

# CROSSWAY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

### **THE BIBLE** (II TIMOTHY 3:16; II PETER 1:20-21; PSALM 119:105:160; PROVERBS 30:5)

We believe the Bible to be inspired by God and written down by people of his choosing. It speaks with God's authority through the individual styles and personalities of those who wrote it down. It teaches us how to live God-honoring lives, points out when we disobey God, shows us how to correct our ways, and how to continue on God's path. The Bible is the trustworthy final authority on what is believed, taught, and practiced by this church. There are no other writings thus inspired by God.

### **GOD** (GENESIS 1:26, 27 AND 3:22; PSALM 90:2; MATTHEW 28:19; I PETER 1:2; II CORINTHIANS 13:14)

We believe in the one true and holy God, eternally existing in three separate persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. By his power, God created the world displaying his wisdom, goodness, and creativity. God continues to work throughout history by sustaining his creation and fulfilling his redemptive plan.

### **JESUS CHRIST** (JOHN 1:1-5; HEBREWS 4:14-15; COLOSSIANS 1:15-20; MATTHEW 16:16; COLOSSIANS 2:9)

Jesus Christ is eternally equal with, and the same as, God the Father. He became a man through a miraculous conception and a virgin birth. He lived a perfect life, committing no sin. He voluntarily died on the cross for our sins, bodily rose from the dead on the third day, and ascended into heaven. Jesus will return at God's appointed time to judge all of mankind according to God's plan.

### **THE HOLY SPIRIT** (I CORINTHIANS 12; EPHESIANS 2:10; JOHN 16: 4-15)

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, coexisting and coequal with God the Father and God the Son. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin and righteousness. The Holy Spirit comes to live within every Christian at the point of salvation to empower them for spiritual growth and to build up the church, the body of Christ, through the use of spiritual gifts.

### **SALVATION** (ROMANS 6:23; EPHESIANS 2:8-9; JOHN 14:6; JOHN 1:12; TITUS 3:5; ROMANS 6:23)

Man was created in the image of God to have fellowship with, and glorify him. Man, however, sinned against God by choosing his own way. Everyone who has ever lived, except Jesus Christ, has sinned against God and is therefore separated from him. Salvation, which reconciles man to God, is available only through the person and work of Jesus Christ. Anyone can receive God's extended offer of salvation by freely choosing to put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ. This salvation is a free gift from God and is not earned in any way.

**THE CHRISTIAN LIFE** (COLOSSIANS 1:28-29; GALATIANS 4:19; EPHESIANS 4:11-16, 5:1-2 )

The result of a saving relationship with Jesus Christ is a life that is being transformed to be like Jesus. Our part of this process is to yield our lives to the Holy Spirit through appropriate spiritual disciplines. God's part of this process is to transform us, from the inside out, into the image of Christ.

**HUMAN DESTINY** (II TIMOTHY 2:12; REVELATION 14:13; MATTHEW 7:23, 8:12; MATTHEW 25:46)

Every man and woman who has ever lived will one day stand before God in judgment. Those who have rejected God and his offer of grace through Jesus will be eternally separated from God in condemnation. Believers will enjoy eternal communion and fellowship with God.

**THE CHURCH** (ACTS 2:42-47; ROMANS 12:1-13; I CORINTHIANS 12:12-13:13)

All those who experience union with Christ through salvation are united with his body, the Church. The Bible instructs believers to gather together in devotion to fellowship, worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of the ordinances, service to the body, and outreach to the world. Wherever Christians meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the Church. Under the watch care and guidance of Elders and other supportive leadership, its members are to work together in love and unity to extend the Kingdom of God on the earth.

**ORDINANCES** (BAPTISM: MATTHEW 28:19; ACTS 2:38; ROMANS 6:3; GALATIANS 3:27)  
(THE LORD'S SUPPER: I CORINTHIANS 11:23-26; I CORINTHIANS 10:16; ACTS 20:7)

We teach that two ordinances have been committed to the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism by immersion, after trusting in Christ as Savior, is an act of obedience that symbolizes the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ and is a testimony to one's death to sin and resurrection to new life. It is also a sign of fellowship and identification with Christ and the Church, which is the body of Christ.

The Lord's Supper is a commemoration, proclamation, and celebration of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Whereas the bread and the juice are only representative of the body and blood of Christ, the Lord's Supper is nevertheless an actual communion with the risen Christ, who is present in a spiritual way. We offer the Lord's Supper weekly. Believers should use this time to recognize the need for, ask for, and give thanks for the grace of Christ, recommit their lives to following him, and be attentive to their responsibility as a member of the body of Christ.