

West Side Community Church Statement of Faith

1. The Holy Trinity

We believe in one living and true God, eternal and of infinite power, wisdom, goodness and righteousness. He is a faithful God who is the Creator and Preserver of all things. In the unity of this Godhead there are three persons of one substance with identical qualities and attributes: The Father (God), The Son (Jesus Christ), and The Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; John 1:1-2, 4:24, 5:18; 1 Timothy 1:17.)

2. The Father God

We believe the Father is the source of all that exists, whether by matter or spirit. With the Son and the Holy Spirit, He made man in His image. By intention He relates to man as Father. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully and lovingly in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Psalm 68:5, 90:1-2; Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 7:11; Romans 8:15; 1 Peter 1:17.)

3. The Son of God

We believe in the divine nature of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. Christ was both fully man and fully God. He walked our earth, suffered at the hands of men, was crucified, died and was buried as a sacrifice for the sins of all men and women everywhere. The purpose was to restore our relationship to God which was broken by sin (disobedience). Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven in full victory over Satan and sin. He now intercedes for the body of believers to God the Father. (Luke 1:27, 31, 35; John 1:1-2, 14, 3:16; Romans 3:24-25, 5:10; Ephesians 1:7, 5:2; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 9:24; Luke 24:4-7.)

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit as the person of the Holy Trinity who lives within us, giving us the power to live a holy life. He is the Administrator of Grace to all mankind, and is particularly the effective Agent in convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He is the Divine Teacher who guides all believers into all truth. It is both the privilege and duty of every Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit of God. (Matthew 28:19; John 4:24, 14:16-17, 15:26, 16:5-15; Acts 5:3-4; Romans 8:9, 27; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 5:18.)

5. The Authority of Scripture

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament together constitute the Holy Bible; no books may be added or deleted. The Holy Bible is the inspired and inerrant (that is, without error or failure of basic contents and meaning in the original manuscripts) written Word of God. The Holy Bible contains all the necessary truth to lead men and women into salvation. Ultimately, we believe whatever the Bible teaches on any subject. It is the final authority in all matters pertaining to conduct and doctrine. Whatever is not read therein, nor may be proved thereby, is not to be required of any man. (Psalm 19:7; Matthew 5:18; John 17:17; Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21.)

6. Man

We believe that mankind was created by God, in His own image. But because of Adam's sin (disobedience) man inherits a corrupt nature that inclines him to do wrong. Through sin, man became alienated from God. Man cannot save himself by his will or works. (Genesis 1:27, 3:6-8; Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:12; Titus 3:5.)

7. Salvation

We believe that Jesus Christ, the living Son of God, was given by God as a sacrifice for the sins of all men. Christ died on the cross to mend the broken relationship which was caused by man's sin of disobedience. It is through the shedding of His precious blood on the cross that we find forgiveness of our sins. Salvation is the free gift of God, brought to man by the grace of God and received by man through repentance from sin, personal belief and faith in Jesus Christ, recognizing Him as Lord and Savior. (John 1:12-13, 29, 3:16; Acts 2:38-39; 17:30; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Ephesians 2:8-10, 5:2; Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 1:18-19, 2:24.)

8. Good Works

We believe that even though men and women cannot receive salvation by good works, their good works are still pleasing to God showing evidence of a true faith in God and Jesus as Lord of the believer's life. (Matthew 5:16, 7:16-20; Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16; James 2:18, 22.)

9. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the work of God and the power of the Holy Spirit acting as a catalyst in the life of the believer in order to produce a growing commitment, dedication and purity of heart before God. Sanctification begins when a person is saved and continues throughout life; it is the will of God for all believers. We are sanctified progressively by the Word of God as the desire to live for self decreases and the desire to live totally for the glory of God increases. (Deuteronomy 30:6; John 3:30, 17:17; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 4:13, 24; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 7; 1 Peter 2:2.)

10. Gifts of The Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit has given spiritual gifts to all believers for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and bringing glory to God. The gifts are to be exercised in love and emphasize the need for unity. The Holy Spirit himself is to be desired more than any gift that the Spirit might give. (1 Corinthians 12:4, 18, 21-25; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:1-14.)

11. Divine Healing

We believe that in the redemptive work of Christ, provision has been made for man's physical healing. It is still God's desire to heal His people. This benefit may be realized by God's children on the basis of the conditions set forth in the Word of God. (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 6:13; Acts 10:38; James 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:24.)

12. Sacraments

We believe that God ordained two sacraments: The Lord's Supper and Water Baptism. By them, He works within us to quicken, strengthen, and confirm our faith. These sacraments are in no way to be regarded as a means of salvation but simply as a token of our profession of Christian faith and of God's gracious ministry toward us.

We believe that Water Baptism is a sacrament of the Church, commanded by our Lord and administered by immersion to believers. It signifies that the believer has repented from sin, accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and is a means of declaring one's faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior. Baptism is an outward symbolic act signifying salvation and cleansing of sin. (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:11-13.)

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a sacrament of the Church, received in remembrance of Christ's death for our sins; the bread representing His body and the wine, His blood. It is a reminder of God's love and grace toward us, of our hope in His victorious return, and a sign of the love that Christians have for each other. (Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-30.)

13. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ to receive His believers into a literal heaven and to eternal life. The time of His return is unknown, but may be at any moment. We also believe that those who have not accepted Christ as their personal Savior, and are unrepentant, will be judged by God in His perfect justice and doomed to a literal hell and to eternal punishment. (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 16:19-31; John 14:1-3; Romans 2:16; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; James 5:7-8; Revelation 20:10, 13-15, 22:1-5, 12, 20.)

14. The Resurrection of the Dead

We believe in the bodily resurrection from the dead of all mankind: of the just unto the resurrection of life, and of the unjust unto the resurrection of damnation. The resurrection of the righteous dead will occur at Christ's second coming. The resurrection of Christ is the guarantee of the resurrection of those who are in Christ. The raised body will be a spiritual body, but the person will be whole and identifiable. (Matthew 22:30-32, 28:1-20; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 14:14, 24:1-53; John 5:28-29; 11:21-27; 20:1-21, 25; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:1-58; 2 Corinthians 4:14, 5:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-13.)