

Statement of Faith

VILLAGE CHURCH ILLINOIS

Building Disciples &
Churches Who Go,
Grow, & Overcome

VILLAGE  CHURCH

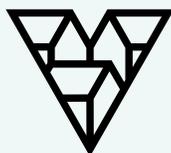


Section 1

The Bible

We believe that the Bible is made up of sixty-six books written by people moved and inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:19-21). Each book is without error in the original writings (Ps 119:160). The Bible is authoritative and true for all people, regardless of human opinion (2 Tim 3:16-17, Heb 4:12-13).

We believe the Bible is the complete written revelation of God's character and will for the salvation of mankind (Rm 10:17). The Bible is sufficient to inform and guide all people for holy living and godliness (Ps 19:7-9; 2 Tim 3:16-17). God has divinely preserved (Mt 24:35) and protected His Word through reliable translation throughout the ages. Scripture can be understood by all (Ps 119:130), but only believed and obeyed by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor 4:3-4).



Section 2

God

We believe in one God that eternally exists as three distinct Persons — yet one in essence, substance, and power — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity; neither confusing the Persons nor dividing the substance. Each Person is fully God, co-equal in glory and majesty. Each Person of the Trinity is equal in every divine perfection, yet carries out distinct but harmonious offices in Their work.

God the Father initiates and administers. The Father exists as an infinite and personal Spirit (Jn 4:24) perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, knowledge, and love (1 Cor. 8:6; Jms 1:5; 1 Jn 4:7-8). Immortal and eternal (Gen 1:1; 1Jn 1:1-3), He perfectly and exhaustively knows the end from the beginning (Is 46:9-10; Rm 11:33-36; Rev 21:6). He sovereignly allows, ordains, or permits all the details of the universe (Gen 1:1-3; Rm 9:16-18). He raised Jesus from the dead (Acts 3:15; 5:30-32), mercifully concerns Himself with the affairs of humankind (Ex 20:2-3), hears and answers prayer (1Jn 5:14), and uniquely loves (Rm 8:15; Eph 2:4-5) all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ (Jn 5:26-27; 10:29). He generously provides for their needs and releases them from eternal death (Rom 6:23; 2 Cor 9:12).

God the Son reveals and redeems. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, (Jn 1:1-2, 18; Col 1:15). All things have been created by Him and through Him (Col 1:16). Having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, Jesus is by character and nature fully God and fully man (Mt 1:20; Jn 8:23-24, 58; 14:9). He lived a sinless life, gave up His life as the atonement for sin (1 Jn 4:14-15; Gal 4:4-6; 1Jn 2:22-23), was bodily resurrected from the grave (1Cor 15:4), ascended to heaven, sits at the right hand of God the Father (Eph 1:20), and continually intercedes on behalf of those who believe in Him (Rm 8:34; 1Jn 2:2). He will visibly return to rescue those whom He has redeemed and to judge the lost (Mt 25:31-46; Jn 5:22-23; Col 1:18; 1 Thess 4:13-18). On that day, Jesus will reign over all of humanity and creation in love, joy, peace, and righteousness (Is 9:7; Lk 1:32-33).

God the Holy Spirit executes and carries out God's plans. The Holy Spirit is the effectual worker of the Godhead in creation (Gen 1:1-3), regeneration (Lk 24:49; Jn 3:5-6; Rm 8:14-16), sanctification (1 Cor 6:11; Heb 2:11), and preservation (2 Cor 1:22; Eph 4:30). The Holy Spirit's ministry is to glorify Jesus by implementing His redeeming grace to save the lost (Rom 8:14-16; Gal 4:6-7), empowering the followers of Jesus for godly living and service (Gal 5:16), and leading believers into truth (Jn 16:13). He brings conviction to the world of sin, righteousness (Jn 16:7-9, 13), and Jesus' judgment to come (Jn 5:22-23). The Spirit indwells (Jn 14:17), seals (Eph 1:13-14), baptizes at the moment of conversion (1 Cor 12:13), and preserves followers of Jesus for their eternal rescue. We recognize the Spirit of God as the source of all genuine heart change and transformation (Rm 12:1-2, 2 Cor 3:18). The Holy Spirit enables fruit to be produced in the Christian life (Rm 8:14; Eph 5:18-19; Gal 5:22-23) and without the Holy Spirit all of our efforts are futile. (Col 1:29).



Section 3

Humanity

We believe that God created a historical Adam and Eve unique from the rest of creation, without sin, male and female, in His own image, and after His likeness. Adam and Eve were created to enjoy fellowship with God and commissioned to rule over His creation with care and to fill the earth for His glory (Gen 1:26-27; Gen 3:1-6; Mk 10:6).

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We believe humanity desperately requires the work of the Holy Spirit to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and be reconciled into a right relationship with God (1 Cor 15:21-22; Ti 3:3-7 Eph. 2:1; Rm 6:23; Jms 1:14-15, Eph. 2:1; Rm 6:23).



Section 4

Salvation

We believe that there is no work that we can do to earn or lose our salvation (Gal 3:2-3). Our salvation has been accomplished by Jesus through His sinless life and atoning death (2 Cor 5:21).

