

Refuge Statement of Fundamental Beliefs

This statement represents the biblical and historic Christian faith. These beliefs are the glory and joy of Christ's Church. They form the foundation for the life and hope we have. Any person not in submission to biblical Christianity has departed from the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints and is not yet a part of the family of God.

We believe biblical Christianity includes the following affirmations:

- The Scriptures are inspired by God and are therefore authoritative in all matters pertaining to right living and right belief. They are necessary and sufficient for the believer to know God, understand the gospel, and live a life of obedient faith. (Ps 19:7-11; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Ptr 1:20-21)
- There is only one true God - Holy and Righteous, Creator of heaven and earth - who eternally exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each member of the Godhead is to be equally loved, feared, and worshiped. (Matt 28:19; Deut 6:4; Is 45:5-6; 46:9-10; Jn 17:3; 1 Cor 8:4-6; 1 Tim 2:5; Gen 1:26; Ps 45:6-7; 110:1; Matt 3:13-17; Matt 28:17-20; 1 Cor 12:4-6)
- All things exist for the glory of God. (Ps 148; Prov 16:4; Is 61:3; Rom 11:33-36; 1 Cor 10:31; 2 Cor 5:15; Eph 1:3-14)
- With the exception of Christ, all humanity is sinful by both birth and action because of Adam's sin. (Gen 6:5; Ps 51:5; Jer 17:9; Rom 3:23; 5:8, 12-21; 7:18; Eph 2:1-3)
- The deserved penalty for sin is physical and spiritual death. (Gen 2:15-17; 3:19; Rom 5:12; 6:23; Jas 1:14-15)
- Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, was born of a virgin and is both fully God and fully human. This makes him the sole Mediator between

God and people, the only one able to restore the broken relationship and resulting alienation sin brought. (Matt 1:20; Lk 2:52; Jn 1:1-4, 14; Col 1:15-20; Heb 1:1-3).

- Jesus Christ died as the sacrificial substitute to pay the penalty for sin. (Jn 1:29; 10:1-18; Rom 5:8; 1 Cor 15:14; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 1:4; 1 Ptr 3:18)
- Jesus Christ physically rose from the dead, ascended into heaven and will one day physically return. (Matt 28:1-20; Mrk 16:1-8; Lk 24:1-53; Jn 1:20-21:25; 1 Cor 15:12-34; Jn 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess 4:16; Heb 9:28; 1 Jn 3:2; Rev 1:7)
- There will be a future physical resurrection of the dead. Only those who turn from sin and to Jesus in faith and repentance will be raised to eternal reward. Those who do not turn from sin and to Jesus will be raised to eternal punishment. (Matt 25:31-46; Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15)
- Only through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ and repentance from sin can one be reconciled to God and experience the joy of being in relationship with Him. (Jn 3:18, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom 3:21-26; 1 Tim 2:5-6)
- Genuine spiritual life is evidenced by the presence of the fruits of the Spirit, a posture of life-long repentance, and a zeal for godliness. (Lk 3:8-9; Jn 3:6; Gal 5:22-23; Rom 8:9; Acts 26:20)