

# Our Statement Of Faith – What We Believe

One very important aspect of membership with Abundant Life Church is the individual responsibility to maintain unity in the faith and doctrine in the following fundamental truths.

Ephesians 4:3-6 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

## Section 1: The Scriptures

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are God-breathed, both verbally and in every part. We believe God, Who is Truth, communicated through Spirit-controlled men so that the Scriptures are without error and therefore authoritative in all they teach and in all matters they touch. We believe the Bible is the supreme revelation of God's will for man and constitutes the only infallible guide for faith and life.

*Psalm 19:7-11; Proverbs 30:5-6; Matthew 5:18; John 10:34-35; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:18-19*

## Section 2: The Trinity

We believe there is one, and only one, true and living God; while there is indivisible unity in the Godhead, He exists in three separate Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—equal in every divine attribute and executing distinct, but harmonious offices in the work of creation and redemption.

*Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 6:27; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:8*

## Section 3: God The Father

We believe God the Father is an infinite, eternal, wise, all powerful, holy, just, good, loving and all knowing Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth.

*Genesis 1:1; Psalm 139:7-10; Isaiah 46:9; Romans 11:33; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 19:6*

## Section 4: God The Son, The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as no other man was ever nor can be born of a woman. He is "God manifest in the flesh." He lived a life of absolute sinlessness and in His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, dying not as a martyr, but as a voluntary substitute in the sinner's place. He rose bodily on the third day and ascended into heaven where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest, interceding and preparing a place for us. He shall appear in the air to rapture His saints, and after seven years, shall come again with the saints to set up the throne of David and establish His Millennial Kingdom.

*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; 28:6; John 1:1; 14:3; 20:27-28; Acts 15:16; 1 Corinthians 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 7:25; 8:6; 12:2; 1 Peter 2:22; 3:18; 1 John 2:1; Revelation 3:21*

## **Section 5: God The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person possessing all the attributes of deity and is equal with God the Father and God the Son. We believe that He was active in creation and is the restrainer of the evil one; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, helps, and distributes spiritual gifts to all believers.

*Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 28:19; John 7:39; 14:16-17, 26; 16:8-11; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:6-8, 13*

## **Section 6: Angels, Good and Evil**

We believe in the existence of angels who were created by God to bring honor and glory to His name and to serve Him. Angels who have chosen to follow God are ministers for Him on behalf of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. There were among the hosts of angels those who fell with Satan. They are presently functioning in Satan's counterfeit system as rulers of darkness, to be resisted by the believer through the armor provided by God. We believe that Satan, the "god of this age" and "the prince of the power of the air," once knew heavenly honors. That because of pride and ambition to be above the Almighty God, he fell and is currently the power of all darkness and evil and is destined for final defeat at the hand of God's Son, and for the judgment of eternal hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

*Isaiah 6; 14:12-15; Matthew 17:18; Ephesians 2:2; 6:11-13; Colossians 1:16; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 1 Peter 1:12; 5:8; Jude 6; Revelation 19:16-20; 20:10*

## **Section 7: Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was created directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

*Genesis 1:1, 24; John 13; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 10:6*

## **Section 8: Man**

We believe the Scriptures teach that man was created by a direct act of God and not from any previously existing form of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, the first parents of the entire human race. By voluntary transgression, man fell from his sinless state, in consequence of which all men are now sinners by nature and by choice, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal judgment and separation from God in a place called hell without defense or excuse.

*Genesis 1:27; 3:6, 24; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 1:32; 3:10-23; 5:12-19*

## Section 9: Salvation

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christ died for the whole world and that salvation of sinners is divinely initiated, wholly of grace, and accomplished only through the mediatorial work of the Son of God. It is wholly apart from works and is upon the sole condition of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and never without genuine repentance. In order to be saved, the sinner must be born again, personally receiving Christ as Savior, being regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit through faith in God's Word and becoming the recipient of a new nature. The great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that judicial act of God accompanied by the pardon of sin and the imputation of divine righteousness, not because of any work of righteousness on our part, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood. The believer who has exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is completely justified and in possession of eternal life which is eternally secure.

