

# Oasis Church of Winter Haven, FL

## **STATEMENTS OF FAITH AND POSITION**

### **EIGHT ESSENTIAL CHRISTIAN BELIEFS**

1. The Bible alone is authoritative. It is inspired and inerrant in the original documents.
2. God is Trinity, eternally existing in three distinct persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man.
4. The human race is completely lost and dead spiritually.
5. Salvation is made possible by the substitutionary death and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ.
6. Salvation is received by faith alone in Christ alone.
7. Eternity with Christ for believers and eternal punishment and separation for non-believers.
8. In the future, Jesus Christ will physically return to this earth.

### **FULL STATEMENT OF FAITH AND POSITION**

- A. The Bible. We believe the Bible (sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament) to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God (verbal & plenary) in the original documents. The Bible is the final authority for faith and life. The Bible is to be interpreted according to its normal grammatical-historical meaning. (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- B. The Godhead. We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three distinct persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same

attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 14:10, 26; 2 Cor. 13:14)

#### C. The Person and Work of Jesus Christ.

- i. We believe that Jesus Christ, God the Son, became man in every way yet without sin, without ceasing to be God; and, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)
- ii. We believe that Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:3-8, 12-17; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 2:24)
- iii. We believe that Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is now at the right hand of God the Father where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1-2)

#### D. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.

- i. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)
- ii. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit. (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)
- iii. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine Giver of spiritual gifts to every believer as determined by God. The Holy Spirit also empowers

believers to use those spiritual gifts at God's pleasure and desire in building His church. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)

- iv. We believe that the New Testament "sign" gifts of tongues, healing and miracles are not normative in the church today. We believe that the modern tongues movement and faith healing campaigns do not accurately represent what is described in the New Testament in regard to tongues, healing, and miracles nor do they identify any additional measure of power, baptism, or endowment of the Holy Spirit. However, we do believe that God can and will work in any way He so chooses in any place He so chooses, but that He will always do so in a way consistent with His own revelation.

E. The Nature of Mankind. We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; however, in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:10-18, 23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

F. Salvation. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith alone in Jesus Christ, Whose blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of sins and Whose bodily resurrection secured redemption from the penalty of sin. (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19)

G. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.

- i. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)
- ii. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to sin. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

## H. The Church.

- i. We believe that the New Testament church (the body and bride of Christ) consists of all those (Jew and Gentile) who have received forgiveness of sin by faith alone in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The New Testament church began at the giving of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost following the ascension of Jesus Christ. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 2:22-23; 5:25-27)
- ii. We believe that the Scriptures clearly make a distinction between the New Testament church and Israel. The church is not Israel and Israel is not the church. Promises made to Israel will be fulfilled to Israel and promises made to the church will be fulfilled to the church.
- iii. We believe that the establishment, continuance, and autonomy of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)
- iv. We believe that Jesus Christ established two ordinances to be observed by the New Testament church: water baptism of new believers and regular observance of the Lord's Supper by believers. (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-26)
- v. We believe that New Testament water baptism is a one-time, outward ceremony instituted by Jesus Christ by which all believers publicly identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Infant baptisms are pre-conversion and not considered of the same nature as believer's (post-conversion) baptism. We do not believe that baptism has any saving qualities at all. The primary mode of baptism that we employ is by immersion.
- vi. We believe that the Lord's Supper (Communion), also instituted by Jesus Christ, is to be regularly practiced by the church until His return. The Lord's Supper is an opportunity for believers to remember their commitment to Christ and His sacrifice for them. Communion is the clearest act of worship that demonstrates the unity of Christ's body

(the church) on earth. Communion also provides a unique opportunity for the body to regularly confess sin and repair damaged relationships.

I. The Christian Life. We believe that all Christians should live in such a manner as to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every aspect of their lives and actively share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. All Christians are disciples in the process of maturity needing the discipleship of others and having the responsibility of discipling others in the process. We also believe that Christians should live in such a way as to not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to live separated lives from such things as apostasy, illegal and unethical activity, immoral and indecent relationships, and all other sin related practices. (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:15-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11)

J. The End Times.

i. We believe in the personal, imminent return of Jesus Christ, Who will rapture His church (the dead resurrected and the living changed) prior to the seven-year Tribulation, in which God will purify Israel and judge the Gentile nations. Also during this time, the saved (saints) will be evaluated at the Judgment Seat of Christ where they will be rewarded according to the nature and value of their works and faithfulness as disciples. (Matt. 24:15-21; John 14:1-3; 1 Thes. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Rev. 6:1-19:21)

ii. We believe that Jesus will personally and visibly return with all His saints (the Second Coming) at the end of the seven-year Tribulation to establish His earthly Messianic (Millennial) kingdom, which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Deut. 30:1-10; Isa. 11:9; Ezek. 37:21-28; Zech. 14:4-11; Matt. 24:15-25:46; Acts 15:16-17; Rom. 8:19-23; 11:25-27; 2 Thes. 2:1-4; 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Rev. 20:1-3)

- iii. We believe that Jesus Christ, at the end of the Millennium, will bring final judgment on Satan, Satan's angelic following, and all non-believers ushering in the Eternal State. (Rev. 20:7-10)

K. The Eternal State.

- i. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; Phil. 3:21; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)
- ii. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where they await the first resurrection when the physical and non-physical elements will be reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thes. 4:15-17; Rev. 20:4-6)
- iii. We believe that souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection when the physical and non-physical elements are united in order to appear before the Great White Throne Judgment where they will be sentenced to eternity in the Lake of Fire prepared for Satan and his angels. (Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

L. The Personality of Satan. We believe that Satan is a real angelic being created by God but allowed the choice of allegiance or rebellion. Having chosen to rebel, Satan was stripped of his God created position. Satan is the author of sin and the great tempter of man. God has allowed Satan temporary and limited authority over this earth, but he will be ultimately be defeated and suffer eternally in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

M. Creation. We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour days and reject any evolutionary theory as inconsistent with the Biblical text. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)

N. Civil Government and Authority. We believe that God has ordained and created all human authority. They are divided in three basic institutions: the home, the church, and the state (government). Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities, and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

O. Human Sexuality. We believe that sex and sexuality is God's gift to mankind for pleasure and procreation within the context of marriage, which is also God's design. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We are committed to loving all people as Christ loves them but we firmly believe that sexual sin, as clearly defined by Scripture (adultery, bestiality, bisexuality, fornication, homosexuality, incest, lesbianism, and pornography), are unacceptable lifestyle choices. We also believe that gender altering by surgery or appearance is inconsistent with a Biblical definition of sexuality. Marriage ceremonies performed in any facility owned, leased or rented by this church, or by any member of the pastoral staff, will only be those ceremonies sanctioned by God, joining one man with one woman as that gender was determined at birth. (Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 7:2; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23; 1 Thes. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

P. Family Relationships. We are committed to promoting and building healthy families.

- i. We believe that male and female are equal in position before God. We also believe that God uniquely designed and ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the local church. God designed men, specifically, to lead their homes with

strength, and love, and the fear of God and to potentially serve the local church in roles of governing authority. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

- ii. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the church. Wives are to submit themselves to the Scriptural leadership of their husbands as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children both spiritual and moral values and for leading them through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline. We believe that Biblical corporal punishment, when applied in love, is an appropriate form of discipline. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

Q. Divorce and Remarriage. We are committed to strong marital relationships. We are committed to building strong marriages through premarital counseling and working with couples through difficulties when they arise. We believe this will result in stronger relationships that are equipped to maintain covenant/commitment promises.

- i. We believe that God designed and intends the marriage covenant to remain until the death of one spouse. Our desire is that couples will not consider divorce as an option, but we recognize that the laws of our land allow for a spouse to divorce another without their consent. We also recognize that abuse, abusive situations, and abandonment must be addressed to secure the safety of spouses and children. We refuse to allow divorced individuals to feel inferior or unwelcome and we are committed to walking with them towards the healing that is available in Christ. We do not believe that divorce necessarily disqualifies someone from serving in a leadership position. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)



- ii. We believe that the Biblical provision for remarriage of divorced individuals is a difficult issue with many possible interpretations. We are committed to addressing these situations on a case-by-case basis. Much prayer and counsel will be foundational with God's glory and the accurate application of His Word to each case as our goal. We do not believe that remarriage necessarily disqualifies someone from serving in a leadership position.
- R. Abortion. We believe that life begins at conception, and the unborn child is a living human being. We believe that abortion is never an acceptable option. We recognize that many women have been affected by abortion, and we are committed to walking with them towards the healing that is available in Christ. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)
- S. Euthanasia. We believe that life and death are for God to determine. The intentional ending of a human life for any reason (excluding war, capital punishment, and legitimate refusal of over-zealous medical treatment) is unacceptable regardless of the intention. (Ex. 20:13; 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)
- T. Christian Love. We believe that we should demonstrate genuine love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers; those who oppose us; those who openly engage in sinful activity; and those who hold different theological positions. We are to deal with all men graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, gossip/slander, violence, or the threat of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. We must see what God calls sin as such, but we are committed to seeing people like God sees them – created in His image and loved by Him. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10, 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)
- U. Lawsuits between Believers. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve

personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between Covenant Partners. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

V. Missionary Partnerships. We believe that the commission of Christ to take His gospel to every nation is the ongoing responsibility of the church in every age. We are committed to intentionally partnering with like-minded and like-faithed individuals and other groups to accomplish this responsibility. We will do this through prayer, encouragement, and the provision of financial support. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

W. Giving. We believe that every Christian is a steward of what God has given them. God is the source of all we have and everything is His. We believe that everyone is obligated to financially support the ministry of the church. We believe that Biblical giving is regular, consistent, joyful, and sacrificial. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of his or her gift once it has been made. (Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)