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OUR DOCTRINE

SECTION 1

1. **The Bible.**
   We believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is verbally inspired by God, without error in the original writings, and is the supreme and final authority for Christian faith and life. (Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21).

2. **The Godhead.**
   We believe there is one God, Creator of all things and eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, commonly referred to as "the Trinity." Each is a Person distinct from the others, but inseparable, co-equal and co-eternal. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God; each worthy of the same worship and obedience. (Gen. 1:26; Deut. 6:4 ; Matt. 28:19 ; Acts 5:3-4 ; Rom. 11:33-36 ; 1 Cor. 8:6 ; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6 ; Col. 1:16-17 ; 1 Tim. 2:5 ; Heb. 1:8-10).

3. **The Person of Christ.**
   We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His substitutionary death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory. He and He alone is our advocate and mediator. (Luke 1:35; Rom.1:3-4;1 Cor.15:1-8; Phil. 2:6-11; Col.2:9; 1 Tim.2:5; 1 John 2:1).

4. **The Person of the Holy Spirit.**
   We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, co-equal with the Father and the Son. It is the Holy Spirit who convicts unbelievers of their sin and condemnation before God, and regenerates the hearts of believing sinners. He baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ, seals, indwells, enlightens, equips for service, and empowers to live a godly life. (John 16:7-8; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-12; 6:19; 12:13; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 1:13-14; 2:4-6; Tit. 3:5).

5. **Humanity.**
We believe God created the first man and woman in His own spiritual image and likeness. They disobeyed God, and as a consequence became subject to both physical death and spiritual death. As their descendants, we are sinners both by nature and by choice, and are totally unable of ourselves to do anything pleasing to God. (Gen.1:26-27; Isa.64:6-7; John 15:5; Rom.3:9-23; 5:12; 8:5-8; Eph. 2:1-3; Tit.3:5).

6. **Salvation.**
We believe God justifies ungodly sinners solely by His grace upon the grounds of the sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ and His Resurrection. This complete salvation is given as the free gift of God through faith, apart from our works. Only those who receive Jesus Christ are born of the Spirit and become children of God. (John 1:11-13; 3:3-8; Rom. 3:24-28; 10:9-13; 1 Cor.15:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-9).

7. **Eternal Security.**
We believe all believers are eternally saved through Christ and are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption. (John 10: 28-29; Rom. 8:1; 8:28-39; Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30; Col. 3:1-4; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; 1 John 5:11-13).

SECTION 2

1. **Dispensations.**
We believe the Holy Scriptures are only properly understood through the framework of Dispensational Theology. The Bible is clear that God deals in different ways, at different times with different people. These changes in the outworking of God's plan are referred to as "dispensations." We recognize several distinct dispensations, or administrations, in Scripture. Each is marked by revelation from God specific only to that dispensation. The current dispensation, God's plan for the Church, the Body of Christ, "the mystery" revealed to the Apostle Paul, is distinct from God's plan for the nation of Israel. We find in Paul's writings alone the revelation, position and destiny of the Church. (Rom. 16:25-27; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; Gal. 1:11-12; Eph. 3:1-12; Col. 1:24-29; 2 Tim. 2:15).

2. **The Church.**
We believe that all in this dispensation who are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ are united together in the one true Church, the Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. God's specific truth of and for this Church was first revealed through the Apostle Paul. (1 Cor.12:13, 27; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:8-9; 3:1-11; Col. 1:18, 24-25).

3. **Spiritual Gifts.**
We believe God has given believers spiritual gifts with which to serve the Lord for the building up of the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:3-8 ; 1 Cor. 12:1-31 ; Eph. 4:7-16). Some of the spiritual gifts that operated in the Church were temporary in nature and were intended for its infancy, including the official offices of apostle and prophet. Other gifts, such as miraculous powers, the gift of healing, tongues and the interpretation of tongues, revelations and visions ceased (Rom. 11:11-36 ; 1 Cor. 1:22 ; 1 Cor. 13:8-13 ; 2 Cor. 12:12 ; Eph. 2:20 ;

Phil. 2:25-26 ; 1 Tim. 5:23 ; 2 Tim. 4:20). We do believe that God is sovereign and able to operate in miraculous ways as He desires (Eph. 3:20).

