

Pathway's Statement of Faith

12 Essentials We Believe:



1. **God**

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is infinite in love, perfect in judgments, and unchanging in mercy.

He exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.

Genesis 1:1,26,27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14

2. **Jesus Christ**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, incarnate, born of the Virgin Mary. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He took upon Himself God's judgment upon all sin. In His body He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30;

Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4; Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

3. **The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit was given to the church in His fullness at Pentecost.

He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation.

He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer at least one spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily. By this Spirit Christ lives in His Church, the gospel is proclaimed, and the Kingdom of God is made manifest in the world.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

4. **The Bible**

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. We believe in the divine inspiration, truthfulness, and authority of both the Old and New Testaments, the only written Word of God, without error in all it affirms. The Scriptures are the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The Holy Spirit preserves God's Word in the church today and by it speaks God's truth to peoples of every age.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

5. **Human Beings**

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. This image was marred in every part through the disobedience of our first parents, and fellowship with God was broken.

People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. By God's prevenient grace, He restores moral sensibility to all humankind and enables all to respond to His love and to accept His saving grace, if they will.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2

6. **Salvation**

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. God graciously justifies and regenerates all who trust in Jesus Christ. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. Believers become children of God and begin to live in holiness through faith in Christ and the sanctifying Spirit.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1

7. **Eternity**

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23;

Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9

8. **Entire Sanctification**

God calls all believers to entire sanctification in a moment of full surrender and faith subsequent to their new birth in Christ. Through sanctifying grace the Holy Spirit delivers them from all rebellion toward God, and makes possible wholehearted love for God and for others. This grace does not make believers faultless nor prevent the possibility of their falling into sin. They must live daily by faith in the forgiveness and cleansing provided for them in Jesus Christ.

John 17:17 - Gal. 2:20 - 1 Cor. 6:11 - Heb. 10:10 - 1Thes. 5:23

9. **Christians in Society**

Christians are called to live in daily witness to the grace, which comes to us in Jesus Christ, to preach the gospel to every person according to the command of Christ, and to declare God's insistence upon righteousness and justice in all relationships and structures of human society.

Col. 3:12-17 - Eph. 4:17-32 - Gal. 6:9 - 2 Thes. 3:13

10. **The Church**

The church is the people of God composed of all those who believe in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The church is Christ's body; it is visible in the world whenever believers, in obedience of faith, hear the Word, receive the sacraments, and live as disciples.

Mt. 16:13-20 - Eph. 1:22-23; 3:9-11; 4:1-16; 5:23

11. **About the Return of Christ**

We believe in

the personal return of Jesus Christ, Mt. 24:29-42

the bodily resurrection to eternal Life 1 Thes. 4:13-18

the Judgment Seat of Christ & eternal reward 2 Cor. 5:10 & Rev. 7

The 2nd resurrection of the dead to judgment Rev. 20:4-5

The Final Great White Throne Judgment & punishment Rev. 20:11-15

12. **God's Ultimate Victory**

We believe in God's ultimate victory over Satan and all evil and the establishment of His perfect Kingdom in a new heaven and a new earth.

Revelation 20-22