

Redemption Evangelical Church Statement of Faith

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that Holy Scripture is divinely inspired and a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, sanctification for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme authority by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. We further believe that Holy Scripture cannot fail to achieve that end for which God intends it.

II. Of the True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, the superlatively great Spirit, whose name is YHWH, the Maker, Sustainer and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all honor, love, and praise; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; both one in substance and equal in every divine perfection, carrying out distinct but harmonious roles in the great work of redemption. Among the divine perfections are aseity, necessity, omnibenevolence, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, eternity, and immutability. By His power all things depend on Him for their being, though He depends on nothing; by His knowledge He comprehends all things, including all that is yet to pass.

III. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that Man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by willful transgression fell from that happy state; in consequence of which all men are now sinners; being by nature separated from God, inclined to evil, and wholly lacking that holiness required by the divine law; and therefore condemned to eternal ruin, with neither defense nor excuse.

IV. Of the Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is by grace alone, mediated by the work of God the Son; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by His obedience, and by His death fully atoned for our sins; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with those divine perfections which He has eternally enjoyed. He is in every way a suitable, compassionate, and sufficient Savior.

V. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to those who believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the forgiveness of sin and the promise of eternal life; that it is bestowed not as a result of any works of righteousness which we

have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe that the blessings of salvation are freely available to all by the gospel of Jesus Christ; that it is incumbent upon all to accept them by obedient and penitent faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of any sinner on earth except his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; such rejection makes him all the more worthy of condemnation.

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated by new birth; that regeneration involves a holy disposition being given to the mind; that it is effected by the Holy Spirit, in a manner beyond our comprehension, so as to secure our willful submission to the gospel; and that its proper evidence is the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our helplessness, guilt and danger, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time joyfully receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, relying on Him alone as our only and sufficient Savior.

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, saves and sanctifies sinners; that it includes the means by which that purpose is achieved; that it is a most glorious display of the sovereign goodness of God, who is infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it excludes boasting, and promotes hope, humility, love, praise, prayer, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the believer's whole-hearted cooperation with the work of the Holy Spirit; that it may be discerned by its effects in all who believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to discern it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X. Of Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it begins with regeneration; and that it is carried out in the hearts of believers by the Holy Spirit—the Sealer, Guarantor, and Comforter—by various means ordained by God, especially Scripture, participation in the life of His people, and spiritual disciplines (e.g., prayer, fasting, self-examination).

XI. Of the Perseverance of Saints

We believe that only those who endure to the end are truly believers; that their persevering commitment to Christ is the primary mark which distinguishes them from those who insincerely claim Christ; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

We believe that God's law is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; that the inability of fallen men to obey it arises entirely from their own wickedness, deliverance from which is one great end of the gospel; and that such deliverance involves being restored to obedience to God's law by the works of both Christ and the Holy Spirit.

XIII. Of a Gospel Church

We believe that a local church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His commands; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; and that its scriptural officers are Elders, Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in St. Paul's Letters to Timothy and Titus.

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the names of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; that this ordinance serves as a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, which effects our death to sin and resurrection to new life; and that it is required for both church membership and partaking of the Lord's Supper, the ordinance whereby the church makes sacred use of bread and wine to commemorate together the sacrificial love of Christ.

XV. Of the Christian Sabbath

We believe that one day out of every seven is to be kept as the Lord's Day; and is to be kept sacred by the gathering of the saints in anticipation of that sabbath rest that remains for the people of God.

XVI. Of Civil Government

We believe that Civil Government is divinely appointed for the interests and good order of human society; and that civil authorities are to be lifted up in prayer, conscientiously honored, and obeyed (except where obedience to them means disobedience to Christ, who is the Lord of our conscience, and the King of kings).

XVII. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit are righteous; that all those who continue in sin

and unbelief are wicked and condemned; and that this distinction holds among men both before and after death.

XVIII. Of the World to Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead to final retribution or glorification; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in blessed communion with God or cursed separation from Him in hell.