

SW GMTC Declaration of Faith

WE BELIEVE:

BIBLE:

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God. In recording the Bible, God supernaturally directed the human authors so that, using their individual personalities, they composed without error His message to man. All of the words of Scripture in the original writings were fully and equally inspired and without any error, and God has preserved His word for us today. For these reasons, we are committed to the Bible as the final authority in all matters of doctrine (faith) and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 17:17)

GOD:

We believe that only one God exists, but that He exists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each of these Persons has the same divine nature, attributes and perfection. (Deuteronomy 6:4; 4:35; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Acts 5:3-4)

JESUS:

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man having been miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. In becoming fully man Jesus did not cease to be fully God. He lived a sinless life and voluntarily died on Calvary's cross, the Just dying for the unjust, making it possible for man to be saved. We believe He rose bodily from the dead on the third day, and after He had showed Himself to numerous groups of people for approximately forty days, ascended back into Heaven to the right hand of the Father. Presently, He is our Intercessor and Advocate, the only true Mediator between God and man. (John 1:1,14; Luke 1:35; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 10:17-18; 1 Peter 3:18; 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; Hebrews 1:3; 7:25; 1 Timothy 2:5)

HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God. He is truly a Divine Person and is equal with the Father and the Son. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates, baptizes, seals, indwells, fills, enlightens, guides and empowers the believer for godly living and service. He is ever present to testify of Christ, seeking to occupy us with Him and not with ourselves or our experiences. We believe that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer at the moment of salvation in order that they may serve God and edify (build up) the body of Christ. Some of these gifts were granted temporarily for the establishment of the church and the authenticity of revealed truth. (Acts 5:3-4; John 16:8,13,14; Acts 1:8; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 2:19-20; 4:7-16; Hebrews 2:3-4; 6:5)

MAN:

We believe that God created man from the dust of the ground and that man was created in the image and likeness of God. When the first man (Adam) sinned all humanity fell,

inheriting a sinful nature and becoming totally alienated from God. Since Adam, every human--the sole exception being Jesus Christ--is born with a sinful nature and is under the curse of both physical and spiritual death. In this fallen condition, man is left totally depraved and unable to remedy his own sinful situation. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Romans 3:10-12,23; 5:12; 6:16-20; 8:7; Ephesians 2:1- 3,12)

SALVATION:

We believe that salvation is received only by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and that redemption has been accomplished solely and completely by the shed blood of Christ who was made to be sin and a curse for us. Salvation involves repentance which is a turning toward God and away from sin and is a part of but not separate from believing faith. Salvation is a gift received through faith, not a merit earned by works. We believe that salvation involves deliverance from the penalty of sin at the moment of justification, victory over the power of sin during the Christian life, and deliverance from the presence of sin at glorification. When a person truly believes in and receives the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior--and God is the One who knows this--that person is born into the family of God and will, without any exceptions, be with Christ forever. (Romans 3:24; 6:23; John 3:7-18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8- 10; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Acts 16:30-31; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 3:20-21; John 6:38-40; 10:27-29; Romans 8:38-39)

CHURCH:

We believe that the Church, the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons saved from Pentecost (Acts 2) to the Rapture. We believe that every believer, at the moment of salvation, is baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. We believe that there are to be local churches as the visible representation of the body of Christ in the local community. These local churches are to observe the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's supper and to seek to do the will of God. We believe that the local church should be totally committed to the edifying of believers and should have an active outreach in evangelism. (Ephesians 1:20-23; 5:23-32; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:1-4; 11:15; John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Acts 20:28, Matthew 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-16)

SEPARATION:

We believe that all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. We believe that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God. (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14- 7:1)

MISSIONS:

We believe it is the responsibility of every believer to be involved in the proclamation of the Gospel to every creature. We believe that the church should be careful not to neglect the evangelism and discipleship of people during their childhood. (Mark 16:15; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20; Acts 1:8; Mark 10:13-16; Matthew 18:1-14)

THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST:

We believe that the return of Jesus Christ in the air for His bride (the Church) is imminent. It could happen at any moment. Following the rapture of the Church, the seven-year Tribulation period (Daniel's 70th Week) will take place. Following the Tribulation the Millennium will begin. This will come about when our Lord Jesus Christ returns to the earth literally, visibly and bodily at the end of the Tribulation to rule and reign for 1,000 years. (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Daniel 9:24-27; Zechariah 14:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10; Revelation 19; 20)

THE ETERNAL STATE:

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they will be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (Matthew 25:41-46; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Thessalonians 1:7- 9; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; Hebrews 9:27)

THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN:

We believe that Satan is an angelic person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Job 1:6- 7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-15; Matthew 4:2-11; Revelation 20:10)