

Statement of Faith

Joshua and Caleb Leadership Center

1. The Bible -the Holy Word of God

We believe the Bible to be the only Holy Spirit inspired, infallible and completely authoritative Word of God, revealing God's true nature and character of Holiness and loving kindness to His Creation.

Scriptural References: 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:2, John 3:16-17

The Bible differs from all other books in the world in that it alone is the Word of God, because the holy men of God who wrote the Bible wrote only that which the Holy Spirit communicated to them by Divine inspiration. While maintaining the individual writing styles of the human authors, the Holy Spirit perfectly guided them to write precisely God's Words, without error or omission.

2. God -the Holy Trinity

We believe the sum of the Bible reveals God is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Scriptural References: Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; Deut. 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Colossians 2:9; Ephesians 4:4-6

The All-knowing, All-powerful and All-present God of the Bible is three distinct persons, but one divine essence, equal in power, equal in eternity and equal in majesty. Each "person" of the Trinity entirely possesses the one divine essence of God.

3. Man -created by God

We believe God created man in His own image - in true knowledge of God and in true righteousness and holiness - and endowed with a truly scientific knowledge of nature.

Scriptural References: Genesis 1:26, 27; Genesis 2:19-23; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10

4. The Fall -Man rebelled against God

We believe that sin came into the world by the failure of Adam and Eve, God's first Human creation, and therefore all men and women, without the saving grace of God, are lost and will face the judgement of God.

Scriptural References: Genesis 3; Luke 24:46-47; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:23 & 5:12-18; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; Eph. 2:1-3

By this act of willful rebellion, not only did Adam lose the original knowledge, righteousness, and holiness of God, but also his offspring. Therefore, all men are sinners at conception, dead in their sin, inclined to evil, and subject to the wrath of God. We believe that men and women are unable, through any efforts of their own or by any aid of "culture and science", to reconcile themselves to God and save themselves from the deserved punishment of death and eternal damnation in Hell.

5. Redemption -the Good News of Jesus Christ!

As the second person of the Holy Trinity, we believe that Jesus Christ is God in the flesh who came to take away the sins of the world.

Scriptural References: John 1:1-14; John 3:16-17; Matthew 1:23; Acts 1:11; Acts 2:22-24; Romans 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21; Galatians 4:4, 5; Galatians 3:13; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 2:5-11, Hebrews 1:1-4; Hebrews 4:15; Titus 3:4-7

Jesus Christ is "true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary". The purpose of the miraculous incarnation of the Son of God was that He might become the mediator between God and man, fulfilling the divine Law, and suffering and dying in the place of mankind. In this manner, God reconciled the whole sinful world unto Himself.

6. Conversion -Personal Faith in Jesus Christ

Although salvation is completely the work of God's free grace and is not in whole or in part a result of human effort or will, salvation and forgiveness of sins is personally captured by the gift of faith in Jesus Christ alone.

Scriptural References: Luke 24:46-47; John 3:16-18, 36; Acts 10:43 & 11:21 & 26:18; Rom. 1:5 & 4:16; 2 Cor. 5:16-21; Ephesians 2:8-10

This faith in Jesus Christ, through which a Christ-follower can obtain the forgiveness of sins, was fully earned for us by Christ and is offered by the Gospel - the Good News of God's love for humanity through Jesus' life, death and resurrection. This faith justifies, not inasmuch as it is a work of man, but inasmuch as it lays hold of the grace offered, the forgiveness of sins.

7. Church -The Communion of Saints

We believe that there is one Holy Christian Church on earth, the Head of which is Jesus Christ, and which is gathered, preserved and governed by Christ through the Gospel.

Scriptural References: Acts 5:14; Acts 26:18; Ephesians 2:2

The only members of the Christian Church are genuine followers of Jesus Christ, that is, all those who have despaired of their own righteousness before God and believe that God forgives their sins for Christ's sake. The Christian Church, in the proper sense of the term, is composed of believers only. This means that no person in whom the Holy Spirit has formed faith in the Gospel can be separated of his or her membership in the Christian Church. All "unbelievers", though they be in external communion with the Church and even hold the office of teacher, pastor or any other office in the Church, are not members of the Church, but, on the contrary, are actually at odds with God.

8. Para-Church -Where JCLC Fits

The word "Para" in New Testament Greek means to come "alongside." We believe there is a place for Para-Church ministries, as long as their respective Leaders and Board of Directors understand, embrace and remain true to the Biblical understanding of the Church. Joshua and Caleb Leadership Center (JCLC) is a Para-Church Christian Ministry. JCLC is not the local Church. Therefore, by definition and design, we seek to come alongside the local church (and local school and other institutions in the community) to provide a strategic and intentional focus that the institutions, for

whatever reason, are struggling or ill-equipped to do on their own. Through JCLC's Christ-centered leadership structure, we are a super-charged extension of the church with a laser focus on un/under-fathered children and their mothers. One of our 7&7 Mentoring Model strategies is to introduce all those in our sphere of influence to a local Christ-Centered Church.

9. Christian Life -Empowered by the Holy Spirit

We believe that every genuine follower of Jesus Christ has been given a new spiritual birth through faith alone in Jesus Christ and is therefore called to live in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit and not fulfill the lust of the flesh. A truly Holy Spirit filled Christian will bear fruit to the glory of God. In this regard, we believe the Holy Spirit revives sinners into this new life and then indwells and seals believers by whom the Father guarantees eternal salvation. The Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who illuminates believers' hearts and minds as they study the Word of God and have their lives transformed into the like character of Jesus Christ.

Scriptural References: John 3; Romans 8:9 & 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 2:9-12; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 1:13-14; Titus 3:5

10. Human Sexuality

According to the whole of Biblical teaching on human sexuality, we believe God's plan for human sexual relationships is an exclusive covenant relationship between a male and female in Holy matrimony. Sex outside of this Holy Covenant is an act of rebellion against God's design. Furthermore, God created man and woman as unique biological persons made to complete each other. This is the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society. For this reason, we believe that marriage is exclusively the union of one genetic male and one genetic female.

Scriptural References: Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9

11. Human Life

We believe that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end. Therefore, we believe it is vital to have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of all people of every age, but especially for those who do not have a voice in the decisions that personally and dramatically affect them.

Scriptural References: Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10

Note: For a further reading on JCLC's statement of faith, see the ancient confessions of faith in the [Apostles Creed](#), [Nicene Creed](#) and [Athanasian Creed](#). Each of these Statements of Faith were written to contest non-Biblical teaching that existed in the early church and is sadly still prevalent today.