in the reading of Scripture.

"The only word of God that we hear and obey in life and in death is Jesus Christ, as revealed in Holy Scripture, and we harken not to the voice of a stranger." - Philipp Melanchthon

ARTICLE TWO

THE PERSON OF GOD

We believe
That God is the Creator
of all things (seen and unseen,
temporal and eternal)
who eternally exists
in three persons
as Father,
Son,
and Holy Spirit.

We believe that God is one. We believe that God is three. These two seemingly rival truths form the foundation of the Christian faith.

If God ceases to be three, Jesus ceases to be God and we cease to be saved because only God can save us.

If God ceases to be one, we are no longer worshippers of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and Jesus cannot be the Messiah of OT promise.

We affirm in solidarity with the historic Christian faith, that the triune God, who reveals himself as Father, Son, and Spirit, is the Creator and Sustainer of all that is.

"All sorts of people are fond of repeating the Christian statement that 'God is love.' But they seem not to notice that the words 'God is love' have no real meaning unless God contains at least two persons. Love is something that one person has for another person. If God was a single person, then before the world was made, He was not love." - C.S. Lewis

ARTICLE THREE

SALVATION THROUGH CHRIST

We believe
That Jesus Christ
is God's one and only Son,
and that coming
to faith
in his atoning sacrifice
and resurrection from the dead
is the sole source of salvation
for all humankind.

The term 'gospel' is the English translation of the Greek term 'euangelion'. The term literally means 'good news'.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the message that God has not left us to our own devices, but has acted in his Son Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit to make right what went wrong in the Garden of Eden.

The gospel is not just about our sins being forgiven. The gospel is the message that God has made all things new, has reversed all of the decay and destruction that came through the sin of Adam.

The ministry of Jesus is gospel because it is characterized by the consistent demonstration of God's power to heal, to restore, to set free.

The gospel is the message of the effective reversal of all negative ramifications of the Fall through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"Never lose heart in the power of the gospel. Do not believe that there exists any man, much less any race of men, for whom the gospel is not fitted." - C.H. Spurgeon

ARTICLE FOUR

THE PERSON & WORK OF THE SPIRIT

We believe
That the Holy Spirit
is the third person of the Trinity,
who comes to move human beings
toward faith in Christ,
to make Jesus experientially present
to those who believe,
and to empower believers
to live as Christ lived
by graciously endowing them
with miraculous, revelatory,
and prophetic gifts.

The Trinity is a dance (perichoresis); the role of the Spirit is to bring creation into that dance, to extend the fellowship of Father, Son and Spirit to include all of creation.

The Spirit is the mother hen of creation, causing the cosmos to hatch from the eggs of God's creative word.

The Spirit invites us into the fellowship of the Father and Son by revealing to us the Father through the Son. The Spirit also connects us to other believers who are connected to the Spirit.

The Spirit opens our ears to hear the praise of all creation and connects us to the cry of creation for release from its bondage to decay. As bearers of the Spirit we are called to participate in this release by standing in agreement with that which stands in agreement with life.

"If Christians are forbidden to enjoy the wine of the Spirit they will turn to the wine of the flesh....Christ died for our hearts and the Holy Spirit wants to come and satisfy them." - A.W. Tozer

ARTICLE FIVE

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

We believe
That the the Church
is the primary instrument of
God's kingdom on earth,
that it is comprised of all who possess
saving faith in Jesus Christ,
and that it is made visible
through the local church,
which is the primary place of
submission, instruction,
fellowship, and encouragement
for the believer.

The term 'church' is a translation of the Gk 'ekklesia', which is composed of the verb 'kaleo', which means "to call," and the prefix 'ek', which means "out." Literally the ekklesia is "the Called Out."

The New Testament uses three primary images to flesh this out: The church as the nation of God (1 Peter 2:9), the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:27), and the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19).

Since the Church is God's chosen people, God takes pride in them. He provides care and protection to his people; he keeps them 'as the apple of his eye' (Deut. 32:10).

"Fundamentally, the church of Jesus Christ is neither a building nor an organization. Rather, it is a people, a special people, a people who see themselves as standing in relationship to the God who saves them and to each other as those who share in this salvation." -

Stanley Grenz

ARTICLE SIX

THE END OF THE AGE

We believe
That heaven and hell
are real places,
and that
Jesus Christ is
coming again
to bring about
the resurrection
and final judgment.

There are two mysteries that now co-exist alongside each other: the mystery of godliness and the mystery of lawlessness.

Jesus spoke of these two mysteries in his parables of the sower (Matthew 13:18-23), the wheat and the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30), and the dragnet (Matthew 13:47-50).

Paul teaches that we must choose which mystery we will align ourselves with (Romans 12:1-2).

God is coming; that's the central message of the Christian faith. He has come in Christ and he is coming in Christ. We live in between the comings, but are called to live as if he has finally come.

"Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal- a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body." - D.L. Moody