

WellSpring Community Church Statement of Faith

HOLY BIBLE: The Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is the authoritative Word of God. It alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths and is the rule of faith and practise. In its original writing, it is inspired, infallible and inerrant (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26).

GOD: There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are coequal, co-eternal and one in substance (I John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11).

JESUS CHRIST: Jesus Christ is God the Son, the second person of the Trinity. On earth, Jesus was 100% God and 100% man. He is the only man ever to have lived a sinless life. He was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, died on the cross for mankind and thus, paid for our sins through the shedding of His blood. He rose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return again in power and glory. (John 1:1,14, 20:28; Matthew 1:18, 25; I Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 9:6; Philippians 2:5-6; I Timothy 2:5).

REDEMPTION: Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God, but by voluntary transgression fell and is separated from God, thus making personal salvation through faith in Christ's death and resurrection a necessity for every man. (Genesis 1:26; Genesis 2:17; Genesis 3:24; Romans 5:17-19)

REPENTANCE: Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21; 3:19; I John 1:9).

SALVATION: We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

SANCTIFICATION: Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (I Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; II Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18; II Thessalonians 2:1-3; Romans 8:29, 12:1-2; Hebrews 2:11).

JESUS CHRIST INDWELLS ALL BELIEVERS: Christians are people who have invited the Lord Jesus Christ to come and live inside them by His Holy Spirit. They relinquish the authority of their lives over to Him, thus making Jesus the Lord of their life as well as Saviour. They put their trust in what Jesus accomplished for them when He died, was buried, and rose again from the dead (John 1:12; John 14:17,23; John 15:4; Romans 8:11; Revelations 3:20).

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT: Given at Pentecost, it is the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His ascension, to empower the Church to preach the gospel throughout the whole earth (Joel 2:28-29; Matthew 3:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 1:5, 2:1-4, 17, 38-39, 8:14-17, 10:38, 44-47, 11:15-17, 19:1-6).

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is manifested through a variety of spiritual gifts to build and sanctify the church, demonstrate the validity of the resurrection, and confirm the power of the gospel. The Bible lists of these gifts are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the expression of the gifts in their lives. These gifts always operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should never be used in violation of biblical parameters. (Hebrews 2:4; Romans 1:11, 12:4-8; Ephesians 4:16; II Timothy 1:5-16, 4:14; I Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; 1 Peter 4:10).

HEALING OF THE SICK: Healing of the sick is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign, which is to follow believers. It is also a part of Jesus' work on the cross and one of the gifts of the Spirit. (Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; I Corinthians 12:9, 28; Romans 11:29).

THE CHURCH: The church is composed of all those who have been born again. They are united together as the Body of Christ. The church exists universally of all believers, and locally in smaller expressions of gathered believers in relationship. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; Hebrews 12:23; John 17:11, 20-23).

TWO SACRAMENTS:

1) Water Baptism: Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38).

2) The Lord's Supper: A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and grape juice (representing the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross (Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:12, 36-38; 10:47-48; I Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-25).

LOVE: We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to detest sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in sinful action. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-10, 17-21, 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)

HUMAN VALUE: All people are created with equal value and dignity, being made in the image of God. We believe that people should be afforded the respect and love God commands of us, regardless of gender, creed, race, or social status. (Genesis 1:26-27, Matthew 22:39, Romans 13:8-10)

GENDER IDENTITY: We have been made in the image of God and that biological gender at birth is part of God's unique design for that individual (Genesis 1:27, 5:1-2, Psalm 139:13-16, 1 Corinthians 7:24)

MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY: Marriage between one man and one woman is God's original intended design. Marriage is to be held in honour and kept in faithfulness. All other expressions of sexuality are contrary to God's design. (Genesis 2:24, Hebrews 13:4, Matthew 19:4-6)

GIVING AND SERVING: We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's provision entrusted to him, is called to support his local church financially, in proportion to their income and within their means.

We believe that, further, we are to give of not only our financial resources, but also freely of our time, our talents and skills, our labour, all for the work of the ministry and for the furtherance of the Gospel, as part of our covenant with each other and with the local church.

RESURRECTION: Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. In addition, both the saved and the lost will be resurrected; they that are saved to the resurrection of life and they that are lost to the resurrection of eternal damnation (Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21, 20:26-28, 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21).

SECOND COMING: Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to establish His kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures (Matthew 24:30, 26:63-64; Acts 1:9-11; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; II Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7).

HEAVEN: Heaven is the literal dwelling for all believers in the Gospel of Jesus Christ until Jesus establishes a new heaven and earth (Matthew 5:3, 12, 20, 6:20, 19:21, 25:34; John 17:24; II Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:16; 1 Peter 1:4; II Peter 3:10; Revelation 21:1-8).

HELL: After living one life on earth, those who have not believed in and followed Jesus Christ will be judged by God and sent to hell where they will be eternally tormented with the devil and the fallen angels (Matthew 25:41; Mark 9:43-48; John 3:18; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11, 20:12-15, 21:8).