

St. John's Host Church

Statements of Faith

About God

God is the Creator (*Genesis 1:1*) and the Ruler (*Genesis 14:19-20*) of the universe. He exists eternally in three "persons" – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (*Genesis 1:26a*) – Who are co-equal, and co-eternal. Yet there is only *One God*.

About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is the Son of God (*Luke 1:26-35; Colossians 1:17-20*). He lived a sin-less human life, and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross (*Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 9:11-14*). He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death (*1 Corinthians 15:12-20*). And He ascended to heaven, promising to return to earth some day (*Acts 1:6-11*) for His Bride (*2 Corinthians 11:2*), the Church, all who believe in Him.

About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is present in the world to make people aware of our need for the Savior Jesus Christ (*John 14:16-17*). The Spirit lives within every Christian from the moment of salvation. (*1 Corinthians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 6:19*). He provides Christians with power for living (*Galatians 5:22-23*), understanding of spiritual Truth (*John 14:26*), and for doing what is right (*Hebrews 10:38a*). Delivered from bondage to sin through faith in Jesus Christ, the Christian receives from the Holy

Spirit "gifts" that enable her/him to minister to others. (*Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11*)

About the Bible

The Bible is the Word of God written by human beings who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it is without error, is relevant for all time, and is the source of Truth for Christian belief and living.

(*2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)

About Humankind

Human beings are created in the spiritual image of God to be like Him in character, yet unique (*Psalms 139:13-14a*), and to manage all earthly things (*Genesis 1:26-28*). Supreme objects of God's creation, every human being has tremendous potential for good. However, all are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin" (*Isaiah 53:6*) and are in need of restoration through the Savior Jesus Christ (*Romans 3:23-25a; 8:3-6*).

About the Sanctity of Human Life

God is sovereign over all life (*Genesis 14:18-20*). Sacred from the instant of fertilization (*Jeremiah 1:5*) and throughout life until the time of natural death, every human being is known by God (*Psalms 139:14b-16*). And He has a plan for every human being (*Jeremiah 29:11*), including those yet unborn, weak, vulnerable, ill, and having any kind of special need.

About Salvation

Sin will separate us from God for eternity, unless our sin-debt is paid. However, it is

impossible to repay that debt through self-improvement or good works or anything else we do on our own. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ Who has paid for our sin with His life can a person be saved from the penalty of sin. Salvation, being "saved" from sin, is God's free "gift" to us. And like all gifts must be accepted. Acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior results in immediate, total and eternal redemption from sin.

(*Isaiah 53; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10; Hebrews 5:8-9; 9:11-14*)

About Marriage

The marital relationship was established by God (*Genesis 2:24*) for the purpose of propagation, for protection, and to nurture human life (*Genesis 1:28a*). Marriage is both a natural institution and a sacred union between one man (*born male*) and one woman (*born female*) grounded in a commitment to mutual love with the intent to remain committed until death (*Mark 10:6-9; Ephesians 5:22-31*). Any deviation (*same-sex unions and casual divorce*) from this is inconsistent with the will of God.

About Eternity

People are created for an eternal existence. We will either exist eternally separated from God because of sin. Or we will exist eternally with God, having been forgiven of our sin through faith in Jesus Christ. The place of eternal separation from God is "hell." The place of eternal union with God is "heaven." (*1 John 1:8-9; Isaiah 57:15; Revelation 20:11-15*)

approved by the Consistory
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