

Benedict Community Church Statement of Faith

July 5, 2023

God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one person in two natures. Jesus-Israel's promised Messiah-was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, died and arose bodily from the dead, ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High priest and Advocate.

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ, in all that He does. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service.

The Bible, the Scriptures Inspired

We believe God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the work of human authors. The scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God. Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all it teaches, obeyed in all it requires and trusted in all that it promises.

The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose membership should be composed of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the Gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, they are means of Grace.

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. Starting with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and are under His wrath-His just and measured response of His Holiness toward evil. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed.

The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the son of God

Conditions to Salvation. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God, according to the hope of eternal life.

The Evidence of Salvation. The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit. Romans 8:16. The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:24, Titus 2:12

The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

Christian Living

We believe God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially. We are to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the less fortunate and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power and sincere prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all the people, always bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed.

The Church and Its Mission

The church is the Body of Christ, the habitation of God through the spirit, with Divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven. God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshipped by man, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

The priority reason –for-being of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world

The church exists to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being by teaching and encouraging believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit, as in the New Testament apostolic pattern. As a result this:

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power.
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the Body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of the world

Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time only known to God, demands constant expectancy and as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission. We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the Gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We believe God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world; assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment; the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace