

# Statement of Faith – Seaside Church

## Doctrine

We believe that there is one God who exists in a triune community of three persons, Father, Son and Spirit (Deut. 6:4-5, Isaiah 2:17)

## The Bible

We believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God. It is our only infallible source of truth, and the only thing that can bind our consciences. In it, God has given us what we need to know for salvation, Godly living, and a proper, though limited, understanding of Him.

## God

There is only one true and living God. While He is one in His substance, or being, this one substance is revealed to us as "Triune" or containing three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. All three are equal in majesty, glory, and power, and must each be worshiped as God. God is sovereign over the universe and does whatever pleases Him causing or allowing everything to happen that does happen. He is righteous and just and cannot tolerate sin and must punish it. God is love and therefore has reached out to people to make it possible for them to know Him and have life with Him. God is eternal in that there has never been a time when He did not exist nor will there be a time when He does not exist. He is all knowing, all-powerful and everywhere present. God is perfect and holy in all His attributes and He never changes. He is transcendent, meaning that His ways and His wisdom are far above that of man.

## Man

Ever since man was tested in the Garden of Eden, and failed the test, he has inherited through birth a sin nature that makes it impossible for him to know God or please God. This sin nature erects a barrier of natural animosity between man and God that man is not capable of overcoming. By his very nature, man does not desire the things of God, and actively rebels against God, suppressing the truth that he knows about God in unrighteousness (Romans 1:18).

## Salvation (Reformed View)

A person becomes a child of God by trusting Jesus the Messiah to forgive his sins and save him from eternal condemnation and by acknowledging Jesus as his Lord and putting himself under His authority. God desires a relationship with His creation and mankind specifically. In love, God chose and predestined some to come to the knowledge of Him and have faith in Him so that they might be restored to a proper relationship with Him. Justification and salvation are by faith alone. All of those who believe and confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are saved by their faith.

## Substitutionary Atonement

According to Scripture, God planned and accomplished the salvation of believers through the substitutionary atonement of Jesus Christ, God the Son who became a man. By substitutionary we mean that Jesus took our place by going to the cross where the Father put all of our sins on Him and then punished Him as our Substitute. By atonement, we mean that Jesus completely atoned for, or paid the penalty for all of our sins, past, present, and future. It was through this method that God was able to satisfy both his perfect righteousness and justice while at the same time demonstrating His amazing love and mercy, all to the praise of His glory.

## Death

Physical death is caused by sin. It is the separation of the spirit from the body. When a believer dies, his spirit goes directly to be with the Lord (Acts 7:59, 2 Corinthians 5:8, Philippians 1:23). When an unbeliever dies, his spirit goes to a place of torment awaiting the final judgment when he will be consigned to eternal punishment (2 Thessalonians 1:8-9). When the Lord returns, all believers will receive glorified bodies and live forever with the Lord (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

#### The Church and its Mission

God saves people individually but He has called them to live in a community; His church. Thus Christians join together in a local church to reach people with the gospel of salvation and to help them to grow in their knowledge of God and cultivate their relationship with Him and with each other.

As part of the Acts 29 Network, we believe that God has called us to obey the Great Commission through the planting of churches throughout the world, and that this is a most effective means of evangelism.

#### The Christian's Role in Society

The Christian is called to be God's representative and witness to the world. God does not call men to live apart from the rest of the world, but rather that the rest of the world might see God and His truths through His people.

#### The Return of the Lord

Our Lord's return will be personal, visible, and universal. We know not the time of His coming, therefore it is our duty to make preparation for and live in readiness of His coming. When He comes, he will bring an end to history as we know it, and usher in the "eternal state".