



*"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."*

## **A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"**

*~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~*

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## **WEBSITE STATEMENTS OF FAITH**

Many people search the Web for churches to attend when traveling, visiting, or just wanting to find a place to begin worshipping. It's very important how one's "Statement of Faith" is worded as it will tell those "surfing the web" what your congregation values most and where your emphasis will be. Here are a few edited examples how one can write a statement of faith, which aligns with God's Biblical principles without appearing ashamed of what we believe and practice.

### **~Statement Example 1~**

Being a member of (*Your Church Name*) requires only that one obey the Gospel of Christ. The terms of membership are the same as the terms of pardon that is given in the New Testament for Salvation. The Scripture, which is our rule of faith and practice, shows what one MUST do to have the promise of Salvation.

### **Salvation by Grace is Enjoyed When:**

**ONE RECOGNIZES THAT THEY ARE A SINNER AND FALLS SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.**

"For all have sinned and fallen short of the Glory of God."

**--Romans 3:23**

**ONE COMES TO BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**

"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch said, See, here is water: what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus is the Son of God"

**--Acts 8:36-36**

**ONE IS WILLING TO CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD TO BE SAVED.**

"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

**--Romans 10:13**

"And now, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

**--Acts 22:16**

### **ONE WILL REPENT OF THEIR SINS.**

"Then Peter said unto them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

**--Acts 2:38-39**

### **ONE WILL BE IMMersed TO BE FORGIVEN OF SINS.**

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

**--Mark 16:16**

"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses.

**--Colossians 2:12-13**

### **ONE WILL GLADLY RECEIVE THE WORD**

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

**--Acts 2:41**

"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved."

**--Acts 2:47**

The Lord adds such a person to the Church. The terms of pardon are therefore the terms of membership in the universal Church of Christ. If one is obedient to the terms of the Gospel, and expresses a desire to work with us in spreading the "Good News" of the Gospel, we welcome their decision. If you are a repentant believer who was immersed into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and if you teach others that these are the terms of salvation that Jesus offers, you are welcome to join us. If you have never obeyed these terms, we encourage you to do so - and then you can go on your way rejoicing.

**Acts 8:38-39,** "38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still; and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord

caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing."

~Statement Example 2~

**Ephesians 4:4-6**, "There is one body and one Spirit— just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

1. **One Body** – is comprised of all disciples of Jesus who have obeyed the Gospel. They are to work together to obey the Will of God, as they feed and support each other.
2. **One Spirit** – which is the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead who indwells and empowers each Christian.
3. **One Hope** – is our confident expectation that Christ will return and Christians will be raised from the dead in new bodies to live forever with Christ in Heaven.
4. **One Faith** – is based on our firm belief in the absolute truth of all Scripture and its message that Jesus Christ died to pay for our sins, was buried, and rose again.
5. **One Lord** – is God the Son, Jesus Christ, who paid for our sins and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father who offers salvation to all mankind.
6. **One Baptism** – is being immersed in water as the pledge of a good conscience toward God, for the forgiveness of sins and to receive the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
7. **One God & Father** – is one in purpose, power, and presence with the Spirit and the Son, but different in person. Everything is to be done for His glory.

~Statement Example 3~

## OUR BELIEFS:

### WE ARE:

1. **A Christian Church** – Our message is that "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God." We require no other creed. He alone is Lord and Savior.
2. **A Church of Christ** – The Church belongs to Him. We have no authority to change the teachings, rewrite the rules, alter membership requirements, or usurp His authority. We do not believe the Church is a democracy.
3. **A Church Seeking Unity** – We seek to follow Paul's encouragement to be one in Christ with all others He calls His own.
4. **A Church Seeking to Restore** – We imitate the New Testament precedents. That is why our baptism is by

immersion, our Communion is every Lord's Day, our leaders are called "Elders", our Preaching is about Christ, and our prayers are in Christ's Name. Even our Church name is rooted in the earliest days, when disciples were called "Christians" and their congregations were often addressed as "Churches of Christ."

5. **An Apostolic Church** – The Church, **Ephesians 2:20** states, "is built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone." The apostles were guided into all truth so we follow their precedents.

6. **A Sharing Church** – We share our faith, love, and possessions with as many as we can; especially for world evangelism.

7. **A Free Church** – We have no area Bishops, superintendents, or national headquarters to determine local Church policies. We elect our own leaders, call and support our own ministers, and decide where our mission money will go. We are not isolationists and our congregations freely associate with one another to accomplish the tasks Jesus left His Church to do.

8. **A Growing Church** – We want to grow because we are under Christ's commission to disciple the world. We haven't completed the task, so we renew our commitment to go unto the ends of the earth, preaching, baptizing, and teaching, until the whole world knows the One Lord of all.