We believe that by grace alone, through faith alone, and in Jesus alone, Christians have been changed from enemies of God to God's beloved children through adoption (Jn 1:12-13; Gal 4:5; Eph 5:1).

Through this grace Christians are declared to be forgiven (1 Jn. 1:9) and righteous (Rm 3:24; 1 Jn 3:9; 5:1-2, Eph 2:1-10; 4:32; Col 1:13-14; 21-22; 1 Jn 1:9). By this same grace we are given a new nature, conformed into the image of Jesus (2 Cor 3:18), and given the guarantee of eternal life with Jesus (Jn 3:16-17; 1 Jn 5:13).



Section 5

The Church

The Universal Church

We believe the Universal Church encompasses individuals of all nations throughout history who believe in the saving power of Jesus. It is eternally united through the Holy Spirit (Eph 2:20-22). Jesus is the Head of the church (Eph 1:22, Col 1:15). The church is Jesus' body on earth, fulfilling the Great Commission (Matt 28:16-20), and bringing glory to God by the power of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:17). The church finds its expression in local churches throughout the world.

The Local Church

We believe that only Christians are eligible for membership in the local church (Acts 2:47). All Christians should participate in the Great Commission and gather regularly in the context of a local church for worship, prayer, giving, fellowship, accountability, service, teaching, encouragement, and ordinances (Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor 11:23-26).

Local churches are under the care and leadership of Elders and humbly served by Deacons (Acts 14:23; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Ti 1:7-9).

Church Ordinances

We believe the local church practices two ordinances, which are physical representations of the Gospel: water baptism and communion (Acts 10:47-48; 1 Cor 11:23). Although these should be practiced by all Christians, they are not necessary for salvation (Rm 10:9-10, 17; Eph 2:8-9; Ti 3:4-5).



Section 6

End Times

The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ will soon return personally, bodily, and visibly — in power and glory — to complete the work of God in salvation and judgment. The timing of the second coming of Christ is known only to God, and therefore demands that we live with eager anticipation and gospel proclamation. (Zech 14; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor 15:51-52; 1 Thess 4:16-18; Ti 2:13-14; Mt 24).

The Resurrection and Judgment of the Dead

We believe that all the dead will be raised with immortal bodies. Each person who has trusted in the gospel of Jesus Christ will be physically raised to everlasting and joyful life with God. Those who reject the gospel of Jesus Christ will be physically raised to everlasting, conscious punishment for their sins under the wrath of God in Hell. (Lk 16:19-31; 1 Cor 15; Rev 20:6; Jn 5:28, 29; Is 66:24).

The New Heavens and Earth

We believe that all who are raised to eternal life will reign with Jesus in righteousness, peace, love, and joy in the renewed creation. Sin and all its effects will be eradicated from God's people once and for all (Mt 25:31-46; Rev 20:6).



Section 7

Sancity, The Image of God and Relationships

Relationships

We believe God has established healthy human relationships as a means by which He continually images Himself upon the earth. Each relationship bears a significant mark of the Maker and must be honored and protected by His Church. (Gen 1:27).

The Sanctity of Life

We believe life begins at conception and all life is to be intentionally protected. Murder, abortion, suicide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia violate biblical principles and are not to be practiced or supported. (Ps 22:10-11; Ps 139:13-16; Jer 1:5; Job 14:5; Job 31:15).

The Sanctity of Gender

We believe God designed each sex, male and female, with intentionality. We believe that Christians are to follow gender expressions that align with their own genetic sex at birth and cultural norms that do not contradict Scriptural principles. (Gen 1:27; 5:2; 6:19; Mt 19:4).

The Sanctity of Sexuality

We believe God has created sex to be good and for His glory. God has given humanity the joy of sex to be expressed only in a monogamous and genetically heterosexual marriage (1 Cor 6:18-20, 7:1-4; Eph 5:33).

The Sanctity of Singleness

We believe the single life is an opportunity to glorify God, not through independence but interdependence with His people the Church. Single believers are called to use their lives for kingdom service where God can be seen in sexual purity (Gen 1:27; Mt 19:10-12; 1 Cor 6:18-19; 7:7; 12:14-21; 17; 30-35; 2 Tim 2:22).

The Sanctity of Marriage

We believe God's design for marriage is that one genetically born man would marry one genetically born woman for life until death parts them. We believe that God commands Christians to only marry Christians, for husbands to love their wives, and for wives to respect their husbands. (Gen.1:27; 2:18; Mt.19:4-6; 2 Cor. 6:14-15; Eph.5:21-33; Gal.3:28).

The Sanctity of Family

We believe that God's primary building block for culture and His Church is the family. God instituted the family to work correctly when it functions on the principles of His Word. Though both husband and wife are equal in value, they have differing primary roles in the family. In the family, the husband has primacy of responsibility, not sole responsibility, to lead, provide for, and protect his family thereby uniquely imaging these attributes of God. The wife has primacy of responsibility, not sole responsibility, to help and nurture thereby uniquely imaging these attributes of God. Together, God has designed them to collaborate in raising children who are brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. (Gen 1:27-28; Gen 2:18-20; Prov 31; Eph 5:21-33; Eph 6:4; 1Tim 2:15; 1Tim 5:8; Tit 2:4-5; 1 Pet 3:1-2, 7).