

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

CHURCH OF EVANGELICAL FAITH CHRISTIANS

## NAME OF THE CHURCH — CHURCH OF EVANGELICAL FAITH CHRISTIANS

«If therefore the whole church be come together...» (1 Cor. 14:23); «...the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch» (Acts 11:26); «...let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ» (Phil. 1:27); «When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all together in one place» (Acts 2:1).

## WE BELIEVE

### I. IN THE WORD OF GOD

The canonical books of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are the Holy Scripture, the Word of God — the one and fully sufficient means for knowing God and our salvation. (1 Thess. 2:13; John 5:39; 1 Cor. 15:1-2)

#### A Christian:

- a must search the Word of God: «Search the Scriptures...» (John 5:39; Josh. 1:8)
- b must believe the Word of God (Mark 1:15; Acts 24:14)
- c must live according to the Word of God: «If you love Me, keep My commandments» (John 14:15; Deut. 5:31-32)
- d must not distort the Word of God: «...nor handling the word of God deceitfully» (2 Cor. 4:2; 2 Cor. 2:17; 1 Pet. 4:11)
- e must not add to or take away from the Word of God (Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:8; Deut. 13:1)

### II. IN THE TRIUNE GOD

He is the One True God, existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:13; 1 John 5:7; John 17:3; Gen. 1:26; Matt. 3:16-17)

#### 1 IN GOD THE FATHER

God the Father is the Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. (Acts 17:24; Gen. 1:1-31)

- a dwells in heaven (Matt. 6:9)
- b dwells in unapproachable light (1 Tim. 6:16; 1 Kings 8:30)
- c He is Spirit: «God is Spirit...» (John 4:24; 2 Cor. 3:17)
- d omnipresent: «Where can I go from Your Spirit?» (Ps. 139)
- e all-knowing: «You, O Lord, know all things...» (Jer. 15:15)
- f almighty: «...with God all things are possible» (Matt. 19:26; Gen. 35:11)
- g unchanging: «...with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning» (James 1:17)
- h true, Living, Eternal: «But the Lord is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King» (Jer. 10:10)
- i holy (John 17:11; 1 Pet. 1:16)
- j righteous and just (Ps. 119:137-138; Ps. 11:7)
- k perfect love: «God is love» (1 John 4:16)

#### 2 IN GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ is God, one with the Father: «...I am in the Father, and the Father in Me...» (Rom. 9:5; John 14:9-10; Col. 2:9; John 1:1, 10:30; 1 John 5:20; Isa. 9:6; Phil. 2:11)

- a firstborn over all creation: «He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation» (Col. 1:15)
- b by Him all things were created: «...by Him all things were created that are in heaven and on earth» (Col. 1:16)
- c possesses all the attributes of God:

## II. IN THE TRIUNE GOD continued

- He is eternal: «...Your years will not fail» (*Heb. 1:11-12*)
- unchanging: «Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever» (*Heb. 13:8*)
- omnipresent: «...where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them» (*Matt. 18:20*)
- all-knowing: «...in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge» (*Col. 2:3*)
- almighty: «All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth» (*Matt. 28:18*)
- d** took on a body by the Holy Spirit, from the Virgin Mary, and became man (*Luke 1:34-35*)
- e** was crucified, died, rose again, and ascended into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father (*1 Cor. 15:3-4; Mark 16:19*)
- f** He is the only Saviour: «...there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved» (*Acts 4:12*)
- g** High Priest of the New Covenant: «...having a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens...» (*Heb. 4:14-16*)
- h** Advocate: «...we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...» (*1 John 2:1*)
- i** the one Mediator between God and men (*1 Tim. 2:5*)
- j** baptizes with the Holy Spirit: «...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire» (*Matt. 3:11*)
- k** Judge of the living and the dead: «For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son» (*John 5:22*)

## 3 IN GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God, a Person of the Holy Trinity, possessing all divine attributes. (*Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 3:17*)

- a** came to earth to build the Church of Christ (*Eph. 2:22*)
- b** the Holy Spirit takes part in the salvation of man:
  - regenerates man: «...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God» (*John 3:3-6*)
  - dwells in the believer (*1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Tim. 1:14*)
  - teaches: «...the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and teaches you concerning all things...» (*1 John 2:27*)
  - intercedes: «...the Spirit helps in our weaknesses...» (*Rom. 8:26-27; 1 Cor. 2:13*)
  - comforts (*John 16:7*)
  - bestows gifts: «...distributing to each one individually as He wills» (*1 Cor. 12:7-11*)
  - sanctifies: «...but you were sanctified... by the Spirit of our God» (*1 Cor. 6:11*)

## III. THAT ANGELS

Angels are God's ministering spirits: «Are they not all ministering spirits...?» (*Heb. 1:14*)

- a** they were created by God through God's Son (*Col. 1:16*)
- b** they do the will of God: «...you mighty ones who do His word...» (*Pss. 103:20*)
- c** they are not to be worshipped: «...Worship God!» (*Rev. 22:8-9*)

