

Statement of Faith Paragraph 4

We believe that man was created to enjoy a close, intimate relation to God, but that he sinned, and thereby fell under God's judgment -- physically in death, spiritually in alienation from God. All mankind has inherited this state and a sinful nature, which renders him totally unable on his own merit to gain salvation, or to regain his former position of fellowship with God. God's remedy for man's ruin is thus entirely of grace through one's personal trust in what Christ completed for him on the cross.

I. WE BELIEVE THAT MAN WAS CREATED TO ENJOY A CLOSE, INTIMATE RELATION TO GOD

- A. Belief: that humanity was directly and immediately created by God in His own image and likeness, free from sin, with a rational nature, intelligence, and volition; yet with a moral responsibility to the God who created him.
- i. **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.
 - ii. **1 Corinthians 11:7** For a man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God, but woman is the glory of man.
 - iii. **Genesis 2:7** then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
 - iv. **Genesis 2:15** The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him."¹⁹ So out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name.²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him.²¹ So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh.²² And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.²³ Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.
 - v. **James 3:9** With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God.

B. Belief: that God's intention in the creation of man was that man should glorify God by enjoying Him forever.

- i. **Isaiah 43:6-7** Bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the ends of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory
- ii. **Colossians 1:16** For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities- all things were created through him and for him.
- iii. **Revelation 4:11** "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."
- iv. **Ephesians 1:4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

II. BUT THAT HE SINNED, AND THEREBY FELL UNDER GOD'S JUDGMENT -- PHYSICALLY IN DEATH, SPIRITUALLY IN ALIENATION FROM GOD

A. Belief: that in Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will and Word of God, humanity lost its innocence, incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death, became subject to the wrath of God, and became inherently corrupt and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God apart from divine grace. Thus, every human being is utterly depraved and, having no recuperative powers to enable him to rescue himself, is hopelessly lost. Man's salvation is, therefore, wholly of God's grace through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- i. **Genesis 2:16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
- ii. Where did sin originate?
 - **Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" [**Serpent did not take God's word literally**]² And the woman said to the serpent [**the woman should have resisted the devil not engaged in conversation—James 4:7**], "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" [**the woman added to God's Word**]⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." [**Serpent says that God is a liar and God is withholding something from you, God is keeping great joy from you; see 1 John 2:16 "lust of the flesh, eyes, boastful pride of life"**]⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a

delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. [Eve took the fruit and she ate...Adam was right next to here, he did nothing. Adam just married Eve; he sang to her, she was to complete the image of God. And Adam did nothing, said nothing when Eve was sinning. Sin of omission, not doing what he was supposed to do. He did not stand up for sound doctrine. Not commission, doing something that you shouldn't] ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man [God came to the man—God holds men responsible] and said to him, "Where are you?" [the question every man should get up in the morning and answer] ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." [Notice Adam switches from "we" to "I"] ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" [Bottom line, "Did you do what I commanded you not to do?"] ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." [Adam starts to shift the blame; he blames the woman and God, he thinks he is merely the victim] ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." [the woman was created to complete Adam and be his helpmate] ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." [This is the first gospel; God promises that Jesus will combat Satan. As we know, Satan crucifies Jesus in a sense—"bruising his heel"—however, Jesus is the victor over sin and death] ¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." [Because of the Fall, woman endure pain that was never meant to be. From difficulty labor to losing children. We also notice in the world that woman desire to be men and do their role. The order is messed up because of the Fall and subsequently, the curse. God made man first, and then the woman and they are to rule the animals. In the Fall, the animal deceived the woman, who gave the fruit to the man. The order was reversed!] ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." [Work is hard because of the Fall and curse. Most of us have worked in a garden pulling weeds only to do it

over and over again. This is the curse. In our workplace, we work hard and we do not always receive back what we put in. There are times we do well at work and we may be fired. This is the result of the Fall.]

- Why did God allow curse our labors?
 - God does all this to humble us and so we can relate/identify to Him. God says, "I want you to see your life the way I see it."
- iii. **Matthew 8:12** while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."
 1. Eternal separation from God
- iv. **Romans 6:23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 1. "Death" has both a physical and spiritual reality in this verse
- v. **John 3:36** Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.
 1. In one sense, no person will ever be separated from God. Those in Hell, who "do not obey the Son," will have God's wrath on them forever.
- vi. **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
- vii. **1 Corinthians 2:14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
- viii. **1 John 1:8** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

B. How does Adam's sin affect me personally? (see Part III)

III. ALL MANKIND HAS INHERITED THIS STATE AND A SINFUL NATURE, WHICH RENDERS HIM TOTALLY UNABLE ON HIS OWN MERIT TO GAIN SALVATION, OR TO REGAIN HIS FORMER POSITION OF FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

- A. We believe that because all humanity descended from Adam, a nature corrupted by Adam's sin has been imputed to all of humanity (Jesus Christ being the only exception). All of humanity is thus sinful by nature, by choice, and by divine declaration, spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins, and by nature, children of God's wrath.
- i. **Romans 5:10-12** For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
¹¹ More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. ¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