*Habakkuk 2:4; John 1:11-12; 3:3-17; 10:28-29; Acts 13:39; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 4:2; 1 Peter 1:18-23; 2 Peter 1:4; 2:1; 1 John 5:11-13*

## Section 10: The Church

We believe the Scriptures teach that the local church is an autonomous congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word. Its Scriptural officers are pastors, sometimes called bishops or elders, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

**a. The Mission:** We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission: first, to make individual disciples; second, to build up the church; third, to reach and instruct as He has commanded.

*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8*

**b. The Ordinances:** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Baptism is performed under the authority of the local church to show forth our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior. Baptism pictures our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. It is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

The Lord's Supper, or communion, commemorates the death of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; the bread representing His body that was broken for us, and the fruit of the vine representing His blood that was shed for us. Before partaking of these elements, each person should examine himself, "For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body." (1 Corinthians 11:29)

We believe the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are to be observed under the authority of the local church.

*Matthew 3:16; Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28*

- c. The Support:** We believe God's method of financing His earthly work of spreading the Gospel to all nations, the care of the churches, and the support of the ministry, is by the tithes and offerings of His people. We believe that everyone is accountable to the Lord for one-tenth of his/her income; that tithing was instituted long before the Law was ever given and was practiced by the early church. We believe that God is pleased by the believer who is obedient in tithing, and that tithing is a reminder to the believer that God is the true owner of all that we have.

*Malachi 3:10; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:7*

- d. The Body of Christ:** We believe the Scriptures teach that the "church which is His body" is the entire company of believers in Christ.

*1 Corinthians 12:13, 27; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:12; Hebrews 12:23*

## **Section 11: Coming Events**

- a. The Rapture of the Church:** We believe in the "Blessed Hope," the personal, imminent, pretribulational, and premillennial appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ to rapture His redeemed ones of the church.

*1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-2; Titus 2:13; 1 John 3:2*

- b. The Judgment Seat of Christ:** We believe that every saved person of the Church Age will appear before the "Judgment Seat" to be judged by the Lord in regard to his/her service and receive rewards according to his/her works.

*Matthew 6:2; Romans 14:10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10*

- c. The Millennial Kingdom:** We believe that Christ will return to earth after the seven-year tribulation period with His saints to establish the Millennial Kingdom which will literally be on the earth and ruled by Christ from the throne of David.

*Isaiah 9:6-7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12; Revelation 20:1-6, 12-14*

- d. The Eternal State:** We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men; the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment in the Lake of Fire. The souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where they consciously await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and new body are reunited to be forever glorified with the Lord. The souls of the unbelievers after death remain in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with spirit, soul, and body reunited they shall appear before the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment.

*Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-26; John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10; Philippians 1:23*

## **Section 12: Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that governing officials are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, with the exception only of things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.

*Matthew 10:28; Matthew 23:10; Acts 5:29; Acts 23:5; Romans 13:7; Philippians 2:10-11; Titus 3:1*

## **Section 13: Sanctity of Human Life**

We believe that all human life is sacred from fertilization throughout the entire natural human life; that human beings are created in His image and, as such, are to be protected; that the weak, vulnerable, infirm, handicapped, pre-born and needy deserve our respect and our care.

*Genesis 1:26; 9:6; Psalm 51:5, 82:3-4, 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41*

## **Section 14: Marriage and the Home**

We believe that the home was the first institution God provided for man; that marriage is a sacred relationship between one man and one woman for life; and that homosexuality is a perversion of God's natural order of one man for one woman.

*Genesis 2:18-24; Deuteronomy 23:17-18; Mark 10:9; Romans 1:18-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 7:2; Ephesians 5:22-33; Jude 7.*