

Statement of Beliefs of The Gathering

We believe that the Bible, contained exclusively in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, authoritative Word of God in all matters of faith and practice. It is inerrant in the original texts.

We believe that the Bible reveals that there is only one living and perfect God, eternally existent in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is the Creator and Ruler of all that exists. He is all-powerful, all-present, all-knowing, all-loving and all-wise.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, equally divine in nature with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. He lived on Earth as fully man and fully God. We believe in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary death on the cross. His bodily resurrection and His ascension to the right hand of the Father to intercede for the saints. He will return to Earth in power and glory to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who is equally divine in nature with God the Father and God the Son. He reveals and calls people to Jesus Christ as the only Savior, convicting them of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. We believe that at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit regenerates and indwells every believer enabling them to live a godly life. We believe that the Spirit distributes gifts, as He wills, for serving the saints and reaching the lost.

We believe that all human beings are the special creation of God, made in His image. In the beginning they were innocent of sin and endowed by the Creator with freedom of choice. By their disobedience they, and all mankind subsequent to them, joined in Satan's rebellion against God. As a result, mankind is separated from God in a fallen world and without hope of a future life with Him.

We believe that salvation (reconciliation of man's separation from God) is a gift from God by grace to the repentant sinner upon confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Those who have been saved by God's grace are promised eternal life and are spared God's judgment.

We believe that the Church is the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed. The New Testament also speaks of the church as a local congregation of baptized believers called to worship God, observe the ordinances, grow in relationship with Christ and each other and extend the kingdom to the ends of the earth.

We believe the Bible teaches two ordinances to be celebrated by the church, which are baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Gathering practices believers' baptism by immersion. Baptism is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ and identification with the body of Christ. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act whereby in partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, we join in fellowship to remember the death of our Savior and anticipate His second coming.

We believe in the imminent, bodily return of the Lord Jesus to Earth to rule over the nations. When He returns, the dead will be raised and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell; the righteous in their transformed bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever with the Lord.

We believe it is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ to make disciples of all nations. We will join with other Great Commission Christians to take the gospel to the world.