

AFRICA CENTRE FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 1) The sole basis of Christian belief is the Bible, God's infallible written word, and the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments.
- 2) The Bible was uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and written without errors (inerrant) in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.
- 3) There is one true God eternally existing in three persons- Father, Son and Holy Spirit- each of whom possess equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality (Deut.6:4; Matt 28:18. John 1:1-3. Acts 5:3-4).
- 4) Jesus Christ is God, the living Word, who becomes flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. Hence, He is perfect deity and true humanity united in one person forever (John 1:1,14; Matt 1:8-25; Luke1:30-37; Col.2:9; Phil. 2:6-11)
- 5) Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for the sins of all human beings by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone (John 3:5; 1 Peter 3:18; John 10:17,18; 2 Cor.5:21; 1 John 4:10; Rom.3:24-26).
- 6) Jesus arose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which he had lived and died (1 Cor.15:4, 14,20; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:24-29).
- 7) Jesus Christ ascended bodily into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father where He, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own (Acts 1:9-11; Eph. 1:20; 1 Tim 1:5; Heb. 7:24,25 | John 2:1,2)
- 8) Man was originally created in the image of God. He sinned by disobeying God; thus, he was alienated from his Creator. That historic fall brought mankind under condemnation (Gen 1:26-27; 2:15-17; 3:1-24; Rom 5:12-21; 1 Cor.15:21-22).
- 9) Man's nature is corrupted and he is thus totally unable to please God. Every man is in need of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 3:9-20; Eph.2:1-7; Mark7:20-23; John3:1-21; Titus3:5-7)
- 10) Angels, both good and fallen, exist. Good angels serve God. Satan is the leader of all fallen angels, also called demons. He is the god of this world, the adversary of God and His powers are supernaturally great, but limited by the permissive will of God and His people. He was defeated and judged at the Cross, and therefore his final doom is certain. Believers in Jesus Christ are able to resist and overcome Satan only in the power of God and the provisions God has given (Col.2:15; Heb.2:14; 1 John 3:8; Eph. 6:10-20, 2 Cor.4:4; 1 Peter 5:8; Job 1:6, 22; Rev.20:1-3,10).
- 11) The salvation of man is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the work or in part, of human effort or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight (Eph. 2:8-10, Rom 3:21;9:30; Gal.3:11-14,22-24).
- 12) It is the privilege of all who are born-again of the Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very moment in which they trust Christ as their Saviour. This assurance is not based upon any kind of human merit, but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who confirms in the believer the testimony of God in His written word (1 Thess. 1:5; John 1:12, 13; 1 John 5:9-13; Rom. 8:2-4,17).
- 13) The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ to apply the saving work of Christ to men. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life to them, continually indwells them from the moment of spiritual birth and seals them until the day of redemption. His fullness, power and control are appropriated in the believer's life by faith (John 16:7-15; Titus 3:5; Rom 8:2-4,9; Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30; 1 Cor.6:19; Gal. 3:2,3).
- 14) Every believer is called to live so in the power of the indwelling Spirit that he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh but will bear fruit to the glory of God (Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 5:18).
- 15) Jesus Christ is head of the Church, His body, which is composed of all men, living and dead, who have been joined to Him, through saving faith (Col. 1:18; Eph.1:22-23;5:23-32; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- 16) God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for participation in ordinances,, for edification through the Scriptures and for mutual encouragement (Heb. 10:23-25; Acts 2:41, 42; 20:7 1 Cor.12:20-28; Eph.4:11-16;1)
- 17) Heaven is a reality. At physical death the believer enters immediately into eternal conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting glory and blessing (2 Cor.5:8; Phil.1:23-24; 3:20-21; Luke 23:39-43; 1 Cor. 15:12-58; 1 Thess.4:13-18).
- 18) Hell is a reality. At physical death the unbeliever enters immediately into conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting judgment and condemnation (2 Cor.5:8; Phil.1:23-24; 3:20-21; Luke 23:39-43; 1 Cor.15:12-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18 | John 3:2).
- 19) Jesus Christ will come again to the earth – personally, visibly and bodily- to consummate history and the eternal plan of God (Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21; Matt.24:44; Rev.19:1-22:21).
- 20) The Lord Jesus Christ commanded all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to disciple men of every nation. The fulfillment of the Great Commission requires that all worldly and personal ambitions be subordinated to a total commitment to "Him" who loved us and gave Himself for us" (Matt 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:4-49; Acts 1:7-8; Rom.12:1-2; Gal. 2:19-20; Phil.3:7-21).

I agree with this statement of faith without reservation: Sign: _____ Date: _____

If you have any reservation, please write your concerns at the back: