

ALDEN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

STATEMENT OF FAITH

WE BELIEVE the Bible to be the inspired, infallible and only authoritative Word of God. God's word is the final authority for faith and life.

[*2 Timothy 3:16-17, Proverbs 30:5-6, Matthew 5:18, Psalm 18:30, John 17:17*]

WE BELIEVE in the triune Godhead, as God has revealed, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

[*1 Corinthians 12:1-6, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Colossians 1:15-20, Acts 5:3-4*]

WE BELIEVE that God created all things, seen and unseen, and created man in His own image, male and female, and that all human life, from conception to death, is to be valued above all things.

[*Genesis 1:1-27, 2:7, 2:20-24; Psalm 139:13-14; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Matthew 19:4; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 11:3*]

WE BELIEVE marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime and is a sacred institution established by God.

[*Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-25; Matthew 5:31-32, 19:1-6*]

WE BELIEVE that sexual purity is a necessary expression of all who profess faith in God through Jesus Christ and requires abstinence from adultery, fornication, incest, homosexuality or other sexual relationships or practices forbidden by Scripture.

[*1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 6:18; Galatians 5:19-21; Hebrews 13:4*]

WE BELIEVE in the Gospel of Jesus Christ: His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death and atonement for the sins of mankind through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father and His imminent return.

[*John 3:16, 6:27-29; Acts 10:33-48, 16:29-34; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 3:13, 20:17; Luke 24:50-51; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:10-11; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 22:6-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Peter 3:12; Acts 1:11; Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 7:14*]

WE BELIEVE that every person is born in sin and in need of redemption and forgiveness for sin through belief in the Gospel of Jesus Christ; for it is by faith alone, through grace alone, that we believe, repent (turn from sin) and are saved.

[*Romans 3:23, John 6:29, Romans 10:9-10, Acts 16:29-34, Ephesians 2:8-10*]

WE BELIEVE in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: those that are saved are resurrected to eternal life and those that are lost are resurrected for eternal judgment and are separated from God's glory for all eternity.

[*Matthew 7:21-23, John 5:28-29, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10, Revelation 20:15*]

WE BELIEVE that Baptism is for all who have believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the first step in becoming a disciple of Jesus Christ, thus bearing witness to the gospel of Christ's death, burial and resurrection and our own new life in Him.

[*Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:1-4; Acts 8:30-39, 10:33-48, 16:29-34*]

WE BELIEVE in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at salvation and being filled with the Holy Spirit and power over and over as we continue to walk in faith throughout our lives, fulfilling God's purpose and calling. The Holy Spirit indwells each believer and empowers us to be his witnesses.

[*1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 5:15-18; Galatians 3:1-5, 5:16-18; 1 Corinthians 1:21-22; 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12, Acts 1:8*]

WE BELIEVE that by God's grace and the Holy Spirit's power we can do all that God commands. We have all we need through Him to live Godly lives and fulfill His will for each one of us.

[*1 John 4:4, 1 Corinthians 2:4-16, Colossians 1:27, Philippians 1:27-29, 4:13, Galatians 5:16, 2 Peter 1:3-11, Romans 12:1-2, Matthew 6:9-10, Romans 7:21-25*]

WE BELIEVE that we are sanctified (set apart, made holy) at salvation and are free from the penalty of sin. However, sanctification is also an ongoing process in which the believer grows in knowledge and the fruit of the Spirit is increasingly seen in him. Through the indwelling Spirit, we are free from the power of sin in our lives and, with the help of God and our brothers and sisters in Christ, we grow stronger in resisting the temptation of all sin. This walk with the Lord ends with our glorification, being made perfect and free from the presence of sin.

[*Romans 3:23-24, 6:23, 5:6-9, 8:1-4; John 8:36; Galatians 3:13/Romans 6:14, 6:16-18, 6:22, 8:2; Galatians 5:16; 1 John 5:3-5/John 1:5, Colossians 3:2-4, Revelation 21:22-27, 1 John 3:2-3/Galatians 5:22-23*]

WE BELIEVE the Church of Jesus Christ is composed of all believers and is called to continue to fulfill the Great Commission until He returns.

[*Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 24:45-53, John 20:21, Acts 1:8*]

WE BELIEVE that the local church, though united with the greater body of churches who hold to Christ's teachings, is autonomous and walks under and answers to the authority of its Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

[*1 Peter 5:1-4; 1 Corinthians 11:1-3, 3:10-11; Ephesians 1:22, 5:22-25*]

WE BELIEVE that the local church is called to be a "family of families," the household of God with elders overseeing the church just as a father oversees his own family.

[*Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Colossians 3:18-25; 1 Peter 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9, 2:1-10; 1 Timothy 3:1-7, 3:14-15*]

WE BELIEVE that the members of the local church body meet regularly to worship, for the preaching of God's word, to celebrate Communion, to fellowship, to pray and to serve one another.

[*1 Corinthians 14:26, Hebrews 10:23-25, Acts 2:42*]

WE BELIEVE in the plurality of elders to oversee and care for the local church, to teach and preach the Word and to equip its members for works of ministry within and outside of the church.

[*Acts 14:21-23, 1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5, Philippians 1:1, 1 Peter 5:1-4, Ephesians 4:11-16, 2 Timothy 4:1-5*]