

# Immanuel Bible Church

## *Statement of Faith*

(as found in Article IV of the Constitution & ByLaws)

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The Doctrinal Statement of Immanuel Bible Church is as follows:

### **A. The Doctrine of the Scriptures**

We believe the Bible is the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. We believe that God communicated through Spirit-controlled men so that the Scriptures are without error and, therefore, authoritative in all they teach and in all matters they touch (2 Peter 1:21; Psalm 119:140,160) and completely sufficient to address all matters pertaining to life and godliness (Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Peter 1:3). We believe that inspiration is both verbal (each word) and plenary (all of the words), resulting in the inerrancy of the original autographs (2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 4:4). We believe that the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament constitute the completed canon of Scripture and the only absolute authority for Christian faith and practice.

### **B. The Doctrine of God**

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14). Each person in the Godhead is equal in essence and power, but distinct in function. We believe that God is self-existent (Exodus 3:14; 1 Timothy 1:17), spiritual in nature (John 4:24), infinite (Romans 11:33-36), omniscient (Psalm 139:1-6; 147:5), omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-16), omnipotent (Jeremiah 32:27; Matthew 19:26), eternal (Psalm 90:2), sovereign (Psalm 103:19; Ephesians 1:11), unchangeable (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17), love (1 John 4:8,16), and holy (Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 1:15). By holiness, it is meant that God is absolutely separate from and exalted above His entire creation and that He is free from every form of evil and is absolutely pure.

### **C. The Doctrine of the Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe in the eternal Son of God as the second person of the triune Godhead, Who, without ceasing to be God, became man so that He might reveal God to man and be the propitiation for man's sin (Hebrews 1:1-2; John 1:1,14; Colossians 1:15-16; Philippians 2:5-11; John 8:58). We believe He was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:21-25); that He lived a sinless life (Hebrews 4:15); that He died, was buried, and rose bodily from the dead on the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3-4); ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of the Father making intercession for the elect (Acts 1:9; Hebrews 4:15-16; 9:24; 10:12). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ willingly died on the cross of Calvary as a representative, punitive, and substitutionary sacrifice for sin (John 19:30; 1 Peter 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21). We believe that as Head of the Church, Christ will physically appear in the air to rapture His Bride, the Body of Christ (Colossians 1:18; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17); and that after seven years, He will return to the earth to establish His kingdom (Revelation 20:1-6).

### **D. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16,26; Acts 5:3-4). We believe the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11), and is the Divine Agent of the new birth, bringing sinners to faith through the Word of God (John 3:1-8; Romans 10:17). We believe that at the moment of conversion, every believer receives the Holy Spirit in all His fullness, is baptized into the Body of Christ, sealed until the day of redemption, and receives spiritual gift(s) for service (1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:13; Ephesians 1:13; Romans 12:6-8). We believe that the Holy Spirit ministers to the believer by leading, teaching, empowering, interceding, producing spiritual fruit, and filling (controlling) those surrendered to God's Word (Romans 8:14, 26; 1 John 2:20,27; Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:18). We believe that the miraculous gifts of the Spirit (tongues, miracles, healing) were given for the purpose of laying the foundation of the Church and authenticating the Apostles' message and therefore faded away after the completion of the New Testament (1 Corinthians 13:8-13; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Hebrews 2:3-4).

### **E. The Doctrine of Angels and Satan**

We believe in the existence of an innumerable company of angels created by God to serve Him in various capacities. These messengers of God possess the characteristics of personality—that of mind, emotion, and will; and they are immortal, spirit beings who possess great power (Hebrews 1:14, 12:22; Colossians 1:16; Nehemiah 9:6; 1 Peter 1:12; Luke 2:13). We believe in the existence and personality of Satan and his company of demons who rebelled against God. We believe that Satan was created holy, very powerful and beautiful, but, being lifted up with pride, fell from his holy state and led a company of angels in rebellion against God. His chief goal is to be like God (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-15; Matthew 25:41). He is a murderer and the Father of Lies (John 8:44); the adversary of both God and man (Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 Peter 5:8); the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10); and the deceiver of unbelievers and nations (2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:3). We believe Satan's activity is limited by God's sovereign control (Job 1) and that future judgment awaits him and his demons in the eternal Lake of Fire (see Doctrine of the End Times).

### **F. The Doctrine of Man**

We believe that man was created directly by God, free from any form of evolutionary process. Man was created in the image and likeness of God; possessing intellect, emotion, and will; and, having had God's life breathed into him, became a living soul (Genesis 1:27,31; 2:7; Psalm 139:13-16; John 1:3). We believe in the literal, historical account of Genesis chapter three; that man fell from his state of innocence into a state of rebellion and enmity with God. As a result, man became subject to physical and spiritual death, inherently corrupt, and the object of divine wrath. We believe that Adam was the federal representative of the human race so that all men inherit a sinful nature, are born into a state of separation from God, and are hopelessly lost apart from divine grace (Romans 5:12-21; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-10).

