

Countryside Statement of Faith

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Section 1: The Doctrine of the Scriptures

We teach that the Bible is the verbally (each word) and plenary (completely) inspired Word of God as originally written (Matthew 4:4; John 14:26; II Timothy 3:16). We teach that God communicated through Spirit-controlled men so that the Scriptures are without error and therefore authoritative in all they teach and in all matters they touch (Psalm 119:140,160; John 10:35; John 17:17). We teach that the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament constitute the completed Canon of Scripture and are the only absolute authority for Christian faith and practice (Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19).

Section 2: The Doctrine of God

We teach that one God eternally exists in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; John 1:1; I Timothy 3:16). Each person in the Godhead is equal in being and power but different in His respective function. We teach that God is self-existent (Exodus 3:14; I Timothy 1:17), infinite (Romans 11:33-36), omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-11), omniscient (Acts 15:18), omnipotent (Jeremiah 32:27; Matthew 19:26), unchangeable (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17), and holy (Isaiah 6:3; I Peter 1:15).

Section 3: The Doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ

We teach the preexistence of Jesus Christ as the second person of the Godhead (John 1:1,14), that without any change in His divine Person He became fully man by miracle of the virgin birth (Matthew 1:25), that He lived a sinless life, (Hebrews 4:15) and that He died, was buried, rose bodily the third day (I Corinthians 15:3-4), ascended into heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:9; Hebrews 9:24). We teach that Christ will appear in the air to

rapture His Church, the Body of Christ (I Thessalonians 4:16-17), and that after seven years He will come to this earth to establish His Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 7:13-14).

Section 4: The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

We teach the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16, 26). We teach that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11) and is the agent of the new birth (II Thessalonians 2:13; I Peter 1:2). We teach that at the moment of conversion every believer receives the Holy Spirit and is baptized into the Body of Christ, is sealed unto the day of redemption, and receives a spiritual gift for service (I Corinthians 6:19; 12:13; Ephesians 1:13; Romans 12:6-8). We teach that the Holy Spirit ministers to the believer by leading (Romans 8:14), teaching (I John 2:20, 27), empowering (Acts 1:8), interceding (Romans 8:26), producing fruit (Galatians 5:22), and filling those who surrender to Him (Ephesians 5:18). We do not teach that the Holy Spirit gives the gift of tongues today. We teach that the gift of tongues was supernaturally-given foreign languages for the confirmation of the apostolic message and ceased with the completion of the New Testament Canon in the first century (Mark 16:17-20; Acts 2; 10:44-48; I Corinthians 13:8-13; Hebrews 2:3-4).

Section 5: The Doctrine of Man

We teach that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve who were created in the image of God with respect to intellect, emotion, and will and that man is a living soul and thus an eternal being (Genesis 1:26-27). We teach that God created Adam and Eve in an upright and sinless state, but they voluntarily fell into sin and brought sin and death (both physical and eternal) to the whole human race (Genesis 3:1-8; Romans 5:12). We teach that all people inherit at conception a sinful nature from Adam and voluntarily sin individually as fallen creatures who are separated from God (Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12).

Section 6: The Doctrine of Salvation

We teach that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8-10). We teach that faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation from sin and that all who take Christ as their Savior are born from above and are kept by God's power and are eternally secure in Christ (Acts 16:31; John 1:12; 10:28,29, Titus 3:5-7; I John 5:11-13). We teach that the basis of our salvation is the blood of Christ (I Peter 1:18-19) and that the scope of our salvation includes forgiveness of all our past, present and future sins, a righteous standing before God, and eternal life (John 3:16; Romans 6:23).

Section 7: The Doctrine of the Church

We teach that the Church was established by Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:18) and is composed of all believers in Christ called out of the world between Pentecost and the Rapture (I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:23; Colossians 1:24). We teach that the Church is manifested through the local church, which is composed of baptized believers in Christ of the same locality who organize and assemble themselves together for worship, prayer, instruction, evangelism, and observation of the ordinances instituted by Christ (Matthew 18:15-17; Acts 2:41-47; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 4:11-16). We teach that the two ordinances of the church are baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:18-20; I Corinthians 11:23-34) and that the two offices of the church are that of pastor and deacon (I Timothy 3:1-13). We teach that each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference.

Section 8: The Doctrine of Angels

We teach the existence of angels who are immortal spirit-beings created by God as real persons with great, but limited, powers (II Kings 6:5-18; 19:35; Daniel 8:16-18; Matthew 22:29-30). We teach that God created all angels good, but God's anointed cherub Lucifer (Ezekiel 28:14) and his followers chose to rebel against God and therefore are destined to eternal condemnation and will be cast into the lake of fire (I Thessalonians 4:16; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6). We teach that Satan is a person; that he is the god of this age and author of sin; that he was defeated and judged by Christ on the cross; and that he can be resisted by Christians (Isaiah 14:12-15; II Corinthians 4:4; Hebrews 2:14; James 4:7).

Section 9: The Doctrine of Coming Events

We teach that at death every person immediately enters heaven or hell. We teach that those who are saved experience conscious, eternal bliss in heaven, and those who are lost experience conscious, eternal punishment in hell (Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; II Corinthians 5:6-8). We teach the imminent, personal, premillennial appearance of Jesus Christ to catch away His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 2:1-2; Titus 2:13). We teach that, following the rapture, every saved person of the Church Age will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ (Romans 14:10; II Corinthians 5:10). We teach that, after the seven-year tribulation period, Christ will return to earth with His saints to establish the Millennial Kingdom, which literally will be on earth for one thousand years (II Thessalonians 1:6-12; Revelation 20:1-6). We teach that, after the thousand-year reign of Christ, every lost person will bodily appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer eternal punishment (Matthew 25:46; II Corinthians 5:8, 10; Revelation 20). We teach that all who have placed faith in Christ will live eternally with Him (John 3:16).

Section 10: The Doctrine of Separation

We teach that every believer should be separated unto God from the world and, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, should walk in a way that glorifies God (I Corinthians 10:31), does not harm one's testimony as a Christian (Romans 13:14), or offend one's brother (Romans 14:13; I Corinthians 8:9, 13). We teach that the Scriptures admonish us not to participate with other churches, organizations, or associations that violate the essential doctrines taught in the Word of God (II Corinthians 6:11-7:1; Ephesians 5:7; II Thessalonians 3:1-6, 14). Therefore, we cannot participate with the World Council of Churches, National Council of Churches, or any group that is not of the orthodox Christian faith (II Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:8-9; II Timothy 2:16-18; Titus 3:10-11; II John 9-11).