

ACTS FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. The Bible: We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It tells us of God's covenant (contract) with mankind. All doctrine and correction within the church are established and carried out by the Bible. (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 2:13)

2. Love: We believe that love is the most important attribute of the Christian faith. We love those who oppose us as well as one another. Love is the character of God, and is more important than any gift, sign, or miracle in the Christian life. (1 Corinthians 13; 1 John 4:7-12; Mark 12:28-31)

3. Salvation: We believe that you receive eternal life by believing that Jesus Christ died, shed His blood on your behalf, and rose again from the dead. You affirm your faith in this fact by praying to our Father God in Jesus' name, and pledging to serve Jesus Christ as Lord and King of your life. God's salvation extends to all the human race regardless of skin color or nationality. (John 3:16; Romans 10:8-10; Ephesians 2:8)

4. Faith Is Expressed with Action: We believe that proclaimed faith in Christ without a corresponding, Christian lifestyle is futile and self-deceptive. True faith in Christ must be professed in word and demonstrated in actions. When you are born again, you immediately begin to put off the old life and put on the new day by day. (James 2:14-26; Matthew 7:13-27; Romans 12:2, 6:1-23; Ephesians 5:1-16; 2 Peter 1:4-10)

5. Water Baptism: We believe in water baptism by immersion. Water baptism is an outward expression of the inward work that took place in your heart when you were born again. Being buried in water symbolizes dying to your old life and coming up out of the water symbolizes being born again to live a new Christian life. (Matthew 3:13-17; Acts 2:38, 8:35-38)

6. Holy Spirit Baptism: We believe that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for every Christian today. Christians were baptized in water and the Holy Spirit in the Bible. If water baptism is still for today, then Holy Spirit baptism is still for today. Those filled with the Holy Spirit in the Bible spoke with other tongues. A person who is baptized with the Holy Spirit today will speak with other tongues. This experience is received subsequent to salvation. (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:4-8, 2:1-18)

7. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit: We believe that the gifts of the Spirit are supernatural endowments of God to bring blessing and revelation to the church. These gifts are accompanied with miracles, signs, and wonders. Each Spirit-filled believer can experience these gifts in their life. (1 Corinthians 12:1-11)

8. Divine Healing: We believe that God provided divine healing and health in the atoning work of Christ. Sickness is not from God but it came into the earth through man's disobedience to God. Satan is the author of all sickness and death. Jesus came to free the human race from sickness and give us eternal life. Laying on of hands, anointing with oil, and the gifts of the Spirit are ways divine healing is administered in the church. (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:24; Acts 10:38; Luke 13:10-16; Genesis 3:1-24)

9. The Confession of God's Word: We believe that the confession of God's Word is an integral part of Christianity. The confession of God's Word is not to make God do anything for you. All things of God already belong to the Christian, but you must obtain them by faith. The purpose of confession is to get you in faith and keep you in faith until the manifestation comes. Confession is for your benefit not God's. (Matthew 21:21; Mark 11:23, 5:25-34; Hebrew 11:3; Romans 10:17; 2 Corinthians 1:20)

10. The Trinity of the Godhead: We believe that God is one but manifested in three persons. The Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, with all being co-equal. (Matthew 3:16-17; John 14:7-11; Philippians 2:6; Revelation 5:1-14)

11. The Return of Jesus Christ for the Saints: We believe that Jesus will descend from heaven into the clouds of earth. Christians who are buried will be raised from the dead and given immortal bodies. They will ascend to meet the Lord in the air. Christians that are alive will be changed from mortal to immortal and ascend to meet the Lord in the air. (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 1 Corinthians 15: 42-55)

12. The Millennial Reign of Christ on Earth: We believe after the tribulation period Jesus will return to reign on earth for one thousand years. The saints will return with Christ and rule with Him. During this thousand years, Satan will be bound and not able to deceive the people on earth. (Revelation 20:1-4)

13. Forgiveness of Sin for Christians: We believe that once you are born again and commit sin you can be forgiven. You must forgive all those who have wronged you in order for God to forgive you. You must confess your sin to God and turn away from it fully intent on not committing sin again. (1 John 1:9; Mark 11:25-26)

