

## **Faith:**

### **We Believe in one God,<sup>1</sup>**

Creator of all, who is holy, sovereign, eternal,<sup>2</sup> and exists in three equal Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup>

### **We believe in the Father Almighty,<sup>4</sup>**

Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.<sup>5</sup>

We believe that God created Adam and Eve, the first human beings, in his own image, equal before God as persons, and distinct as male and female.<sup>6</sup>

We believe that Adam sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in total depravity, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death. Adam brought forth children of the same nature as himself after the fall. That is to say, being corrupt he brought forth corrupt children. The corruption spread, by God's just judgment, from Adam to all his descendants -except for Christ alone.<sup>7</sup> Therefore, all people are conceived in sin and are born children of wrath, unfit for any saving good, inclined to evil, dead in their sins, and slaves to sin.<sup>8</sup>

### **We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>9</sup>**

The only Son of God, begotten from the Father before all ages, not made;<sup>10</sup>

He is of the same essence as the Father, and through him all things were made.<sup>11</sup>

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven;<sup>12</sup>

he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,<sup>13</sup>

Truly God, He became truly man, two natures in one person.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 44:6, 1 Corinthians 8:4

<sup>2</sup> Genesis 1, Psalm 19:21, Isaiah 46:10, Psalm 90:2

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 28:19, 1 Peter 1:2

<sup>4</sup> 1 Corinthians 8:6

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 146:6, Hebrews 11:3

<sup>6</sup> Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:4-24

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 2:17, Genesis 3:6, Romans 5:12-14, Psalm 51:5,

<sup>8</sup> Ephesians 2:1-3

<sup>9</sup> 1 Corinthians 8:6

<sup>10</sup> John 3:16, John 1:14, John 8:58, Hebrews 5:5

<sup>11</sup> John 10:30, John 1:3

<sup>12</sup> Matthew 1:21, John 3:31

<sup>13</sup> Matthew 1:18-25

<sup>14</sup> Philippians 2:6-8, John 1:1-3

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For us, He kept the Law, and by His perfect life He completely fulfilled the righteous demands of the law on our behalf.<sup>15</sup>

For us, He atoned for sin, was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and satisfied God's wrath as He bore the penalty of our sin by His death on the cross.<sup>16</sup>

He took our filthy rags and gave us His righteous robe.<sup>17</sup>

He willingly suffered, died and was buried.<sup>18</sup>

The third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures.<sup>19</sup>

He ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.<sup>20</sup>

We believe in the forgiveness of sins. God declares us righteous by an act of His grace alone through our faith alone in the person and work of Jesus Christ alone, apart from our own personal merit or works.<sup>21</sup>

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the bodily resurrection of the just and unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and in the judgment and conscious, eternal punishment of the wicked. There is no hope for humanity nor any name or way in which salvation may be found except in Jesus Christ alone.<sup>22</sup>

In the new heaven and the new earth, God will be with His people, and believers will see Jesus Christ face-to-face, will be made like Him, and will enjoy Him forever.<sup>23</sup>

We believe that Christ's Kingdom will never end.<sup>24</sup>

### **And we believe in the Holy Spirit,<sup>25</sup>**

The Lord, the giver of life.<sup>26</sup>

He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.<sup>27</sup>

He spoke through the prophets. We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God; that the sixty six books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments,

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<sup>15</sup> Romans 5:19, Matthew 3:15

<sup>16</sup> Isaiah 53:10-11, Matthew 27:22-26, Romans 3:25

<sup>17</sup> 2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>18</sup> Isaiah 53:7, Matthew 27:27-61, 1 Corinthians 15:3

<sup>19</sup> Matthew 28:1-10, Luke 24:45-46, 1 Corinthians 15:4

<sup>20</sup> Acts 1:6-11, Romans 8:34

<sup>21</sup> Colossians 1:13-14, Romans 3:20-26

<sup>22</sup> Acts 10:42, 2 John 5:24, Thessalonians 1:6-11, Acts 4:12

<sup>23</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:24-28, Revelation 21:1-5

<sup>24</sup> Luke 1:33

<sup>25</sup> John 14:26

<sup>26</sup> 2 Corinthians 3:6, 17-18

<sup>27</sup> John 15:26

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were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error; that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian union.<sup>28</sup>

We believe that God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, based on the work of Jesus Christ, delivers us from the reigning power of sin, sets us apart, and makes us holy by conforming us more and more to the image of His Son.<sup>29</sup>

### **Repentance:**

We understand that saving faith is always paired with repentance which is a pursuit of keeping the commands of the Lord and of battling against those thoughts and actions which are opposed to God's law. Redemption includes Christ keeping the Law on our behalf and leading us in glad obedience to it. We therefore understand the following truths about the Law are essential to understanding the true nature of the redemption which Christ paid for with His blood:

#### **The Law of God,**

which expresses God's holy character,  
which was broken by Adam,  
which shows fallen humans our need for redemption,  
which Christ perfectly kept in our place  
and which the Holy Spirit leads the redeemed in glad obedience to,  
is summarized in God's Word in the Great Commandment and the Ten Commandments

#### **The Great Commandment:**

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.*<sup>30</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> 1 Peter 1:10-11, 2 Timothy 3:15-17

<sup>29</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:11, Romans 8:29

<sup>30</sup> Matthew 22:37-39

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### **The Ten Commandments:**<sup>31</sup>

#### **The First Commandment:**

*And God spoke all these words, saying,*

*“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

*You shall have no other gods before me.*

By this we understand that we are to know, trust, worship and enjoy God as the only true and living God.

#### **The Second Commandment:**

*You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.*

*You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.*

By this we understand that we are to avoid all idolatry and are not to worship God improperly.

#### **The Third Commandment:**

*You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.*

By this we understand that we are to treat God’s name with fear and reverence, honouring also his Word and works.

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<sup>31</sup> Exodus 20:1-17, Deuteronomy 5:6-21, Matthew 5:17-28

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### **The Fourth Commandment:**

*Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.*

By this we understand that we are to spend time in public and private worship of God on the day of the week set aside for this, to serve the Lord and others, and so anticipate the eternal Sabbath rest.

### **The Fifth Commandment**

*Honour your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.*

By this we understand that we are to love and honour our father and our mother, submitting to their godly discipline and direction.

### **The Sixth Commandment**

*You shall not murder.*

By this we understand that we are not to hurt, or hate, or be hostile to our neighbour, but be patient and peaceful, pursuing even our enemies with love. Humans are made in the image of God, whether born or unborn, able-bodied or disabled. We are thus commanded by God to protect and defend their lives. Therefore, abortion, enslavement, suicide, euthanasia, assisted suicide and racism are all to be seen as forms of murder, and thus stand in contradiction to the love, character, and commands of the Lord.

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### **The Seventh Commandment**

*You shall not commit adultery.*

By this we understand that we are to abstain from sexual immorality and live purely and faithfully, whether in marriage or in single life, avoiding all impure actions, looks, words, thoughts, or desires, and whatever might lead to them. God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside of marriage and fidelity within marriage. Affections, desires, or commitments cannot justify sexual activity before or outside marriage and do not justify any form of sexual immorality. God has designed marriage to be a covenantal, sexual, procreative, lifelong union of one man and one woman, as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride the church.

### **The Eighth Commandment**

*You shall not steal.*

By this we understand that we are not to take without permission that which belongs to someone else, nor withhold any good from someone we might benefit.

### **The Ninth Commandment**

*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.*

By this we understand that we are not to lie or deceive, but speak the truth in love.

### **The Tenth Commandment**

*You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's.*

By this we understand that we are to be content, not envying anyone or resenting what God has given them or us.