

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that only the sixty-six books of the Bible are the inspired and therefore, inerrant Word of God. (*Matthew 5:18; John 10:35, 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21*)

We believe the one true God exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and these, being one God, are equal in deity, power, and glory. (*Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6*)

We believe Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man; that He was conceived and born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and offered Himself as a sacrifice for sinners. By His blood shed at the cross He obtained for us eternal redemption, forgiveness of sins, and life everlasting. He was raised bodily on the third day and ascended to the right hand of the Father, there to make intercession for the saints forever. (*Matthew 1:18-25; Romans 8:34; I Corinthians 15:2-28; Galatians 3:10-14; Philippians 2:6-11; Hebrews 7:25, 9:13-15; I Peter 2:21-25*)

We believe salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. No ritual, work, or any other activity of man is accepted or required in order to be saved. This saving grace of God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, also sanctifies us by enabling us to do what is pleasing in God's sight that we might be progressively conformed to the image of Christ. (*John 1:12-13; Romans 8:1-17, 10:8-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:3-7*)

We believe Jesus Christ baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit, in whom we also are sealed for the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit regenerates, forever indwells, and graciously equips Christians for godly living and service. Following conversion, the Spirit desires to fill, empower, and anoint believers for ministry and witness. We believe all the gifts of the Spirit described in the New Testament are operative today and designed to empower and edify the Church to fulfill its calling and mission. (*Matthew 3:11; Acts 4:29-30, Romans 8:9, 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:12-13; II Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14*)

We believe when Christians die they pass immediately into the presence of Christ to enjoy conscious fellowship with the Savior until the day of the resurrection and the glorious transformation of their bodies. The saved will then forever dwell in fellowship with God. We believe when unbelievers die they are consigned to hell to await the Day of Judgment when they will be punished in the lake of fire with eternal, conscious, tormented separation from the presence of God. (*Luke 16:19-31; John 5:25-29; I Corinthians 15:35-57; Philippians 1:19-26; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-22:15*)

We believe in the literal second coming of Christ at the end of the age when He will return to earth to consummate His kingdom. We believe the Church will go through the Great Tribulation in power and victory and will be raptured at its end. We also believe in a great end-time harvest of souls and in the emergence of a victorious Church that will experience unprecedented unity, purity, and spiritual power. (*John 17:20-26; I Corinthians 15:20-28, 51-58; I Thessalonians 4:13-5:10; Revelation 7:9-14*)

We believe God's primary instrument through which He is fulfilling His redemptive purposes in the earth is the Church. To equip the saints for the work of ministry, He has given apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers. He has called the Church to preach the gospel to all nations, especially to remember the poor and minister to their needs through sacrificial giving and practical service. This ministry is an expression of the heart of Jesus and is an essential part of the kingdom of God. (*Isaiah 58:6-12, 61:1; Matthew 5:3-11; 16:17-19; 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:11-16*)

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including the pre-born, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (*Psalms 139*)

The ministry may not in good conscience materially cooperate in activities or beliefs that are contrary to its faith. Allowing its facilities to be used by persons or groups who hold, advance, or advocate beliefs, or advance, advocate, or engage in practices that contradict our statement of faith would be material cooperation with that activity, and would be a grave violation of our sacred trust. Founder and director Cat French, or her official designee, must approve all uses of ministry buildings and grounds. (*II Corinthians 6:14; I Thessalonians 5:22*)

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (*Matthew 15:18-20; I Corinthians 6:9-10*)

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably created each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (*Genesis 1:26-27*) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, the ministry will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Staff shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. The ministry's facilities and property shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself is the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and proper conduct. It is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Elijah Rising's doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our apostolic mentor, along with Cat French and the board of directors are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application of anything within the specific purview of Elijah Rising.