14. The Reality of Hell: We believe those who physically die without Jesus Christ as their Lord spend forever in the lake of fire being tormented day and night. Hell was made for Satan and the fallen angels, but all people who choose to follow Satan will go to the lake of fire with him. (Matthew 5:22-30; Luke 16:19-24; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 20:10)

15. Giving Financially: We believe that the church is to be supported with tithes and offerings. Each week, Christian church members tithe one tenth of their income toward the support of the church because of their love for God. Christians are also instructed to give offerings to the Lord for the building of the church and the Kingdom of God throughout the world. Tithes and offerings to God have been carried out since the beginning. Giving tithes and offerings places you in a position to reap financial blessings. It is called sowing and reaping in the Bible. A farmer only reaps what he plants. We believe in sowing into Biblical ministries that are reaching the world for Christ. (Genesis 4:3-5, 8:20-22, 14:18-20, 28:20-22; Malachi 3:7-10; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9: 6-11)

16. Pastoral Leadership: Jesus said that the people fainted and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd. Pastors are referred to in the Bible as shepherds. Pastors are to lead people into a successful Christian life. This is God's chain of authority in the Bible. God used individuals such as Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Jesus, Peter, James, John, Paul, Timothy, etc. to lead His people. We believe the pastor is the leader of the local church who seeks the Lord for the direction of the church. He shares this direction with the people through Biblical preaching and teaching. As the expressed authority of God to the local church, it is imperative that the pastor lead the people as God leads him. In this responsibility there should be no compromise. (Matthew 9:36; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 4:12, 5:17; Titus 1:5-11)

17. Ministry of Helps: We believe that each person in the body of Christ has a special ministry to fulfill. When each person flows in their ministry the church runs as one anointed operation to meet the needs of the people. The ministry of helps allows the pastor/minister to be in a position to spend more time in prayer and the ministry of the Word. We believe every church should assist each Christian in finding their place and fulfilling their ministry with joy. (Numbers 11:16-17; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Acts 6:1-7; Luke 10:1-2)

18. Five-Fold Ministry Offices: We believe that the Apostle, Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher are ministry offices that are still in operation today. No single ministry office is superior to the others. They are all equal and necessary in the Body of Christ. They are for the perfecting of the saints and are supernatural, endowed with the gifts of the Spirit. The church will never mature until all these offices are in their place and impart anointings and revelations to the church world. (Ephesians 4:7-16; 1 Corinthians Chapter 12)

19. Ministers' Dress and Appearance: Men and women should dress to respect God and the office they are called to. They are to Respect and Reverence their office of Ministry. Men should dress dignified in the pulpit, appropriate to respectable, dignified dress of the country they reside in. Listen to the Spirit of God. He will lead you into a disciplined lifestyle. Women should dress modestly and not wear clothes that are revealing in any way. The Rock Star/Stripper mentality has no place in the Kingdom of God. Tattoos, body piercings and weird hairstyles are the way of the world and are to be avoided. The Bible teaches ministers should be dignified and disciplined in dress, appearance and conduct. (1 Timothy 3:1-7 Amp.; James 3:1; Exodus 28:2, 29:29, 31:10, 35:10; Proverbs 7:1-23; Deuteronomy 14:1; 1 Kings 18:28; Leviticus 19:28, 21:5; Revelation 13:16, 17:5, 19:20)

20. Marriage and Sexual Relations: The Church shall not sanction or conduct any marriage between persons of the same gender. God instituted monogamous marriage between male and female as the foundation of the family, the basic structure of human society. (Genesis 2:24) For this reason, homosexuality, and all other "sexual preferences" or "orientations" are unnatural, sinful and unacceptable to God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in other than in the context of marriage between a man and a woman. (Genesis 19:5, 26:8-11; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

21. Homosexuality and Other Sexual Perversions: Any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, fornication, adultery, and pornography use are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex between a man and a woman in marriage. Homosexuality is sin, detestable to God, and inconsistent with the Christian life. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13)