



## STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL & ESSENTIAL TRUTHS

### PREAMBLE

Life Church stands firmly in the mainstream of historical Christianity. It takes the Bible as its all-sufficient source of faith and practice, and subscribes to the historic creeds of the universal church. In common with historical Christianity, Life Church, emphasizes Christ as Saviour and coming King. It also presents Christ as Healer and believes that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all believers with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

### I. HOLY SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God by which we understand the whole Bible to be inspired in the sense that holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the very words of Scripture. Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the original writings. The whole Bible in the original is, therefore, without error and, as such, is infallible, absolutely supreme, and sufficient in authority in all matters of faith and practice.

The Bible does not simply contain the Word of God, but is, in reality, the complete revelation and very Word of God inspired by the Holy Spirit. Christian believers today receive spiritual illumination to enable them to understand the Scriptures, but God does not grant new revelations which are contrary to inspired biblical truth.

2 Tim. 3:16,17 2 Pet. 1:20,21 Psalm 119:160a Matt. 5:17,18 1 Cor. 2:12-14 Prov. 30:5,6

### II. THE GODHEAD

The Godhead exists eternally in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having the same nature and attributes and are worthy of the same homage, confidence, and obedience.

Matt. 3:16,17 Matt. 28:19 2 Cor. 13:14

#### 1. THE FATHER

The Father exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth, the Giver of the Law, to whom all things will be subjected, so that He may be all in all.

Gen. 1:1 1 Cor. 15:28

#### 2. THE SON

The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of the Father, is true God and true man. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and by His sinless life, miracles and teaching, gave full revelation of the Father.

He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice. He rose from the dead. He is now at the right hand of the majesty on high as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish His kingdom in righteousness and peace.

John 1:1,14 John 10:30 John 17 Phil. 2:6,7 Heb. 1:8 Luke 1:26-35 John 12:49 Acts 2:22 2 Cor. 5:21 Heb. 7:26 Rom. 5:6,8 1 Cor. 15:3 1 Pet. 3:18 Matt. 28:6 1 Cor. 15:4,20 Acts 1:9-11 Acts 2:33 Heb. 8:1 Matt. 25:31

#### 3. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is also God, performing actions and possessing the attributes of Deity. His personality is shown by the fact that He has personal characteristics and that individuals may relate to Him as a person.

Acts 5:3,4 John 16:13-14

## **III. ANGELS**

### **1. CLASSIFICATION OF ANGELS**

Angels were created as intelligent and powerful beings to do the will of God and worship Him. However, Satan, the originator of sin, fell through pride and was followed by those angels who rebelled against God. These fallen angels or demons are active in opposing the purposes of God. Those who remained faithful continue before the throne of God and serve as ministering spirits.

Psa. 103:20 Rev. 5:11,12 Isa. 14:12-17 Ezek. 28:11-19 Eph. 6:11,12 1 Tim. 4:1 Jude 6 Heb. 1:14

### **2. THE BELIEVER AND DEMONS**

Demons attempt to thwart God's purposes; however, in Christ, the believer may have complete liberty from the influence of demons. His spirit cannot be possessed by them because he is the temple of the Holy Spirit in which Christ dwells as Lord. (The soul or body can be oppressed or bound demonically.)

Heb. 2:14 1 John 3:8; 4:1-4 Matt. 6:24 1 Cor. 6:19,20

## **IV. MAN**

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God. He fell through sin and, as a consequence, incurred both spiritual and physical death. Spiritual death and the depravity of human nature have been transmitted to the entire human race, with the exception of the Man Christ Jesus. Man can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gen. 1:26; 2:7 Rom. 5:12 James 1:14,15 Jer. 17:9 Rom. 3:10-19,23 Heb. 7:26 John 14:6 Acts 4:12 1 Tim. 2:5,6

## **V. SALVATION**

### **1. ATONEMENT OF CHRIST**

Salvation has been provided for all men through the sacrifice of Christ upon the cross. Those who repent and believe in Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and receive eternal life. Furthermore, in the atonement, divine healing was provided for all believers.

Isa. 53:3-6 John 12:32,33 1 Pet. 2:24 Acts 20:21 1 Pet. 1:23,25 Isa. 53:4,5 Matt. 8:16b, 17

### **2. REPENTANCE AND FAITH**

Man can be born again only through faith in Christ. Repentance, a vital part of believing, is a complete change of mind wrought by the Holy Spirit, turning a person to God from sin.

Isa. 55:7 Acts. 17:30 Gal. 3:22,26 Eph. 2:8 1 John 5:10-13

### **3. REGENERATION**

Regeneration is a creative work of the Holy Spirit by which man is born again and receives spiritual life.

John 3:3b John 5b,7 1 Cor. 5:17,18a 1 Pet. 1:23

### **4. JUSTIFICATION**

Justification is a judicial act of God by which the sinner is declared righteous solely on the basis of his acceptance of Christ as Saviour.

Rom. 3:24 Rom. 4:3-5 Rom. 5:1-2

## **VI. THE CHRISTIAN LIFE**

### **1. ASSURANCE**

Assurance of salvation is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit through faith in Christ, resulting in love, gratitude and obedience toward God.

John 10:27-29 Rom. 8:35-39

### **2. SANCTIFICATION**

Sanctification is dedication to God and separation from evil. In experience, it is both instantaneous and progressive. It is produced in the life of the believer by his appropriation of the power of Christ's blood and risen life through the Person of the Holy Spirit. He draws the believer's attention to Christ, teaches him through the Word and produces the character of Christ within him. Believers who sin must repent and seek forgiveness through faith in the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor. 6:14 2 Cor. 7:1 John 17:17,19 Heb. 10:10,14 1 Thess. 5:23 2 Tim. 2:19-22 1 Pet. 1:14-16 Rom. 6:11,13,14,18 1 Cor. 13 Gal. 5:22-23 2 Pet. 1:3-4 1 John 1:9; 2:1-2

### **3. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience in which the believer yields control of himself to the Holy Spirit. Through this he comes to know Christ in a more intimate way, and receives power to witness and grow spiritually. Believers should earnestly seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The main evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. This experience is distinct from, and subsequent to, the experience of the new birth.

Matt. 3:11 Acts 1:5 Eph. 5:18 John 16:13-15 2 Cor. 3:18 Acts 1:8 Luke 24:49 Acts 1:4,8 Acts 2:1-4, Acts 39:9-17 1 Cor. 14:18

Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46

### **4. THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT**

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities given by God through the exercising of which believers are enabled to minister effectively and directly in particular situations. They serve the dual function of building up the Church, and of demonstrating the presence of God within His Church.

1 Cor. 12:4-11 1 Cor. 12:7 1 Cor. 14:12,24-25

### **5. DIVINE HEALING**

Divine healing provided in the atonement of Christ is the privilege of all believers. Prayer for the sick and gifts of healing are encouraged and practiced.

Matt. 8:16,17 1 Cor. 12:28-30 James 5:14

### **6. DIVINE PROVISION**

We are redeemed from the curse of poverty.

Gal.3:13 3 John 1:2

### **7. TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

We believe that tithing (giving 10 percent of earnings) and offerings (amounts determined by the individuals) are God's instruments to carry on His ministry, spread the gospel, and release personal blessing.

Malachi 3:10 1 Cor. 16: 1, 2 Lev. 27:30-32 Mal. 3:10 2 Cor. 9:6-15

## **VII. THE CHURCH**

## **1. THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH**

All who are born again are members of the universal church.

1 Cor. 12:13 Eph. 5:25b Col. 1:18 1 Tim. 3:15

## **2. THE LOCAL CHURCH**

### **A. Purpose**

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who have joined together to function as a part of the universal church. The local church is ordained by God and provides a context in which believers corporately worship God, observe the ordinances of the church, are instructed in the faith and are equipped for the evangelization of the world.

Acts 14:23 1 Cor. 16:19 John 4:23 Acts 20:7 Acts 1:8 Acts 11:19-24 2 Tim. 2:2 1 Pet. 5:2

### **B. The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is a symbol, memorial and proclamation of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. This ordinance of communion is to be participated in by believers until Christ's return.

Matt. 26:26-28 1 Cor. 10:16-17 1 Cor. 11:23-26

### **C. Water Baptism**

Water baptism signifies the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection and is practiced by full immersion.

Matt. 28:19 Mark 16:15-16 Acts 2:38,41 Acts 8:36-39 Rom. 6:3-5

## **VIII. THE END OF TIME**

### **1. THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DEAD**

At death, the souls of the believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ, and these remain in constant bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body.

The souls of the unbelievers pass into hell after death and wait for the judgment of the unjust.

2 Cor. 5:8 Phil. 1:21,23-24 Rom. 8:22,23 1 Cor. 15:42-44 2 Cor. 5:1,4b Dan. 12:2 John 5:28-29 2 Thess. 1:7-10 Rev. 20:11-15

### **2. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude this present age.

Rev. 16:12-16 Rev. 17:8,12-14 Rev. 19:11-20:3

### **3. THE FINAL JUDGMENT**

Whoever is not found in the Book of Life, shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to annihilation but to everlasting punishment, which is the second death.

Matt. 25:41b Jude 6 Rev. 20:10,15 Rev. 21:8

### **4. THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS**

The righteous will share the glory of God in the new heaven and the new earth for eternity.

Matt. 13:43 John 17:24 2 Pet. 3:13 Heb. 11:10 Rev. 21:1-2,10,22-23