- ii. **Romans 5:13** for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.¹⁷ If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.
- iii. **Romans 5:18-19** Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
 1. There are two categories of people (cf. 1 Cor 15:22):
 - a. Those under Adam
 - b. Those under Christ
 2. Those under Adam receive:
 - a. Death
 - b. Condemnation
 - c. Unrighteousness
 - d. Disobedience
 - e. Made (declared) sinners
 3. Those under Christ receive:
 - a. Grace
 - b. Free Gift
 - c. Justification
 - d. Life
 - e. Made (declared) Righteous
 4. To be under Adam you need to be born
 5. To be under Christ you need to be born again
- iv. **Matthew 5:48** You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
 1. God demands perfection. Just one sin and we fall short of the glory of God. Since God demands perfection then when we sin our perfect cylinder, so to speak, has a little less water. So, how can we make up that difference? We can't since whenever we do good we are just rendering to God what is due him. Therefore, we need something outside of ourselves to make up the difference. It is an "alien righteousness" because all humans are in the same boat; only Jesus could satisfy the chasm between us and God.
- v. **Romans 3:23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

1. We are created to glorify God, we are commanded to glorify God (1 Cor 10:31), and when we sin it is falling to glorify God
- vi. **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- vii. **Psalm 14:1** TO THE CHOIRMASTER. OF DAVID. The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds, there is none who does good.² The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.³ They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one.
- viii. **Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
- ix. **Romans 3:9-18** What then? Are we Jews any better off? No, not at all. For we have already charged that all, both Jews and Greeks, are under sin,¹⁰ as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one;¹¹ no one understands; no one seeks for God.¹² All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one."¹³ "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips."¹⁴ "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness."¹⁵ "Their feet are swift to shed blood;¹⁶ in their paths are ruin and misery,¹⁷ and the way of peace they have not known."¹⁸ "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

1. Non-Christian cannot and do not seek God

i. Ephesians 2:1-3

IV. GOD'S REMEDY FOR MAN'S RUIN IS THUS ENTIRELY OF GRACE THROUGH ONE'S PERSONAL TRUST IN WHAT CHRIST COMPLETED FOR HIM ON THE CROSS

- A. You may say, "That's not fair that I receive sin/condemnation for someone else's act," namely Adam's, but isn't it also unfair to receive salvation from someone else's action, that being Jesus?
- B. **Ephesians 2:1-10** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-³ among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.⁴ But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,⁵ even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ- by grace you have been saved-⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,⁷ so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.¹⁰ For we are his workmanship [Greek = poetry], created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

V. Salvation:**A. Election:**

- i. Belief: that election is the sole act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ all whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies.
 - ii. **Romans 8:28** And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.
 - iii. **Ephesians 1:4** even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love⁵ he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace,⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight⁹ making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will,
 - iv. **2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.
 - v. **2 Timothy 2:10** Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.
 - vi. **1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cap-padocia, Asia, and Bithynia,² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spir-it, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.
- B. Belief: that sovereign election does not contradict or negate the responsibility of human beings to their Creator. Spiritually dead humanity, however, can never be considered righteous, and none will ever understand spiritual truths, much less ever seek after God on their own accord. Therefore, God's sovereign grace includes the only means of receiving the gift of salvation. God's sovereign election always results in what God determines. Therefore, all whom the Father calls to Himself will come in faith and all who come in faith the Father will receive.
- i. **Isaiah 55:6** "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
 - ii. **Luke 13:3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.
 - iii. **Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- iv. **Acts 3:19** Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,
 - v. **Acts 11:18** When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life."
 - vi. **Romans 2:4** Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?
 - vii. **2 Corinthians 7:10** For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death.
 - viii. Ephesians 1:4-11; 2:1-2, 4-5, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 3:10-18, 8:28-30
 - ix. **2 Peter 1:1** Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:
 - x. **John 6:37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
 - xi. **John 6:44** No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.
 - xii. **Acts 13:48** And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.
 - xiii. **Romans 9:11** though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad- in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of his call-¹² she was told, "The older will serve the younger."¹³ As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."¹⁴ What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!¹⁵ For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."¹⁶ So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy.
- C. Belief: when God grants grace to utterly depraved sinners, it is not related to any initiative of their own, nor to God's anticipation of what they might do by their own will, but is solely on the basis of His sovereign purpose and will.
- i. Ephesians 1:4-8; 2 Peter 1:1;
 - ii. **Titus 3:4** But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
 - iii. **1 Peter 1:1** Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cap-padocia, Asia, and Bithynia,² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spir-it, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.
- D. **Regeneration:**
- i. Belief: that man was created by God in His own image; that he sinned and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence,

all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners and therefore under condemnation. We believe that those who are regenerated by the Holy Spirit repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior and become new creatures, delivered from condemnation, and recipients of eternal life.

