

Providence Church Summary Statement of Faith

THE WORD OF GOD

We believe that the Bible (66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. We believe that God has so preserved the integrity of Scriptures from men so that the available manuscripts are faithful representations of the originals and further that accurate translations are thus reliable and authoritative as the Word of God. We believe that the Bible is not a compilation of individual verses, but is as a whole the Word of God and no verses should be isolated or separated from the whole. We believe the various passages of Scripture compliment, interpret, and clarify other passages leading us to an accurate understanding. Scriptures cannot be used to contradict or cancel other verses. When correctly understood the Word of God is a unified whole, though progressive in revelation and unfolding in terms of covenants, it is in complete harmony. We believe in accordance with the Scriptures that the Word of God is complete in its revelation and that the former ways of direct divine authoritative revelation have now ceased.

(Proverbs 30:5-6; Isaiah 8:20, 40:48; 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Luke 21:33; Hebrews 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:25)

GOD

We believe that there is only one true and living God, though he is incomprehensible in his fullness and inscrutable in his wisdom he has revealed himself in measure showing that he is sovereign, eternal, self-existent, immutable, omniscient, omnipresent, holy, just, and loving.

(Isaiah 44:6; Deuteronomy 29:29; Job 42:2-3; Romans 11:33)

We believe that He has revealed Himself in three distinct 'persons': God the Father; God the Son, Jesus Christ; God the Holy Spirit.

(Matthew 3:16-17; Titus 3:4-6)

God the Father

We believe in God the Father: an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, justice and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of man, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

(Hebrews 1:5-9; 12:5-10)

God the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He is eternal and shares all of the attributes of Deity with the Father and the Holy Spirit, as God's only begotten Son. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death for the elect, bodily resurrection, his post-resurrection appearances to many, and that other than those to whom he appeared before his ascension, Paul was the very last of all people granted personal appearances and appointed as an Apostle of the risen Savior who, though no longer appearing physically, ministers through His Word by the Spirit. We believe in his ascension into Heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal, his future visible return to earth.

(John 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:8; 1 Corinthians 15:8; 1 Timothy 3:16;)

God the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a 'person' not merely a power and shares all the attributes of Deity with the Father and the Son. He came forth from the Father and Son to testify of Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates-causes new birth, sanctifies, empowers-fills and gifts all who believe in Jesus Christ. He is an abiding, indwelling and sealing Helper, Teacher and Guide, through God's Word, for all Christians.

(John 1:33; 1 Corinthians 12:9-13)

SALVATION

We believe that all men are sinners by nature (and accordingly by choice), and are therefore under eternal condemnation. Because lost man is spiritually dead, he is unable and unwilling to contribute anything to his own salvation. We believe that those who trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, repenting of their sins, are forgiven of their sins. They trust in Him because God has graciously given them both the desire and the ability. God graciously grants this to those whom He has chosen before the foundation of the world, who were given to the Son, whose names were recorded in the Lamb's book of life. Therefore, we believe salvation is wholly of God, not of man.

(John 1:12-13, 6:35-69; Romans 5:6-12, 8:7-8; Ephesians 1: 3-14; 2:1-10; Titus 2:11-3:7; Acts 11:18; Revelation 13:8, 17:8, 20:11-15, 21:27)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church is the Body of Christ, of which Christ is Head. It consists of all regenerated persons. We believe in local churches-fellowships as segments of the universal Body of Believers, and that it is the spiritual obligation of every believer to be a part of a local church. We believe church members are to be accountable to one another and to the recognized leadership (Elders/Pastors) of the local church. We believe that the Chief Shepherd of the sheep is Jesus Christ and that until he physically returns he has determined to put in place biblically qualified undershepherds, variously termed Pastors-Teachers, Elders, to feed the flock, provide leadership and teaching-spiritual food to the local congregations equipping the believers for the work of the ministry, each church-fellowship functioning independently in practice, but interactively and cooperatively with other genuinely biblical fellowships-local churches. Additionally to relieve the burden of Elders, so that they can focus their efforts and energies on prayer and ministry of the Word, biblically qualified Deacons may be appointed to assist the Elders in service to the saints. We believe that God has called the church to evangelize the lost, and to act as a preserving and illuminating influence in the world. This calling can only be fulfilled under the guidance and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11-12; Hebrews 10:24-25, 13:17; Acts 6:2-4, 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-13 Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 5:13-16; 28:18-20)

CHRISTIAN LIVING

We believe that every Christian should and must live for the glory of God, genuine love for the family of faith and the well-being of his fellow man; that he is called to live a holy and godly life. We believe that every Christian is called to be an active member of a local church. We believe that every Christian is called to be salt and light in the world and to be actively learning, praying and working to lead others to faith in Christ.

(1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Romans 12:1; Matthew 22:37-40)

We believe that marriage is always to be between one man and one woman only. Homosexual unions and same-sex marriages, even if sanctioned by the civil authorities, are aberrations of God's law (Genesis 1:28, 2:18; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:10) and thus ungodly and not permissible; neither is it biblical, godly or permissible for a man to have more than one wife at the same time or a woman to have more than one husband at the same time (Genesis 2:24, Malachi 2:13-15, Matthew 19:4-6), nor for a couple to live together as husband and wife outside of the covenant of marriage (Hebrews 13:4).

ORDINANCES

*We believe that the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and water baptism by immersion for Believers only should be observed as they are recorded in Scripture.
(Acts 2:38, 8:12, 36-39, 13:24 (19:4), 18:8; Romans 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)*

LAST THINGS

*We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal felicity of the righteous and the endless suffering of the wicked.
(Matthew 25:31-46; Acts 1:11; Isaiah 9:6-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2 Peter 3:7; John 3:16-18)*

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

*We believe in the personal Lordship of Christ over individual Believers. Each must give account of himself to God. Therefore, in matters not clearly defined in scripture, convictions of one should not be imposed on others. In addition, doctrinal differences that are clearly within the bounds of historic orthodox Christianity should be cause for discussion, not division, and even if leading to separate gatherings, still fellowshiping together in Christian love.
(Romans 14; Mark 9:38-40)*

CHRISTIAN UNITY

*We believe that all believers are called to unity. The essence of unity is not co-operation and joint programs but the same beliefs, faith, Spirit, salvation, doctrine, life and love in accordance with Scriptures. We believe that though believers may not agree on all points there must be an established and essential core of truth adhered to by all because our unity is not merely with one another but first a unity with Christ. There can never be unity at the cost of truth. Truth remains the priority and basis of any meaningful unity.
(1 Corinthians 1:10; 11:18-19; Acts 20:30; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Peter 2:1-2)*

HISTORIC STATEMENTS OF FAITH

We embrace the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Definition of Chalcedon, First London Baptist Confession of 1644 and its revision in 1646 and 1689 as being less than Scripture but substantially consistent with the truths contain in the Word of God.

The verses noted at the end of each statement are not intended to be comprehensive or deal with each point stated, they are exemplary of the reasons why we have, through in-depth study come to the above beliefs.