

## LifePoint Church

Statement of Faith  
Study Version

**Introduction:** This Statement of Faith is a description of what we as a church leadership believe the Word teaches about these topics. It is by far not exhaustive, nor do we claim that it is entirely definitive in each of these areas. They do however describe what we would teach regarding these areas of doctrine.

**God the Father** - In the Scriptures, God declares himself as Creator of all (Deuteronomy 6:4; Colossians 1:16), who has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14), yet who is one in being, essence, and glory (John 10:30). God is Eternal (Psalm 90:2), Infinite (1 Timothy 1:17), and Sovereign (Psalm 93:1; Dan. 4:34-35) God is Omniscient (Psalm 139:1-6), Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-13), Omnipotent (Revelation 19:6), and Unchanging (Malachi 3:6). God is Holy (Isaiah 6:3), Just & Perfect (Deuteronomy 32:4), and Righteous (Exodus 9:27). God is Love (1 John 4:8), Gracious (Ephesians 2:8), Merciful (1 Peter 1:3), and Good (Romans 8:28; Ps 34:8; Ps. 145:7).

**Jesus Christ** - The Scriptures declare the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, who was both fully God and fully man. (Col 2:9) He is the expressed image of the Father, (Heb. 1:3) who, without ceasing to be God, became man in order that He might demonstrate who God is and provide the means of salvation for humanity. (Matthew 1:21; John 1:18; Colossians 1:15) Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. He is fully God and truly man. He lived a perfect, sinless life, (1 Pe. 2:22-23) and His teachings are entirely true (Isaiah 14; Matthew 1:23). The Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all humanity (John 1:12) (1 John 2:2) as a substitutionary sacrifice (Isaiah 53:5-6). We hold that His death is sufficient to provide salvation for all who receive Him as Savior (John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9-13); that our justification is grounded on the shedding of His blood (Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:17); and that it is attested to by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; 1Peter1:3). The Scriptures state that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven in His glorified body (Acts 1:9-10) and is now seated at the right hand of God as our High Priest and Advocate (Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25).

**The Holy Spirit** - The scriptures bear witness to the deity and person of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 5:3-4) It is only through Him that the Body of Christ, the Church, is empowered to obey the **Great Commandment** (Luke. 10:27; John 15:9-17) and the **Great Commission**. (Mt. 28:19-20) He regenerates sinners (Titus 3:5) and indwells believers at the moment of faith in Christ (Romans 8:9) (Act 19:2-7). The work of Redemption was necessary and accomplished God's purposes so that the Spirit of God could indwell the believer by faith. (Gal. 3:13-14) He is the agent by whom Christ baptizes all believers into His body (1 Corinthians 12:13; Mark 1:7,8). He is the seal by whom the Father guarantees the salvation of believers unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14). He is the Divine Teacher who illumines believers' hearts and minds as they study the Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:9-16). The scriptures state that the Holy Spirit is ultimately Sovereign in the distribution of all spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11). We believe that Spiritual gifts are still given today under His Sovereign control and in accordance to the guidelines established for their

expression in the Word as seen in 1 Cor. 12-14. Example lists of gifts are in 1 Cor. 12:7-11, Eph. 4:7-12 and Rom. 12:6-8.

We understand the Scriptures to teach that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is accomplished at the moment of Salvation when the Spirit of God places the new believer into the body of Christ. (Eph. 4:4,5; 1 Cor. 12:13, Eph. 1:11-13) In Eph. 4:5 the Scripture says there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, however we are commanded to be filled continually and in increasing measure with the Spirit at all times for the Glory of God. (Eph. 3:19; 5:18) There may be times in the believer's life when a special filling or empowerment of the Spirit is given for a specific task or purpose. We understand this to be a sovereign work of the Spirit of God where the believer is "filled with the Holy Spirit". (Acts 4:8,29-31;) and will often result in deep transformation of the individual and increased fruitfulness in ministry. However the ongoing "filling" is always contingent on the believer's surrender and yielding to the Spirit of God. (Eph. 4:29-32; Eph. 5:17-21). The gifts of the Spirit are given for the purpose of mission, edification of the body, and the equipping of the saints for works of service, (Eph. 4:12-13) but do not impart spiritual maturity. The true test of spiritual maturity is the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in the believer's life, as seen in Gal. 5:22-25, which in essence reveal the character of Jesus Christ as we are being conformed into His image. (Rom. 8:29)

**The Bible** - The Holy Scriptures are comprised of the Old and New Testaments and they are the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God (Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). We hold the Bible to be inerrant in its original writings, and the complete and final authority for faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17). While still using the individual writing styles of the human authors, the Holy Spirit perfectly guided them to ensure they wrote precisely what He wanted written, without error or omission. (2 Peter 1:20-21) All believers are exhorted to study the Scriptures and diligently apply them to their lives. The scriptures are totally sufficient and must not be added to, superseded, or changed by later tradition, extra-biblical revelation, or worldly wisdom. Every doctrinal formulation, whether of creed, confession, or theology must be put to the test of the full counsel of God within the Holy Scripture.

**Mankind** - The Scriptures declare that God created mankind—male and female—in His own image and likeness, free of sin, for his Glory so that they might enjoy His fellowship forever. Tempted by Satan, but under the sovereignty of God, man freely chose to disobey God, bringing sin, death and condemnation to all mankind. All human beings, therefore, are totally depraved by nature and by choice. Alienated from God without defense or excuse, and subject to God's righteous wrath, all of mankind is in desperate need of the Savior (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19, 23; Romans 1:18, 32).

**Salvation** - Salvation is received by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. (Eph. 2:8,9; Gal. 2:16) When an unbeliever acknowledges his sin and believes in the finished and substitutionary work of Christ on the cross he/she is saved. (John 1:12; Rom. 10:8-10; 1 Cor. 15:3,4) Through faith in Christ, the unbeliever is redeemed, adopted and justified. (Eph. 1:7; Romans 5:1, 8-10; Gal. 3:11,16,24). Good works and obedience are results of salvation, not requirements for salvation. (Eph. 2:8-10) Just as good works cannot earn

salvation, neither does it need good works to be maintained or sustained. However, good works and changed lives are the inevitable results of salvation (James 2).

**Eternal Security of the Believer** - It is God's divine decision to save a person, (Eph. 1:4) and it is God's kindness, forbearance, and patience that lead that person to repentance (Romans 2:4). All glory for the salvation and security of every believer belongs to God alone (Romans 3:21-31; Ephesians 1:7-9; Ephesians 2:8-9, Jude 1:24-25). We understand that, due to the greatness, sufficiency, and perfection of Christ's sacrifice, everyone who is born again by the Spirit through Jesus Christ is eternally assured of salvation from the moment of conversion. (Romans 8:1, 38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24) This assurance relies on God's decisive grace rather than on the works of the Christian. Obedience, good works, and fruit-bearing do not earn or retain the believer's salvation but rather are indications of the person's love for Christ. (Luke 6:46; Luke 7:47; John 14:21; James 2:17-18).

Eternal security in salvation relies on the Lord's guarantee of each believer's adoption as His son or daughter (Galatians 4:4-7), His seal of the believer by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13-14), and the conviction that God gives the Holy Spirit to each believer as a down payment toward future bliss in heaven (2 Corinthians 1:21-22). A person who professes genuine faith in Christ immediately becomes His possession (Acts 2:40-41; Acts 16:31), and nothing can snatch that person out of His hands (John 10:27-29). Having been bought with the price of Jesus Christ's crucifixion as complete payment for sin, Christians are not their own. They are Christ's possession (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). This assurance is absolutely certain, reserved in heaven, protected by God's unlimited power (1 Peter 1:4-5).

**The Church** - The Church is the Body of Christ, a spiritual organism made up of all believers from Pentecost until the Rapture. (1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27; Rev. 21:2,3,9). The Scriptures teach that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two outward Testaments to faith that Jesus left his disciples. Baptism by immersion is the believer's testimony to his personal faith in Jesus Christ and identification with Him, and the Lord's Supper is a remembrance of Christ's death and shed blood (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42, Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). Through the church, believers are to be taught to obey the Lord and to testify concerning their faith in Christ as Savior and to honor Him by holy living. We believe that the Great Commission is the primary mission of the Church, which is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and of Holy Spirit. It is the obligation of all believers to witness, by word, life and deed to the truths of God's Word. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

**Israel and the Church** - The Scriptures state that Israel is God's chosen nation and people to be a light to the nations and through whom reveal the Messiah. (Gen. 12:1-3, Gen.28:13, Psalm 105:9-11, Ps.132:13-14, Rom.9:4,5) God's election of Israel for this unique relationship is irrevocable. (Rom.11:26-29, Jer.31:31-33, Heb.8:8-13, Zech.12:10) The New Covenant instituted by Jesus in the presence of his disciples was then extended to all Gentiles as symbolized by the giving of the Spirit to Cornelius and his household. (Acts 10:1-48; Acts 11:18; Acts 15:6-11) The inclusion of Gentiles into the body of Christ was the

mystery hidden from men's understanding but revealed through the Apostles and prophets, (1 Cor. 2:6-8) namely, that God's plan from eternity was to unite all men, whether Jew or Gentile, into one body through faith in Jesus and thereby create a glorious bride unto the praise of His Glory. (Eph. 3:3-6, Eph. 5:25-26) As Gentile believers, we now participate in the spiritual promises of the Abrahamic covenant, but not the physical promises granted to the nation of Israel. (Gal. 3:7-9) There is also no salvation apart from Jesus Christ, whether one is a Jew or Gentile. (Romans 9:6-8) for "not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are [physically] his offspring." Today, those Jews who do not recognize Jesus as their Messiah are under a God-given blindness (Rom.11:25) until the full completion of His Bride. Finally, because of the rich heritage we have received from the Jewish nation, (John 4:22, Rom.9:24-26) and that through them came Jesus our Lord and Savior, we believe that as Gentile believers we are to show mercy to the Jews (Matth.25:40, Rom.11:30-32), bless them (Gen.12:3) and pray for them. (Ps.122:6)