4. **The Believer's Walk.**
   We believe that, as a result of Christ's victory over sin and the indwelling Holy Spirit, all of the saved may and should experience deliverance from the power of sin in their daily lives. This comes through constant submission to the Holy Spirit and obedience to God's Word. Since sinless perfection is not a possibility in this life, we must consciously work in harmony with the Holy Spirit. (Ps. 119:9-11; Rom. 6:6-14; 1 Cor. 10:12-13; 2 Cor. 2:14; 10:2-5; Gal. 6:16-25; Phil.2:12-13).

5. **The Lord's Supper.**
   We believe the Lord's supper (i.e. Communion or the Lord's Table) is a memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ on the Cross. We believe the elements are only symbolic, serving as a sacred reminder and proclamation of Christ's death until He comes again. Participation in the Lord's Supper is open to every believer who is in fellowship with Christ. (1 Cor. 10:14-22; 11:17-34).

6. **Baptism.**
   We believe the Holy Spirit places all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation by one spiritual baptism. Through this work of the Holy Spirit, we are identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. The Bible also speaks of other baptisms, some of which are spiritual in nature and others which are ritualistic and played a key part in God's program with Israel. While those baptisms all had importance in the past, Scripture speaks of this divine baptism as the one and only baptism that is operative today. Therefore, we practice no other baptism. We emphasize this spiritual baptism as foundational to the unity of all believers. (Rom. 6:3-4; 1 Cor. 1:17; 12:12-13; Gal. 3:26-27; Eph. 4:3-6; Col. 2:9-12; Heb. 9:9-10).

7. **Resurrection.**
   We believe in the physical resurrection of the dead. Jesus Christ was resurrected bodily, and therefore everyone will have a bodily resurrection. The saved will be raised to eternal glory and the unsaved to eternal punishment. (Luke 24:39-43; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:12-24; Phil. 3:21; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15).

8. **The Return of Christ.**
   We believe the Lord Jesus Christ will personally come to take His Church to heaven, commonly referred to as "the Rapture of the Church." All members of the Body of Christ, both living and dead, will be caught up together to meet the Lord in the air. This event is imminent and will take place prior to the Tribulation that will come upon the earth. (1 Cor. 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20-21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13-14) After the seven-year Tribulation period, Jesus Christ will return in power to establish His Kingdom upon the earth. (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:20-27; Zech. 14:4, 9; Matt. 24:15-41; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-4).

9. Satan.

We believe in a personal, evil being called Satan, who is a living, subtle and active devil. He tempted our first parents in the Garden of Eden. He often appears as an angel of light. He was judged and triumphed over by Christ through His death, resurrection, and ascension to the right hand of God. Satan will be cast into the lake of fire with his angels and all men whom he has deceived to be punished with everlasting destruction (Gen.3:1-14; 2 Cor.11:13-15; John 12:31; Col.2:15; Heb.2:14-15; Rev.20:10-15).

10. The State of the Dead.

We believe that immediately after death all people exist in a state of consciousness that will last forever. The believer of this dispensation passes directly into the presence of Christ in Heaven. All of the unsaved dead enter a state of conscious eternal suffering without any hope of salvation. (Luke 16:23-28; John 3:36; 2 Cor. 5:6-8; Phil. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 14:11; 20:10-15).

11. Mission.

We believe our mission is to bring glory to God as we proclaim the message of reconciliation to all the unsaved; as we equip and train the saved for the spiritual and physical growth of the Body of Christ; and as we serve all people through acts of grace and compassion. In this way we make plain to everyone the unsearchable riches of Christ according to the dispensation of the mystery. (Rom. 12:9-21; 16:25-27; 1 Cor.10:31-11:1; 2 Cor. 5:14-21; Gal. 2:10; 6:10; Eph. 3:8-9; 4:11-16; Phil. 2:1-8; Col. 4:3-6; 1 Tim.2:3-7).

12. **Sanctity of Life.**

We recognize all human beings are made in the image of God and created as male and female; thus, every human being has been granted by God the right to life from conception, or the functional equivalent thereof, until his or her natural death. Therefore, the intentional killing of an innocent human being violates God's lasting commandment, "You shall not murder." (Gen. 1:26, 9:6;Ex. 20:13; Psa. 139:13-14).

13. Sanctity of Marriage.

We recognize that marriage is between one man and one woman for life and that God has designed sexual relations to be enjoyed only within the God-ordained marriage relationship. (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-6; Eph. 5:22-23; Heb. 13.4).