

JEROME PRAIRIE BIBLE CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

A. The Scriptures

We believe the scriptures made up of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed, the final authority for faith and life and the only so inspired book. *Lk. 24:44-45; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21; Rev. 22:18-19.*

B. The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections. *Gen. 1:1-2,26; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:18-20; Jn. 1:1-3; II Cor. 13:14.*

C. The Creation and Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but through Adam's sin all mankind fell, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, being separated from God. Thus all mankind inherited a sinful nature, and is now totally depraved, and unable to save themselves. *Gen. 1:26; 3:1-24; Jn. 3:3-7; Rom. 3:23-28, 4:2-5, 5:6-19; Eph. 2:8-9.*

D. The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God to man and redeem sinful man. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a vicarious sacrifice, and that He confirmed our justification by His physical resurrection from the dead. *Matt. 1:18-25; Lk. 13:1-35; Jn. 1:1-3, 1:14, 1:18; Acts 10:34-43; Rom. 3:21-28; 4:24-25.* We believe in His literal pretribulational return from heaven to claim His Bride, the Church, and in His ultimate millennial kingdom reign upon the earth. *Jn. 14:1-3; I Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Zech. 14:4-11.*

E. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, as the third person of the Godhead, convicts of sin, regenerates all who believe and baptizes them at conversion into the Body of Christ, seals believers for the day of redemption, and indwells believers eternally, gifting them for ministry and empowering them to live a godly life. We believe being "filled with the Spirit," is evidenced by a loving, Christ-like lifestyle, rather an experience such as "speaking in tongues". *Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:9-14; I Cor. 12:4-7,13; Eph. 1:13-14, 5:18-21; Gal. 5:22-23.*

F. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God, offered to man by grace and received by personal faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ apart from works or ceremony. We believe that all true believers are eternally secure in Christ. *Jn. 1:11-12; 3:16, 10:27-30; Eph. 2:8-9; I Jn. 5:11-12.*

G. The Church

We believe that the Church is a spiritual organism, the Body of Christ, that began at Pentecost, and is made up of all true believers of this dispensation, distinct from Israel, and functions with Christ as the head for the purpose of glorifying God by making disciples of all nations. The church exists in local expression for edifying believers and evangelizing unbelievers. It is built up by the gifted ministry of its members as they serve one another in the love of Christ, under the authority of godly leadership, coming together for worship, prayer, fellowship and the teaching of the Word, observing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. We do not use "speaking in tongues" in our services. *Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:37-47; 5:11; Rom. 9:3-4; I Cor. 11:1, 23-28; 12:13; 14:18-19; Eph.4:1-16; I Pet. 4:7-11.*

H. The Believer's Lifestyle

We believe that each believer is called to walk by faith in obedience to the Word, living a life of holiness unto the Lord by a constant dependence upon the divine enablement of the Holy Spirit. Believers serve Him in the local church in cooperation with its leadership, in the area of their giftedness, being diligent to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Believers are to serve God in the world, witnessing boldly, by word and deed, of Christ's power to save until He comes, always seeking to spread His message to all peoples. *Matt. 28:18-20; II Cor. 5:5-10; Eph. 2:10; 5:1-21; Heb. 13:15-17; Jas. 1:19-27; I Pet. 3:8-16.*

I. Satan

We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, the author of sin, who, though defeated at the cross, continues to live as the believer's adversary until the Lord condemns him to his eternal destiny in the lake of fire. *Job 1:6-12; Matt. 4:1-8; Jn. 8:44; I Jn. 3:8; I Pet.5:8-9; Rev. 20:2,10.*

J. The Eternal State

We believe that the eternal destiny of each person is sealed at death. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men: believers to the blessings of eternal life and unbelievers to conscious and everlasting punishment. *Lk. 13:22-29; Jn. 5:24-29; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 20:11-15.*

K. The Priority of Unity

We believe that relationships between believers within the church family are a significant visual demonstration of the truth we proclaim. Each believer is expected to work to resolve any matter of offense that may arise with another believer in accordance with the pattern of *Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-17*. We believe our statement of faith to be an accurate summary of the foundational teachings of the Bible and that other "finer points" of doctrine are peripheral to salvation, and the believer's life of faith and godliness. All members are to actively avoid divisiveness, especially regarding doctrinal matters not included in this statement of faith. *Jn. 17:14-23; Eph. 4:1-3; I Tim. 4:6-7; 6:3-5; II Tim. 2:14-26; Ti. 3:9-11; I Pet.4:7-8.*