

# Cornerstone Bible Fellowship

## Statement of Faith

### **God**

We believe in one God, the Creator and Preserver of all things, who is infinite in being and absolute in perfection. He exists eternally in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – who are one essence and equal in power and glory.

### **The Father**

We believe that God as Father reigns with providential care over His creation. He is all-powerful, all-loving, all-knowing, and all-wise.

### **Jesus**

We believe that God the Son became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ. He is fully God and fully man, the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, sinless in His life, making atonement for the sins of the world by His death. He was bodily resurrected, ascended into heaven and now serves as high priest, intercessor and advocate on behalf of all believers.

### **Holy Spirit**

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is a person. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment and draws men to personal faith in Christ. At salvation, He imparts to the believer new life, baptizes him into the body of Christ, and comes to indwell him permanently. The Holy Spirit guides, teaches and strengthens the believer and empowers him to manifest the character of Christ. He gives spiritual gifts to believers for mutual edification.

### **Bible**

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, without error in the original manuscripts. It is the final authority on all matters about which it speaks and is sufficient as our only infallible rule of faith and practice.

### **Sin**

Humans were created innocent and with the freedom to choose obedience to God. Man, tempted by Satan, willfully sinned and consequently experienced separation from God. The consequences of this sin affect the entire human race. Since that time, all human beings have been born with a sinful nature, commit acts of sin, and are lost apart from the atoning work of Christ. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men. Believers are resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God. Unbelievers are resurrected to experience judgment and eternal suffering apart from God.

### **Salvation**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Savior from sin. He died as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin and all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood and resurrection. Salvation can be understood through its three components--justification, sanctification and glorification.

### **Justification**

We believe that whoever trusts Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord becomes a child of God. This salvation is not achieved by any human effort or merit, but rather is received as a free gift from God by grace through faith. In becoming a Christian, a person acknowledges his total inability to

meet the righteous demands of a holy God and places his complete trust for salvation in Jesus Christ who died in his place, paying the penalty for his sin.

### **Sanctification**

We believe that all true believers are kept eternally secure by the power of God through the new birth, the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Christ. We believe that all Christians still encounter personal sin (from within) and spiritual warfare (from without) in this life, but that from the moment of salvation God has made provision for believers to overcome these through understanding their new identity in Christ, knowing and applying the Word of God, fellowshiping with other Christians, and living by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

### **Glorification**

Glorification is the final state of the redeemed occurring after this present life. Glorification is the culmination of the work of salvation that began at justification, continued through sanctification and results in the believer being perfectly righteous without sin. Glorification is an eternal state for the believer.

### **Church**

We believe that all who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit belong to the one true church, the body of Christ. This church is seen in the world through local assemblies of believers who are joined together for the purpose of glorifying God, edifying one another, and evangelizing the world. The church is a theocratic organization served by elders and deacons. The two church ordinances are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a public testimony of conversion to Christ and the Lord's Supper is a memorial symbolizing His body given for us and His blood shed for the remission of sins.

### **Christ's Return**

We believe in the personal, imminent return of Christ to earth in sovereign power and glory to establish His righteous rule and look for a "new heaven and a new earth" in which righteousness dwells.

### **Marriage and Gender**

We believe that God made humans as both male and female in a complimentary relationship. Gender is a biological reality based on the biological differences between males and females at birth. Marriage is the uniting of one man with one woman for life where the two become one flesh. We believe that God has established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman and that all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship, whether heterosexual, homosexual, or otherwise, is immoral and therefore sin.