

Rock Island Family Church

Statement of Faith

Simply stated, we believe in...

- One God in three persons; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
- One Way of Salvation; Jesus Christ through His virgin birth, sinless life, atoning death and victorious resurrection made it possible for man to be saved by faith.
- One Book divinely inspired and protected; the Bible is God's written revelation to man. It is totally reliable and has no need of other documents to complete its message.
- One Body with many parts; the Church.

When Jesus taught His Sermon On The Mount, His basic format was: "You have heard that it has been said, but I say to you..." He was saying that a new way of looking at things had come, and these were the principles that governed this new kingdom. Our goal is to discover and apply these new kingdom principles to our life with God and each other.

Article 1 The Trinity

It is the testimony of both Testaments and of the Christian Church that God is both One and Triune. The Biblical revelation testifies that there is only one God and that He is eternally existent in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A) God the Father... God the Father is the Creator and sustainer of all things and created the universe in love to respond to Him. He created man in His own image for fellowship and called man back to Himself through Christ after the rebellion and fall of man. B) The Son... Jesus Christ is eternally God. He was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and through Him all things were made. For man's redemption, He left heaven and became incarnate, born of the virgin Mary, by the Holy Spirit. Henceforth, He is forever one Christ with two natures, God and Man, in one Person.

C) The Holy Spirit... The Holy Spirit is God, the witness and revealer of truth, who was active in the Old Testament, and given to the church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers the saints for service and witness, convicts and transforms man from the old nature and conforms us to the image of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and is evidenced by the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Article 2 The Holy Scripture

We affirm that the Bible containing the Old and New Testaments is alone the only infallible, inspired Word of God, and that its authority is ultimate, final and eternal. It cannot be added to, subtracted from or superseded in any regard. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof,

and contains all that is needed for guidance in godliness and practical Christian conduct. The inspired Word of God was given to us for the purpose of restoring intimacy with our Creator, learning how to love God and one another.

Article 3 The Atonement

Christ's vicarious death on the cross, paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, but its benefits are only applicable to those who receive Jesus as personal Savior. Healing-(body, soul and spirit) is provided for in the atonement as well as all of God's provisions for His saints, but these must be appropriated by faith in Jesus Christ.

Article 4 Salvation

The Word of God declares clearly that salvation is a free gift of God, based on the merits of the death of His Son, and is appropriated by faith. Salvation is affected by personal repentance, belief in the Lord Jesus (justification) and personal acceptance of Him into one's life as Lord and Savior (regeneration). The new life in Christ includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance in the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. Salvation is an act of free will in response to God's personal love for mankind. It is predestined only in the sense that God, through His omniscience, foreknew those who would choose Him. It is secure in the eternal, unchanging commitment of God who does not lie and is forever the same. True salvation should produce an active lifestyle of humble obedience to God's commandments and loving service to mankind

Article 5 The Christian Life

We believe that the Scriptures portray the life of the saint in this world to be one of balance between what is imputed to us as Christians and what is imparted to us according to our faith and maturity. Hence, God's provision for His children is total, and the promises are final and forever. The shortcomings of the individual and of the Church are because of the still progressing sanctification of the saints. The Christian life is filled with trials, tests and warfare against a spiritual enemy. For those abiding in Christ until their death or His return, the promises of eternal blessing in the presence of God are assured. To remain faithful through all circumstances of life requires dependence upon the Holy Spirit and a willingness to die to personal desires and passions.

Article 6 The Church

A. The goal of the Church is be the agent of the Kingdom of God on earth. In so doing, she will make disciples of all nations and present saints complete in Christ.

B. The five-fold ministry of Ephesians 4 governs the Church, the offices of Elder and Deacon, as well as other offices mentioned in Scripture.

C. Church policy will be a balance of congregational input and Eldership authority, with the emphasis being on the final authority of the Church leadership.

D. It is essential to the life of the Church that Scriptural patterns of discipline are practiced and that oversight for Church discipline, individual and corporate, is exercised by the leadership of the Church.

Article 7 The Sacraments of Baptism and The Lord's Supper

The Word of God enjoins on the Church two perpetual ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The first... Baptism, is the outward sign of what God has already done in the individual's life, and is a testimony to all that the person now belongs to Jesus. It signifies identification with Jesus and is affected in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The second...

The Lord's Supper, is a commemoration of the death of Christ our Lord and is celebrated in remembrance of Him until He comes again as a sign of our participation in and with Him.

Both sacraments are reserved for and celebrated by all those who are believers.

Article 8 Eschatology

We affirm the bodily, personal, second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the saints, the millennium and the final judgment. The final judgment will determine the eternal status of both saints and unbelievers, determined by their relationship to Jesus Christ.

We affirm with the Bible the final state of the new heavens and the new earth.