

# Venice Bible Church      Statement of Faith

## 1. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES (Bibliology)

We believe in the unique, plenary, verbal, inerrant inspiration of the original writings of the sixty-six books of the Bible, the Word of GOD, wholly infallible in all its parts including scientific and historical accuracy; and that the Bible is the full and complete revelation of GOD'S will for man, as well as the sole, supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We believe the Scriptures to be a unified unfolding of GOD's redemptive plan through the vicarious sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. (Ps. 119:89; Isa. 8:20; 40:8; Ezek. 1:3; Matt. 5:18; 24:35; I Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; I Pet. 1:23; 2 Pet. 1:15-21; Jude 3)

## 2. THE ETERNAL GODHEAD (Theology)

We believe in one GOD - spirit, holy, eternal, infinite - Creator of all things, eternally existing in three Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; co-eternal in being, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Gen. 1:26,27; Deut. 4:35; 6:4; Psa. 102:24-27; Isa. 43:10,11; 44:6-8; Matt. 3:16,17; 28:18; John 4:24; 14:16, 17; 2 Cor. 13:14; I Tim 2:5, Rev. 1:8)

## 3. THE FATHER (Theology - continued)

We believe that GOD the Father, omnipresent (all-present), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnipotent (all-powerful), planned our salvation, and sent His Son to perform the work of redemption. We believe that believers are given to the Son by the Father, and are kept by His power. (I Kings 8:27; Job 42:2; Psa. 33:13-15; 89:8-13; 139:1-12; 147:3-5; Isa. 66:1; Jer. 10:10-13; 23:23,24; 32:17; Dan 4:34, 35; John 10:27-30; 17:1-5; I Pet. 1:2)

## 4. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (Christology)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of GOD, became man, without ceasing to be GOD, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, that He might reveal GOD to sinful men and redeem them. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6,7; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-3, 14, 17, 18; 17:5; Phil. 2:5-8; I Tim 2:5,6; Heb. 1:3,8,10)

- a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our complete redemption through the shedding of His blood and death on the cross as a representative, propitiatory and substitutionary sacrifice - a redemption made sure to us by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Ps. 22:1; Isa. 53:1-12; Matt. 27:33-50; 28:5-7; John 1:29; 10:10,11,17,18; 20:1-31; Acts 20:28; Rom 3:19-28; 5:6-11; 8:32-34; I Cor. 15:1-8, 19-21; Eph. 1:6,7; Col. 1:12-14; Heb. 1:1-3; 9:25-28; 10:11-13; I Pet. 2:24; 3:18)
- b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended bodily into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of GOD the Father, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate. (Ps. 110:1; Acts 1:7-11; Rom. 8:34; I Tim 2:5; Heb. 1:3,13; 4:14-16; 6:19-20; 7:24-28; 9:23,24; 10:12-14; I John 1:9; 2:1,2)

## 5. THE HOLY SPIRIT (Pneumatology)

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, possessing all of the attributes of deity; and, that in essence He is equally GOD. (Gen. 1:2,26; Job 33:4; Ps. 139:7; Luke 1:35; John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 5:3,4; Rom. 15:19; I Cor. 2:10,11; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 9:14)

- a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Author of the Sacred Scriptures. (Acts 28:25; Eph. 6:17; 2 Tim. 3:16,17; I Peter 1:10-12; 2 Peter 1:21)
- b. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration and sanctification, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling equally and permanently every believer, and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 3:3-8; 14:16,17; Rom 8:9-11; I Cor. 6:11; 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30)
- c. We believe that the moment any unregenerated person exercises faith in Christ as Savior, he is immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:9-11; I Cor. 3:16,17; 6:19; Gal. 4:6; I Thes. 4:8)
- d. We believe that the only indispensable evidence of the filling of the Spirit is a consistent consecrated life and walk. (John 7:38,39; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:16, 17, 22, 23, 25; Eph. 3:16-21; 5:18-20)
- e. We believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit today includes glorifying Jesus Christ (not Himself); leading, comforting and guiding the believer; and convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment. (John 14:16-18, 26; 15:26; 16:7-11; 13-15; Rom. 8:14,26)

## 6. THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN (Anthropology)

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of GOD, but through Adam's sin the whole race fell, became alienated from GOD, inherited a sin nature, is totally depraved, possesses no spark of divine life, and of himself, man is utterly helpless to remedy his lost condition apart from the grace of GOD. (Gen. 1:25-27; 3:1-20; Rom. 3:23; 5:6, 8, 12-14; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3, 8-12)

## 7. SALVATION (Soteriology)

We believe that salvation is the gift of GOD brought to sinful man by grace, and received solely by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who accomplished completed redemption by His substitutionary death and the shedding of His own precious blood on the cross of Calvary. (John 3:16-18; 14:6; 20:30,31; Rom. 1:16; 6:23; 10:9, 10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 1:6,7; 2:8-10; Phil. 2:5-8; 3:4-9; Titus 2: 11-14; 3:5-7; I Pet. 1:18, 19; 3:18; I John 5:11-13; Rev. 1:5,6)

## 8. REGENERATION (Soteriology - continued)

We believe that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born of the Holy Spirit instantaneously into the family of GOD, thereby becoming children of the omnipotent GOD; and that those who are thus born from above are kept eternally by the unlimited power of GOD, the unbounded love of Christ, and the unbreakable seal of the Holy Spirit. (John 1:12,13; 3:3-8; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:35-39; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; 2 Tim 1:12; I Pet. 1:23; I John 3:1,2; Jude 24,25)

## 9. SANCTIFICATION (Soteriology - continued)

We believe that sanctification, which is separation unto GOD, is: positionally, the believer was sanctified at his conversion by virtue of his union with Christ; progressively, he is continually being sanctified through the Word as he walks in the Spirit; ultimately,

he will be completely conformed to the image of Christ when he sees his Savior face to face. (John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:22,23; Eph. 5:25-27; Col. 3:1-4; Heb. 10:10, 14; I John 3:1-3)

#### **10. THE CHURCH (Ecclesiology)**

We believe that the Church, which began at Pentecost, is the Body of Christ - a spiritual organism, composed of all who are born again during this age of grace. (Matt. 16:16-18; Acts 1:5; 2:1-41; 10:44; 11:15, 16; I Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 1:22,23; 2:19-22; 3:1-12; 4:4-6; Col. 1:18; I Thes. 4:16,17)

- a. We believe that the Church is to gather together as local churches or assemblies, after the pattern of New Testament doctrine and practice. (Acts 9:31; 13:1-4; 14:23, 26-28; 15:4,40,41; 16:5; I Cor. 1:1,2; Gal. 1:1,2; I Thes. 1:1; Heb. 10:25; Rev.1:4, 11)
- b. We believe that GOD performs the ministry of His Church through its members to whom He has given, by His Spirit, gifts for the purpose of edifying the Body of Christ. (Acts 13:1-4; Rom. 12:1-8; I Cor. 12:1-14; Eph. 4:7-16)
- c. We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ committed the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper to be observed by His church until He comes, according to Matthew 28:19 and I Corinthians 11:23-27 respectively. We believe that every believer should be encouraged to be baptized in obedience to our Lord's command. The mode of baptism practiced is immersion.

#### **11. SATAN (Angelology)**

We believe that Satan is a personal being, was created the highest in rank of all angelic creatures; that he sinned through pride, thereby becoming the author of sin and through the temptation of Adam caused the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of GOD and man; that he is the Prince of the powers of darkness; and that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. (Gen. 3:1-9; Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:12-19; Zech. 3:1; Matt. 4:1-11; 13:38,39; 25:41; Luke 13:16; John 8:44; 13:2, 27; Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 11:3, 13-15; Eph. 6:11-13; I Tim. 3:6,7; Heb. 2:14,15; James 4:7; I Pet. 5:8; I John 3:8; Rev. 12:7-17; 20:2, 3, 7-10)

#### **12. FUTURE THINGS (Eschatology)**

We believe in "That Blessed Hope", the personal, imminent, and pre-millennial return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in the air to receive unto Himself in Heaven, both His own who are alive and remain unto his coming, and also all those who have fallen asleep in Jesus, there to be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ for the deeds done in the body. (John 14:1-3; Rom. 14:10-12; I Cor. 3:9-15; 15:51-53; 2 Cor. 5:10; I Thes. 4:13-18; 5:1-9; Titus 2:11-15; Heb. 9:28)

- a. We believe that He will return to the earth with His saints after the Great Tribulation, to set up His millennial kingdom on the earth, during which time He will reign in peace, justice and righteousness. (Isa. 11:1-9; Zech. 14:1-4, 16; Matt. 24:27-31; 25:31,32; Rom. 11:25-27; Rev. 19:11-21; 20:1-3)
- b. We believe in the literal, but separate, resurrections of the just and the unjust; the everlasting blessedness of the redeemed; and the everlasting punishment of all who have not accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior. (John 5:21-29; I Thes. 4:13-18; Rev. 20:10-15)