

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES THAT GUIDE VENTURE CHRISTIAN CHURCH & LOS GATOS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

**ABOUT THE BIBLE:** We believe the Holy Scriptures to be plenary-verbally inspired, the very Word of God, authoritative, infallible and inerrant in the original writings (autographs). The Bible, being fully inspired by God in its entirety, is His perfect Word and is the authority for all faith and life. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13)

**ABOUT GOD:** We believe there is one God who is personal, infinite, perfect; and He exists eternally as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19-20)

**ABOUT THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS CHRIST:** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His sinless life, and death on the cross as a voluntary, substitutionary sacrifice. We believe that our redemption is made sure by His literal, bodily resurrection from the dead. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven exalted at the right hand of God, where as the High Priest for His people, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (John 1:1-2; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24-25; Romans 4:25; I Peter 1:3-5; Hebrews 7:25, 9:24; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2)

**ABOUT THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, and works in convicting men of sin, righteousness and judgment, and indwells all believers of this present age. In the life of the believer, He is involved in the New Birth, the sealing of salvation, and in developing holiness. (Romans 8:4; I Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4-5; Colossians 3:16; John 16:8; Ephesians 1:13-14)

**ABOUT MAN:** We believe that man, male and female, was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's rebellion the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, became alienated from God, and can be restored to God's favor only through the work of Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. We believe in the literal historicity of Genesis 1-3. (Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 3; Romans 3:22-23, 5:12; Matthew 19)

**ABOUT SALVATION:** We believe that salvation comes to man only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from any human merit. Salvation is a free gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins. Every believer's salvation is secure, being kept by the power of God. However, a believer by disobedience can mar his fellowship with God, lose his joy, testimony and incur the Father's loving discipline. While we do not believe good works are meritorious in obtaining salvation, we do believe that good works are an evidence of salvation. (John 3:18; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7, 13-14, 2:10; Romans 8:38-39; John 10:27-30; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I John 1; Hebrews 12:9-11)

**ABOUT THE CHURCH:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and every local church has the right under Christ to govern itself. All those who have experienced salvation are members of the Church, which is His body, and are therefore eligible for baptism and membership in a local fellowship. (Acts 2; I Corinthians 12; I Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:21; Colossians 1:24; Ephesians 5:25)

**ABOUT THE ORDINANCES:** We believe the Lord Jesus left for the obedience of His people two ordinances, memorial of character, which are to be observed during this present age: Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper are commanded by Christ.

- Water baptism is an outward sign of what the Holy Spirit has performed in the heart of the believer.
- The Lord's Supper is observed by the believer at Christ's request until His return as a memorial of His sacrifice in securing our redemption. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:26-38, 10:47-48; Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:27-31)

**ABOUT SATAN:** We believe in the personality of Satan, who is the open and declared enemy of God and God's people, the destroyer of human lives and whose destiny is eternal punishment. (Job 1:6-7; John 10:10; Ephesians 6:10-20; Revelation 21:10)

**ABOUT THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:** We believe in the second coming of Jesus Christ. We believe immediately following the tribulation, He will establish His millennial kingdom on earth. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-53; Revelation 20:6; Zechariah 14:4-11)

**ABOUT THE ETERNAL STATE:** All people will experience the resurrection, believers to the state of eternal life and unbelievers to the state of eternal punishment. (Luke 16:19-26, 23:43; II Corinthians 5-8; Philippians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Judges 6-7; Revelations 20:11-15)