

Laurelwood's Statement of Faith

A. The Bible: We believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is God's infallible and equally inspired Word, inerrant in the original writings. It was written by men who were uniquely moved by the Holy Spirit¹ and it is our final authority in all matters.²

B. God: We believe there is one true God,³ Creator of heaven and earth,⁴ eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.⁵ They are identical in their essential nature and attributes.

1. God the Father is the first person of the Trinity, and sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.⁶ He is the author and giver of every perfect thing.⁷ He is the initiator of relationships and His children call Him Father.⁸ He graciously concerns Himself in the affairs of people, hears and answers prayer,⁹ and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through His Son Jesus Christ.¹⁰

2. God the Son, Jesus Christ, is God's only begotten Son born of a virgin.¹¹ He lived a sinless life,¹² and being Himself fully God and fully man,¹³ atoned for the sins of the world by His substitutionary death on the cross.¹⁴ He bodily rose from the dead,¹⁵ ascended into heaven,¹⁶ and sits at the right hand of God where, as High Priest, He intercedes for His people.¹⁷ He is Lord over all¹⁸ and will personally and visibly return to the world to establish His Kingdom on Earth.¹⁹

3. God the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.²⁰ He baptizes believers into the body of Christ,²¹ permanently indwells them at the time of regeneration,²² and preserves believers until Christ's return.²³ He is progressively sanctifying,²⁴ instructing, and empowering the believer for service and godly living.²⁵

C. Humanity: We believe that humans are created in the image of God²⁶ and were originally without sin. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve, all people incurred physical and spiritual death, which is separation from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by nature and by choice.²⁷

D. Satan: We believe that Satan is a supernatural being and the open, declared enemy of God and people. He will be eternally punished.²⁸

E. Salvation: We believe that humanity is saved from the eternal penalty of sin by confessing with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and believing in their heart God raised Him from the dead.²⁹ Jesus died for our sins as our representative and substitutionary sacrifice.³⁰ All who accept Him as their Savior are justified by faith alone on the ground of His shed blood, and not by any works or external ordinances by any person.³¹

F. The Church: We believe that the church is made up of every born again believer since Pentecost, regardless of race, gender, or national origin and will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.³² The local church is an organized body of regenerated believers voluntarily associated together for teaching, fellowship, worship, prayer, service, and the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ throughout the world. It observes the biblical ordinances (Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper).³³ The church is enabled in its mission by the exercise of spiritual gifts, distributed by the Holy Spirit according to His sovereign will and purposes³⁴ to all believers, to progressively sanctify the body of Christ.³⁵

G. Eternity: We believe in the sudden, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His Millennial Kingdom.³⁶ There will be a bodily resurrection of both the believing saved and the non-believing lost. The saved will enjoy the wonders of God's presence forever, and the lost will be punished through eternal separation from God in Hell in conscious eternal punishment.³⁷

1. II Peter 1:21
2. II Timothy 3:16-17
3. Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 45:21-22
4. Genesis 1:1, Acts 17:24
5. Matthew 28:19, 3:16-17
6. I Corinthians 11:3
7. James 1:17
8. John 1:12
9. Matthew 7:11
10. John 3:16
11. Isaiah 7:14, Luke 1:26-35
12. Hebrews 4:15
13. Philippians 2:5-8, Colossians 2:9
14. I Peter 2:24
15. Acts 10:40-41

16. Acts 1:9
17. Hebrews 2:17
18. Acts 2:36
19. Revelation 1:7, Matthew 25:31
20. John 16:8
21. I Corinthians 12:13
22. John 14:17, I Corinthians 3:16, 6:19
23. Ephesians 1:13
24. Titus 3:5
25. John 14:26; Acts 1:8
26. Genesis 1:27
27. Isaiah 53:6, Romans 5:12
28. Ezekiel 28:1-19; Isaiah 14:12-17, I Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10

29. Romans 10:9
30. II Corinthians 5:21
31. Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7
32. Galatians 3:27-28, I Thessalonians 4:17, 5:9, Revelation 3:10
33. Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:41-47, I Corinthians 11:23-26
34. I Corinthians 12:11-30, 13:8-10
35. Ephesians 4:16, I Peter 4:10-11
36. Mark 13:32-27, Titus 2:13, Revelation 20:2-6
37. Psalm 16:11, John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:15