



GOOD NEWS CHURCH
UDON THANI

Statement of Faith
2024

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1.) Doctrine of God

We believe in one God (Yahweh) who eternally exists as one essence in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, each of whom is fully & eternally God, yet there is one God. Each person has the same nature and attributes and is worthy of the same honor & worship. Yahweh alone is the only true God which makes any other religious claims to deity false.

We believe in God the Father, the Creator of heaven, earth & all things (1 Cor. 8:6, Rev. 4:11). We believe in God the Son, eternally begotten but not made. In history, He took on a human nature for the sake of our salvation, being born of a virgin & given the name Jesus (John 1:14; Hebrews 1:3, Matthew 1:21,23). He is fully God and fully man. Through Him, all things came into being and were created. He was before all things, and in Him, all things hold together by the word of His power (Colossians 1:15-20). He suffered, died, was buried, resurrected, ascended and sits at the right hand of the Father until He returns for the final judgment and consummation of the Kingdom.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, co-creator with the Father & the Son (Job 33:4; Psalms 33:6) who eternally proceeds from the Father and the Son and is sent by the Father and Son to give new life to sinners (John 15:26-27). The Holy Spirit brings about the new birth, unites believers to Jesus Christ through faith, and dwells permanently within those he causes to be born again (Ephesians. 1:13-14, John 14:16). The Spirit leads the Church into a right understanding and application of the truth of God's Word. He is to be respected, honored and worshiped as God, the third person of the Trinity.

2. Doctrine of Revelation/Scripture

We believe that God has made Himself known to human beings through creation (Rom. 1:20) the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16) & his Son (Hebrews 1:1-2). We believe the Scriptures, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, are the inspired Word of God and are therefore completely without error in their original writings. These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, which is utterly authoritative and free from error. The Scriptures are sufficient for all that God requires for us to believe and do and is therefore to be believed in all that it teaches; obeyed in all that it requires; and trusted in all that it promises (Isaiah 40:6-8). As God's people hear, believe and obey the Scriptures, they are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel (Rom. 10:14-17, Matthew 28:19-20).

We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is the supreme & perfect revelation of who God is. Jesus Christ is the "image of the invisible God" (Col. 1:15), "the exact imprint of his nature" (Hebrews 1:3) and a perfect reflection of God the Father (John 5:19). This being the case, human beings can only know God in a saving way through Jesus Christ (John 14:6, 1 John 2:23).

3. Doctrine of Creation & Providence

God created the universe & everything in it from nothing (Genesis 1:1-2; Psalm 24:1). God's creative work is the overflow of the love that exists within the fellowship of the Trinity. Creation, according to the design of God, was good & without sin in the beginning

(Genesis 1:3-31). Everything in the universe is governed according to the purpose of God's will (Hebrews 1:3, Ephesians 1:11). All things ultimately hold together in Christ (Colossians 1:17).

4. Doctrine of Humanity

God made humanity—male and female—in His own image (Gen. 1:27-30). Set apart as His image bearers, every human being is sacred. Men and women are equal in essence, dignity and value & enjoy equal access to God by faith in Christ Jesus. All men and all women, bearing the image of God, are meant to represent God & reflect his righteous character (James 3:9; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10). In the beginning, God declared the created order to be very good & appointed men and women as His agents to care for, manage and govern over it (Genesis 1:26,31). Men & Women were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union in the covenant of marriage which establishes the only God-ordained & God-approved pattern of sexual relations (Matthew 19:4-6; Hebrews 13:4)

+ Distinctive #1: Complementarianism

As part of God's good created order, men and women are to have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and church. As it relates to the church, men and women are both expected to serve in upbuilding the body of Christ; however, the office of elder is reserved for biblically qualified men (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

5.) Doctrine of Sin

Through the temptation of Satan, humanity disobeyed the command of God and fell from their original holiness and righteousness (Genesis 3:1-7, Romans 5:12). Now the entire human race inherits a corrupt nature that is opposed to God and His law (Rom. 3:9-20). Therefore, all humans are under God's righteous condemnation and subject to spiritual, physical & eternal death. Mankind's depravity is radical and pervasive, extending to the mind, will, body and affections. Unregenerate humanity lives under the dominion of sin and Satan (Ephesians 2:1-3). Humans are by nature at enmity with God, hostile toward and hateful of God, living in disobedient rebellion against him.

