

Fellowship Alliance Chapel Statement of Faith

Based on the teaching of the Bible, we believe:

- There is one God, who is eternal and infinitely perfect, and who exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This idea of one God existing as three persons is expressed in the Bible and described by the church as the Trinity. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14*)
- Jesus Christ is God, the Son. Like the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus is fully God, but He is also fully man. He existed eternally as God with the Father and the Spirit and became a man when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross as a substitute for sinners. He was the just and righteous One who died on behalf of those who are unjust and unrighteous. Because of His sacrifice, everyone who believes in Him is justified and considered righteous in the sight of God. He also physically rose from the dead after three days in a tomb. Today, He lives in Heaven at the right hand of God the Father where He represents believers like an advocate and intercedes on their behalf. One day, He will come again to earth to establish His government of righteousness and peace. (*John 1:1-18; Philippians 2:1-11; Luke 1:36-38; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 2:9; Romans 5:9; Acts 2:23-24; Hebrews 8:1; Matthew 26:64; 1 John 2:1-2; Romans 8:34*)
- The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. Like the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit is fully God. He is sent from the Father and the Son to live within the souls of believers in order to guide, teach, and empower them as they follow Jesus in this world. He also acts to convince the world of its guilt regarding sin, and of the righteousness of Jesus Himself, and of the judgment of Satan, the prince of this world. (*John 14:15-18; John 16:13; Acts 1:9; John 16:7-11*)

- The Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by God and without error as originally given. The word “inspired” actually means “God-breathed” or “spoken.” Their words are really the words of God. Together they are a complete revelation of God’s will for the salvation of men. They also are the only rule that Christians have for what they are to believe and how they are to live. *(2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)*
- Mankind was originally created in the likeness of God and enjoyed a conscious, loving relationship with Him. But through the sin of Adam, mankind has fallen away from God and experienced both physical and spiritual death. Since that time, all people have been born with a sinful nature and are willfully separated from a relationship with God. Returning to God is possible but only through the work that Jesus Christ performed on the cross. His death on the cross reconciles people with God because it atones for their sins. In other words, it saves them from the consequences of living apart from God. So now God calls all people to repent – to leave their sin behind and return to Him by trusting in the work that Jesus did for them. Those who do trust Jesus will enjoy a blissful eternity with God in Heaven. Everyone who rejects Jesus receives an everlasting conscious torment that Scripture calls Hell. *(Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Acts 17:30-31; Revelation 21:1-4, 8)*
- Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men. Everyone who repents of their sin and trusts that Jesus died for them on the cross and that God accepts Jesus’ death on their behalf receives salvation as a gift from God. Like being “born again,” they receive a new nature from the Holy Spirit and become children of God. *(John 3:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:4-7)*

- God's will for each believer is that they grow to full maturity in their relationship with Him. This growth process is called sanctification and ultimately results in our being conformed to the image of Jesus. Practically, it means we are dedicating ourselves to God's will, separating ourselves from the sin that displeases Him, and receiving power from the Holy Spirit to live lives that please Him and serve Him effectively. Sanctification includes a climactic experience called a crisis of faith and progressive experiences of spiritual growth that occur after a person trusts in Jesus. (*1 Thessalonians 5:23; Acts 1:8; Romans 6:1-14; Romans 12:1-2*)
- Jesus' atoning work on the cross also provides for healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick is a privilege for believers today. Instructions for how the church elders are to pray for the healing of sicknesses are given in the New Testament book of James, chapter 5. These instructions are practiced by the elders of our church. (*Matthew 8:16-17; James 5:13-16*)
- The Church consists of all those who trust their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Church functions like a physical body with Christ as the head and believers as the various members. Each member has abilities or gifts from the Holy Spirit that help them function effectively within the church. The Church is commissioned by God to go throughout the entire world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations. (*1 Corinthians 12:4-31; Romans 12:4-5; Matthew 28:18-20*)
- The local church is a body of believers in Christ who come together to worship God, to edify one another through the Word of God, to pray together, to enjoy each other's fellowship, to proclaim the gospel, to baptize believers and to partake of the Lord's Supper together. (*Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42-47*)

- Everyone shall experience a bodily resurrection. Those who are righteous in God's eyes will be raised to eternal life in fellowship with God. Those who are unrighteous will experience eternal judgment and separation from God. (*1 Corinthians 15:20-23; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2*)
- Jesus Christ is coming to earth again. His second coming can occur at any time and will occur in a way that is personal and visible. When He comes, He will establish His government on earth. For believers, Jesus' second coming inspires hope and motivates them to holy living and faithful service to God. (*Hebrews 10:37; Luke 21:27; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Peter 3:11-14*)