- ii. **Genesis 1:26** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
- iii. **Genesis 5:2** Male and female he created them, and he blessed them and named them Man when they were created.
- iv. **Genesis 3**
- v. **Genesis 2:17** but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."
- vi. **Genesis 3:19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."
- vii. **Ecclesiastes 2:11** Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.
- viii. **John 3:14** And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
- ix. **John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
- x. **John 5:30** "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.
- xi. **John 7:13** Yet for fear of the Jews no one spoke openly of him.
- xii. **John 8:12** Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."
- xiii. **John 10:26** but you do not believe because you are not part of my flock.
- xiv. **Romans 9:22** What if God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,
- xv. **2 Thessalonians 1:9** They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,
- xvi. **Revelation 19:3** Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."
- xvii. **Revelation 19:20** And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.
- xviii. **Revelation 20:10** and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.
- xix. **Revelation 20:14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.¹⁵ And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- xx. **Revelation 21:18** The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, clear as glass.
- xxi. **Psalms 51:7** Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

- xxii. **Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?
- xxiii. **James 1:14** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.
- xxiv. **Romans 3:19** Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.
- xxv. **Romans 5:19** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
- xxvi. **Proverbs 28:13** Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
- xxvii. **1 John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- xxviii. **John 3:16** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.
- xxix. **John 1:13** who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- xxx. **2 Corinthians 5:17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
- xxxi. **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- xxxii. Belief: that regeneration is manifested by fruits consistent with repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works done in faith and love will be the proper evidence and fruit of genuine repentance.
- xxxiii. **Matthew 7:18** A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit.¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.²¹ "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- xxxiv. **1 Corinthians 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- xxxv. **Ephesians 2:10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

E. Justification:

- i. Belief: that justification is the act of God by which He declares man righteous. This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man and involves the imputation of our sins to Christ and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us. By this means, God is able to "be just, and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus" (Romans 3:26).
- ii. **Romans 8:33** Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.
- iii. **Romans 3:20** For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.
- iv. **Romans 4:6** just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works:
- v. **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.
- vi. **Colossians 2:14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.
- vii. **1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

- viii. **1 Corinthians 1:30** He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom and our righteousness and sanctification and redemption.
- ix. **2 Corinthians 5:21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
- x. **Romans 3:26** It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

F. Sanctification:

- i. Belief: that every genuine believer experiences justification before God. Therefore, having been justified, Belief: that in the daily life of the believer he/she is being progressively conformed to the likeness of Christ. In this respect, every saved person is involved in a daily conflict-the new creation in Christ doing battle against the flesh (indwelling sin). Those who are genuinely saved will persevere to the end in this battle against the flesh.
- ii. **John 17:17** Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.
- iii. **John 17:19** And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.
- iv. **Romans 6:1-22**
- v. **2 Corinthians 3:18** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.
- vi. **1 Thessalonians 4:3** For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you abstain from sexual immorality;⁴ that each one of you know how to control his own body in holiness and honor,
- vii. **1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- viii. **Matthew 24:13** But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

G. Perseverance of the Saints/Preservation by the Savior:

- i. Belief: that all those regenerated by the Spirit of God will be likewise kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ.
- ii. **John 5:24** Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.
- iii. **John 6:37** All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day."
- iv. **John 10:27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.³⁰ I and the Father are one."
- v. **Romans 5:9** Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.
- vi. **Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.
- vii. **Romans 8:31** What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who

justifies.³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died- more than that, who was raised- who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?³⁶ As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- viii. **Jude 1:1** Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:
- ix. **Jude 1:24** Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy
- x. **1 Corinthians 1:4** I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus,⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge-⁶ even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you-⁷ so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ,⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- xi. **Ephesians 4:30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- xii. **Philippians 1:6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
- xiii. **Hebrews 7:25** Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.
- xiv. **Hebrews 13:5** Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."
- xv. **1 Peter 1:5** who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Paralleling the clear teachings concerning the security of the true believer, however, are also warnings to the professing church concerning the perseverance of those who claim the name of Christ (cf., Matthew 24:9-13; Hebrews 10:23-39; Revelation 2-3). We believe that the true children of God, chosen from the foundation of the world, will stand firm for Christ to the end, because they are **kept** in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

- I believe that references to those who do "fall away" (Matthew 24:10), whose "love will grow cold" (Matthew 24:12) are references to men and women who claim that they are in Christ but, in reality, are not (cf., 1 John 2:19). Christ taught that the kingdom of God—the genuine elect of God—will be infiltrated with tares, those who claim—and may even think—that they are in Christ but, in reality, are not (Matthew 7:21; 13:24-30, 37-42). These professors/tares may be members of the church in general, but have never been true citizens of the kingdom of God.
- For these reasons, I believe that these warnings should be taken seriously by all of us who claim the name of Christ "so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming" (1 John 2:28). Only the genuine elect of God will ever experience the promise of Christ "that of all that He [the Father] has given Me [Christ] I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day" (John 6:39). Therefore, we teach and encourage all who claim the name of Christ to "test

yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5; cf., 1 Corinthians 10:12).

- I believe that it is the privilege of all genuine believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, but also teach that God's Word clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sinful living and carnality. For that reason, we teach that "faith, if it has no works, is dead" (**James 2:17**).
- **Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?
- **Romans 6:15** What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, ¹⁸ and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. ¹⁹ I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification. ²⁰ When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things is death. ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life.
- **Romans 13:13** Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- **Galatians 5:13** For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- **Galatians 5:25** If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.
- **Titus 2:11** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹² training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³ waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.