### **G. The Doctrine of Sin**

We believe that sin is anything, thought or deed, that is contrary to the holy character of God and that it originated in the

historical Garden of Eden under the influence of Satan. We believe that sin is universal in man because all sinned in Adam and that sin always incurs the wrath of God (Genesis 3; Ezekiel 28:15; Romans 3:23; 5:12). We believe that all human beings sinned in Adam and, therefore, inherit a sin nature. The sin nature is the capacity to do any and all evil, which incurs God's righteous wrath and results in the total depravity of man. By total depravity, it is not meant that man cannot do anything that is good and acceptable in his own eyes or that every man is as evil as he could be, but rather that natural man is unable to do anything that will please God or obtain His merit. In addition to imputed sin, man is guilty before God because he personally sins (Romans 1:18-3:20; Ephesians 2:1-3). Upon conversion, the sin nature is not eradicated and the Christian is still capable of, though not in bondage to, sin (Romans 6:5-7; Galatians 5:16-26).

#### **H. The Doctrine of Salvation**

We believe that the salvation of lost and sinful man is wholly of God by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. We believe salvation is the work of the Triune Godhead in that; the Father chose believers in Christ, the Son redeemed them with His blood, and the Spirit has sealed them unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:3-14). We believe the basis of salvation is the redemption found in Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood, and not human merit or works (Ephesians 1:7; 2:1-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19). As a result of his total depravity, man is completely unable to remedy his lost condition apart from repentance and faith in the Person and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. This eternal salvation is a gift of God and all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, trusting Him alone for eternal life, are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive imputed righteousness, are justified in God's sight, set apart as God's own possession, and eternally secure in Christ (John 3:3-5; Romans 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8-10). Saving faith is a definite act of the whole person in turning to God and that, though good works cannot earn salvation, true salvation will always manifest itself by good works (James 2:14-26). The believer's sanctification is threefold. Sanctification is positional in that it refers to God's calling apart a sinner unto Himself (Galatians 1:6). Sanctification is progressive in that it refers to the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer conforming him to the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18; Colossians 3:10). Sanctification is ultimate (glorification) in that it refers to the day that the believer's standing and his present state become one, being completely sanctified on that day in glory (1 John 3:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

#### **I. The Doctrine of the Church**

We believe the Church was established by Jesus Christ and is composed of all believers in Christ called out of the world between Pentecost and the Rapture (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Acts 2; Ephesians 1:22-23). We believe that the spiritual nature of the universal Church is to be manifested through the local church which is composed of baptized believers in Christ of the same locality who organize and assemble themselves together for the purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission through worship, instruction, training, fellowship, and evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20; John 4:24; Acts 1:8; 2:41-47; Colossians 1:28; 3:14; Ephesians 4:11-13). We believe that the two ordinances given to the local church by Christ are public baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-24), and the two offices of the church are that of Elder and Deacon (1 Timothy 3:1-13). We believe that each New Testament church is free to govern itself under the authority of the Word of God without interference from any other ecclesiastical body.

#### **J. The Doctrine of the End Times**

We believe that upon death, those who are saved experience conscious, eternal bliss in Heaven; and those who are lost experience conscious, eternal punishment in Hell (Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8). We believe in the imminent, personal, pretribulational, premillennial appearance of Christ to catch away His Church (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13). We believe that every saved person of the Church age will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account for the stewardship of his Christian life (2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10). We believe that following the seven-year Tribulation Period, Christ will return with His saints to establish His Millennial Kingdom on earth (Revelation 20:1-6). We believe that after this thousand-year reign of Christ, every lost person will be resurrected to appear bodily before the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer eternal punishment; preceded by the Antichrist, False Prophet, and Satan (Revelation 20). We believe that all who have placed their faith in Christ will live eternally with Him (John 3:16).

#### **K. The Doctrine of Separation**

We believe that every believer should be separated unto God from the world, and, by the aid of the indwelling Holy Spirit, should walk in a way that glorifies God (Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4; 1 Corinthians 10:31). We believe that every believer should strive to preserve a godly testimony and live in a manner worthy of the calling of Christ (Ephesians 4, 5). In the exercise of Christian liberty, every believer is responsible to guard against leading another brother or sister into temptation to sin (Romans 13:14; 14; Galatians 5:13; 1 Corinthians 8:9). We believe the Scriptures admonish us not to participate on a ministry level with other churches, organizations, or associations that violate clear teachings of the Word of God and are contrary to sound doctrine (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 11:4; Galatians 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:16-18; Titus 3:10-11; 2 John 9-11; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-6).

#### **L. The Doctrine of Creation**

We believe that God spoke the universe into existence and made man (a special creation) from the dust of the earth (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16; Nehemiah 9:6). We believe in the literal, historical record of the creation account as recorded in the book of Genesis. We believe that God completed His creative work at the close of the sixth day and that "all was good" (Genesis 1:31). We believe these were six literal, consecutive, twenty-four hour days with no gaps of time before, between, or after. God's creative work was entirely free of any form of evolutionary process.

#### **M. The Doctrine of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood**

We believe that God's design for the family is that husband and wife are of equal worth before God and that the husband has the God-given responsibility to lovingly provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. We believe that the wife is to lovingly and graciously submit herself to the servant leadership of her husband and serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation (1 Corinthians 11:3; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 5:22-33).