

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## God

Absolute supreme authority and love, justice and mercy; existing outside of time forever. The author, architect and creator of matter, the universe, your left eye tooth and everything else. All knowing, all loving, all seeing, and all powerful do not begin to describe Him. All purity, light joy, peace and strength find their origin in Him and cannot exist apart from Him. Yet, despite all of this, He is not an impersonal life force. He has a personality, likes and dislikes, and the heart of a perfect Father. (Exodus 3:14; Numbers 23:19; Leviticus 11:44-45; 19:2; Psalm 11:46; Malachi 3:6 John 3:16; 4:24; 5:26; 14:1; Acts 17:28; Romans 3:3-4)

## Scripture (God's Book)

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible, and Godbreathed. (Deuteronomy 4:12; Psalms 119:11, 89, 105; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 22:29; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:12; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 3:16)

## Jesus (God's Son)

*It's hard to describe Jesus better than the writer Paul:*

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

*However Philip Schaff did a pretty good job as well:*

Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander the Great, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, he shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of school, he spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, he set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.

We believe that Jesus was genitum non factum (begotten not made). Or as Athanasias said, "same substance of God" (Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 14:33; 16:16; 28:56; Luke 22:70; 24:46-47; John 1:1, 14; 10:30; 11:25-27; 17:15; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; Romans 1:34; 3:23-26; 8:13; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Gal 4:45; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15; 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:56; 3:16)

## Salvation (God Saves)

The blood of Jesus Christ, which was spilled seven times in the process of his death, provided the only way of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their faith in the death and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God and it cannot be earned through our own efforts. Though Christians have believed these truths for thousands of years, a theology team in the 16th Century found a great way to put it all together using Latin: Sola Scriptura Through Scripture alone.

Sola Fide By Faith Alone

Sola Gratia Through Grace Alone

Solo Christo By Christ Alone

Sola Deo Gloria All for the Glory of God

(Isaiah 1:18; 53:56; 55:7; Matthew 1:21; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:12; 3:16,36; 5:24; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 16:30-31; Romans 1:16-18; 3:23-25; 5:8-10; 6; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Hebrews 9:24-28; Revelation 3:20)

## Humanity (God's work of Art)

Humans are the peak of God's creation. Made to reflect His image and empowered with Godlike abilities (for better or worse) of choice, freedom, creativity, and immortality. We chose worse. We are a paradox reflecting both the divine and dust. "You have never met a mere mortal" as C.S. Lewis wrote. No human is an enemy, all are worth loving unconditionally. However, as beautiful as God created us, we chose worse. As a result we are powerless to save ourselves or keep ourselves from hurting people with our selfishness and pride.

(Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7, 18-22; 3; Psalms 8:36; 32:15; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18, 23; 5:6; 6:6; 7:14-25; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19, 21-22; Ephesians 2; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11)

## Eternity (God's Home)

If God is all light, beauty, peace, joy, grace, creativity, life and righteousness then "Not God" is darkness, sorrow, grotesque, chaos, death, and evil; in a word, hell. Anywhere God is not is hell. We all will either spend forever with God (light, joy, peace) or without God (darkness, sorrow, evil). In the end all get what they want, to be without God or with Him. We all chose to be without him. (John 3:16, 36; Romans 6:23; 1 John 2:25; 5:11-13; Revelation 20:15)

## Holy Spirit (God's Spirit)

The very breath and presence of God's personality. The Holy Spirit is particularly busy these days. His presence assures us of our relationship with Christ. He guides believers into all truth, and exalts Christ. He convicts people of their sin, God's righteousness, and the coming judgment. He fills us with the same power that Jesus had when he was on earth. He comforts us, gives us spiritual gifts, and makes us more like Christ. (Genesis 1:2; Psalms 51:11; 139:7 ff.; Isaiah 61:13; Joel 2:28-32; Mark 1:10; Lk 1:35; 4:1; 11:13; 12:12; John 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:14; 13:2; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Peter 1:21; Revelation 22:17)

## The Church (God's Family)

The capital 'C' church is not a building, organizational structure, or name/logo like 1st Something or Something Synod. It is the living breathing life of God's Spirit joining together a global community of evertransforming people spread all across the world. It is committed to the teachings of Christ, to obeying all of His commands, and it seeks to bring the Gospel to the world. The Church works through in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. It functions through regular meeting, accountability, Scripture, worship, prayer, sacrificial love and service and takes on many forms from the Vatican City to a house church. (Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-47; 5:11-14; 13:13; 14:23; 16:5; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:10-12; 5:22-32; Colossians 1:18; 3:15; 1 Timothy 4:14; 1 Peter 5:14; Revelation 21:23)

## Venture's Approach to Theology

Humble Orthodoxy. Humility guides our orthodoxy. We are not wise, learned, or enlightened enough to change our thoughtful Christian orthodoxy that spans every continent, culture, and race for the greater part of two millennia. We are also careful to not draw additional lines that favor ours or another particular tradition.

It is important to draw lines, but very few. This allows Venture to have clear orthodox faith, and still include a myriad of Christian traditions and denominations.

Here are the orthodox lines we have drawn:

It always has been and will always be all about Jesus. Period.

The Bible gets to tell us what to believe, we humbly obey it with fear and trembling.

God gets to do what He wants, this does not change that he is good.

Heaven and hell are real and the stakes of what happens on earth could not be greater.

We will not change the orthodox moral teachings of scripture.

God's glory is the ultimate goal of everything.

These said, we work with Catholic, protestant, charismatic, greek orthodox, Arminians, charismatics Calvinists and all who worship Jesus.