**Creation vs. Evolution** - The Scriptures bear witness to the fact that God spoke the universe into existence by His Word in six twenty-four hour days and that before He created the universe, nothing except God existed (Genesis 1; Exodus 31:17; Psalm 33:6-9; Acts 17:24; Hebrews 11:3; Colossians 1:16). All the Godhead was present in creation employing his divine power and omniscience through the spoken Word (John 1:1-3) and by the action of the Spirit. (Gen. 1:2) In creation we see God reveal His glory, divine nature, eternal power, infinite wisdom, and supreme authority. (Isaiah 43:7; Psalm 19:1-2; Jeremiah 10:12; Romans 1:20; Revelation 4:11).

The Scriptures teach that all people are descendants of Adam and Eve, whom God created personally and individually and as complete human beings (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:7; Genesis 2:21-22; 1 Corinthians 11:8-9).

**Angels and Demons** - The Scriptures indicate that angels and demons are real, not just some cosmic force. They teach that God created the angels to be His servants and messengers (Dan. 9:20-23; Psalm 148:2; Hebrews 1:14). The Bible teaches the literal and personal existence of Satan who is the fallen angel Lucifer and who led a myriad of angels in rebellion against God (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-15; Luke 10:18). He is the great enemy of God and man, and the demons are his servants in evil (Eph. 6:12-18). He and his demons will be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

**Eschatology (Doctrine of Future Events)** - The Scriptures teach us of the "blessed hope" of the believer, (Titus 2:13) and the personal and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to call away His saints. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). We believe that the scriptures teach of a literal 7 year time of Tribulation that will come upon this earth in judgment for sin during which the Anti-Christ will be revealed and seek to oppose all righteousness and the prosperity of Israel. (Matthew 24,25; Revelation 8-18). The Scriptures teach the visible and bodily return of Christ to the earth with His saints to establish His promised millennial kingdom (Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:9,10; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6). The scriptures teach the physical resurrection of all men—the saints to everlasting joy and bliss, and the wicked to eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-

29; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13). The Scriptures indicate that the souls of believers are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, (2 Cor. 5:8), where they await their resurrection when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23, 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17). The souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until their resurrection when, with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Revelation 20:11-15). After this God will establish the new heaven and new earth wherein will dwell righteousness and peace forever. (Rev. 20-21)

### **FINAL COMMENTS:**

As someone who attends LifePoint you may hold a differing view in regard to something expressed herein. We want to say you are welcome to attend and join our fellowship even if you are not in full agreement with all parts of this Statement of Faith. In that regard, we invite you to dialogue with us so that we might explain more fully why we believe what we have stated and to understand better your perspective on the scriptures.

We do not believe that all things in this affirmation of faith are of equal weight. Some of what is stated here would fall under what we consider "Convictions on Scripture" which are not essential to the heart of the Gospel and to faith in Jesus Christ. We do not believe that every part of this affirmation must be believed in order to be saved. Our desire is to embrace and teach "the whole counsel of God." Our aim is to encourage a hearty adherence to the Bible, the fullness of its truth, and the glory of its Author. We believe Biblical doctrine stabilizes saints in the winds of confusion and strengthens the church so as to give her a response to the great systems of false religion and secularism.

We believe that the strong meat of God-centered doctrine needs to be sustained in an atmosphere and demonstration of Christ-honoring grace so that truth and grace, justice and mercy, and passion and humility are united in the bond of peace.

We believe that the cause of unity in the church is best served by elevating the value of truth, and then demonstrating to the world how Christians can love each other across boundaries rather than by removing them. Only in this way will we see in a small measure what Jesus prayed for in John 17:21 "...that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me."

We do not claim infallibility for this statement of faith and are open to refinement and correction from Scripture. Yet we do hold firmly to these truths as we see them and encourage you to search the Scriptures together with us to see if these things are so. As conversation and debate take place, it may be that we will learn from each other, and the boundaries will be adjusted, even possibly folding formerly disagreeing groups into closer fellowship.

**In closing, these are the doctrines of our faith around which we desire to be united. This means that if you are in leadership or teaching in some capacity within LifePoint, we would ask that it be done in harmony with the positions expressed here. If you believe otherwise, please refrain from teaching your view for the sake of the unity of the body. If this church is or becomes your "home", then we believe God would have us all strive earnestly for the sake of the Gospel and to preserve the unity of this body in the bond of peace and brotherly love.**

Respectfully submitted,

The Elders of LifePoint Church