6.) Doctrine of Salvation

Due to universal death through sin, we believe that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born again (John 3:5-8); that salvation is only by grace through repentance & faith in the death/resurrection of Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 4:12) and that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ through faith are declared righteous by God and become children of God (Hebrews 10:19-25).

The Scriptures teach that the new birth is an act of God by which the Holy Spirit imparts a new nature & spiritual life, and the person becomes a new creation experienced through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17). The mind is given a holy disposition and a new desire to live for & serve God. The dominion of sin is broken and the heart is transformed from a love of sin and self to a love of holiness and God. While no Christian will obey God

perfectly in this life & all will continue to stumble in various ways (James 2:2), true believers will also continue growing in faith & in conformity to Christ's image until the final day. A faith that bears no fruit of change, evidenced by a new direction of life in Christ, is dead.

+ Distinctive #2: Sovereignty of God in Salvation

The salvation of humanity is fundamentally the work of God. Before the foundation of the world, God elected those who would be His people, setting His affection and grace upon them (Romans 8:29-30). In love, God predestined His people for adoption (Ephesians 1:4-6). Faith is a gift of grace that is given by God, so that no one may boast (Ephesians 2:9). Apart from the intervention of God, humanity will not & cannot choose to turn from sin, trust in Christ & pursue godliness (Rom. 3:9-20, 8:7; Ephesians 2:1-3).

God's sovereignty in salvation is comprehensive: from first to last, all of salvation is the work of God. Those who trust in Christ do so because the Father chose them in eternity & drew them to Christ in time (Ephesians 1:3,14, John 6:44). Not one of those the Father has given to Christ will ultimately be lost (John 6:39) because nothing can snatch them from God's hand or separate them from the love of God in Christ Jesus (John 10:28-29; Romans 8:37-39). By God's power he will guard his people through faith & complete the work he began in them on the day of Christ Jesus (1 Peter 1:5; Philippians 1:6).

7.) Doctrine of the Church

God, by His Word and Spirit, creates the Church, calling sinful humanity into the fellowship of Christ's body (1 Cor. 12:12-31, Romans 10:17). By the same Word and Spirit, He guides and preserves newly redeemed humanity. The Church is made up of both Jews & Gentiles who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ and have personally embraced the gospel through faith. The Church exists to worship and glorify God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The ministry of the Church is an extension of the ministry of Jesus in the power of the Spirit (John 14:12, Acts 1:8).

The ultimate mission of the Church is to bring glory to God by making disciples of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20). The Church makes disciples & helps them grow through the proclamation of the gospel (both locally and throughout the world), the teaching of the Scriptures, worship, prayer, observance of the ordinances, fellowship & the exercise of gifts and talents.

We believe there are two ordinances of the Church: believer's baptism (in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Water baptism is only intended for those who have received the saving benefits of Christ through the new birth & repentant faith. In obedience to Christ's command, believers are baptized in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Water baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It signifies that a former way of life has been put to death and depicts the release from the mastery of Satan, sin and death.

As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine believers in Christ. This ordinance symbolizes the breaking of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we partake of this ordinance in faith and self-examination, we remember and proclaim the death of Christ, receive spiritual nourishment for our souls and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body.

+ Distinctive #3: Baptism by Immersion

The precedent we find in the New Testament is baptism following conversion by immersion into water. For this reason, we will only pursue baptizing those who have made a credible profession of repentance from sin & faith in Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:38, 41; 8:12; 22:16).

+ Distinctive #4: Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we see in the New Testament are still active within the life of the church. These gifts did not end with the close of the New Testament or the death of the last apostle (1 Cor. 12:1-11). They are to be exercised in an orderly way with an aim towards the upbuilding of believers for the glory of God in accordance with what the Holy Spirit has previously revealed in Scripture (1 Cor. 14:26, 36-40). We do not support using the gifts of the Spirit in a way that contradicts or is unsubmitive to the Spirit-inspired, written word of God.

8.) Doctrine of Resurrection, Consummation of the Kingdom of God & Final Judgment

The consummation of all things includes the future, physical, visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the glorification of those in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfilment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. At this time, Satan, demons & all those outside of Christ will be finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring eternal punishment for their sins (Rev. 20:7-15). But the righteous will live and reign with Christ forever in glorious bodies, giving God unending praise and glory. Then the eager expectation of creation will be fulfilled, and the whole earth shall proclaim the glory of God, who makes all things new (Revelation 21:1-5).

This statement of faith was adapted from The Village Church's Statement of Faith (<https://www.thevillagechurch.net/our-beliefs/statement-of-faith>)