

## Reviewing and Refreshing our Doctrinal Statement

Salvation:

### **Current:**

#### The Body of Christ:

We believe that the Universal Church, which is His body, is composed of all the true believers (those who have been born again through a personal acceptance of Christ as Savior) from Pentecost to the rapture. That this Church was brought into being on the day of Pentecost and since that time others have been and are being added to the Church as they personally accept Christ as Savior. And that all believers are the Bride of Christ and shall never be separated from Him. Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Timothy 3:1-7

#### Of the Church:

We believe that the Church is manifest through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in it by His work; that its officers are bishops or pastors and deacons; that it has the absolute right of self-government directed by the Holy Spirit and it is answerable only to Christ, and that in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence the will of the local church is final. Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:4-5; 7:17; 11:16

### **Suggested Revision:**

We believe that the Universal Church, which is Christ's body, is composed of all believers from Pentecost to the rapture; that believers are added to the church by Spirit baptism at the moment of belief; that all believers are the Bride of Christ and shall never be separated from Him (John 10:28, 29; Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 12:12, 13; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 3:6).

We believe that the local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising its gifts; that its officers are pastors and deacons; that cooperation with other churches can be beneficial; and that it has the absolute right of self-government directed by the Holy Spirit, answering only to Christ, and in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence having the final say (Acts 2:41-47; 6:1-7; Romans 6:1-4; 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 11:23-26; Ephesians 5:18, 23-24; 1 Timothy 3:1-15).

### Universal Church:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 1:22, 23)
  - a. All \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 3:6)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ baptism (1 Corinthians 12:12, 13)
3. All believers are:
  - a. The \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Corinthians 11:2)
  - b. Never to be \_\_\_\_\_ from Him (John 10:28, 29)

### Local Church:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ believers (Romans 6:1-4)
2. \_\_\_\_\_ by (Acts 2:41-47):
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ of faith
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ of the gospel
3. Observing \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:41)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

QUESTION: Why is foot-washing not an ordinance?

4. Governed by His \_\_\_\_\_ (Ephesians 5:23, 24)
5. Exercising \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 12:6-8)
6. Two offices:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

b. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

QUESTION: Can a church have other offices/officers?

QUESTION: What if a church does not have both of those offices?

7. \_\_\_\_\_ with other churches (Romans 15:25, 26)

8. \_\_\_\_\_

a. \_\_\_\_\_ by Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

b. \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ (Ephesians 5:23, 24)

c. \_\_\_\_\_ by congregation (Acts 6:1-7)