## IV. THAT THE DEVIL (SATAN)

The devil (Satan) is a former angel of God, cast down from heaven by God for sin. (*Jude 1:6; Ezek. 28:14-17*)

- a** he is the origin of falsehood and a murderer: «He was a murderer from the beginning, and did not stand in the truth...» (*John 8:44*)
- b** ruler of this world: «...the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me» (*John 14:30*)
- c** head of the angels who rebelled against God (*Rev. 12:7*)

#### IV. THAT THE DEVIL (SATAN) continued

- d defeated by Christ (*Rev. 5:5; Heb. 2:14; Col. 2:15; John 16:11*)
- e will be cast forever into the lake of fire: «The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone...» (*Rev. 20:10*)

### WE CONFESS THAT

## I. MAN AND HIS LIFE

### 1 MAN

Man is a being created by God, having spirit, soul, and body. (*Gen. 2:7; 1 Thess. 5:23*)

- a God created man in His own image and likeness (*Gen. 1:26-27*)
- b man has freedom of choice: «...I have set before you life and death... therefore choose life...» (*Deut. 30:19*)
- c man sinned through disobedience to God (*Gen. 2:16-17*)
- d through the fall of the first man, every person inherited sin and death (*Rom. 5:12*)
- e through the grace of Jesus Christ, every person is given the possibility of salvation (*Titus 2:11*)

### 2 THE LIFE OF MAN

The life of man is a sacred gift of God to man. (*Gen. 2:7; Acts 17:25*)

- a no one has the right to take life:
  - of oneself: «Do yourself no harm...» (*Acts 16:28*)
  - of another person: «You shall not murder!» (*Ex. 20:13; Matt. 5:21; 19:18; Rom. 13:9*)
  - of an unborn child: «Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed...» (*Ps. 139:16*)
- b only God has the right to end a person's earthly life (*Gen. 6:3, 6:13*)
- c every person is obligated to honour the life of others and to treat their own life responsibly
- d Christians of the EFC, according to their convictions, may make use of the right to alternative non-military service (*Isa. 2:4; Matt. 5:34-36, 44; 26:52; Ex. 20:13*)

## II. SIN

Sin is the transgression of God's Law: «...sin is lawlessness» (*1 John 3:4*)

- a sin entered man through unbelief in God and trust in the lie of the devil (*Gen. 3:4-6; 2 Cor. 11:3*)
- b the consequence of sin is death: «For the wages of sin is death!» (*Rom. 6:23*)
- c Christ came to put away sin by His own sacrifice (*Heb. 9:26*)

## III. SALVATION

Salvation is the gift of forgiveness of sins and of eternal life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

- a man cannot be saved by his own efforts, nor by his own righteousness, nor by merit: «...nor is there salvation in any other...» (*Matt. 16:26; Acts 4:12*)
- b God offers forgiveness of all sins and eternal life freely, through faith in Jesus Christ: «For God so loved the world...» (*John 3:15-18; Eph. 2:8*)
- c for salvation, every person must:
  - believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour (*Acts 16:30-31; 1 John 5:13*)
  - repent: «...Repent...» (*Acts 2:37-38; Matt. 3:8*)
  - be born from above: «...unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God» (*John 3:3*)

### III. SALVATION *continued*

- of water (the Word of God): «...He brought us forth by the word of truth...» (*James 1:18; John 3:5*)
- of the Spirit: «...He saved us... through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit» (*Titus 3:5; Ezek. 36:26-27*)
- be baptized by faith: «He who believes and is baptized will be saved...» (*Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21*)
- receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:37-38*)

## IV. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

This is the receiving of the great promise from the Father: «...in the last days, says God, I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh...» (*Acts 2:17; 1:5*)

### 1. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ACCOMPANIED BY:

- a** receiving God's power: «...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...» (*Acts 1:8*)
- b** the sign of other tongues: «And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues...» (*Acts 2:4; 10:45-46; 19:6*)
- c** the manifestation of spiritual gifts: the word of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, divers tongues... (*1 Cor. 12:8-11*)

### 2. TO RECEIVE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT ONE NEEDS:

- a** faith: «...that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith» (*Gal. 3:14; Eph. 1:13*)
- b** spiritual thirst: «...If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink!» (*John 7:37-39*)
- c** obedience to God: «...we are His witnesses, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him» (*Acts 5:32*)
- d** prayer: «...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!» (*Luke 11:13; Acts 1:14*)

### BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT MAY TAKE PLACE:

- a** during prayer (*Acts 1:14*)
- b** during preaching: «While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all...» (*Acts 10:44*)
- c** at the laying on of ministers' hands: «Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit» (*Acts 8:17; 9:17; 19:6*)
- d** in other circumstances (*Acts 8:39*)

## V. GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are the supernatural working of the Holy Spirit in a person, not a manifestation of human abilities: «...as the Spirit gave them utterance» (*Acts 2:4*)

- a** they are given by God for the building up of the Church (*1 Cor. 14:12*)
- b** the Holy Spirit bestows the gifts according to His will: «But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills» (*1 Cor. 12:11*)
- c** spiritual gifts are to be desired: «...desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy» (*1 Cor. 14:1*)
- d** spiritual gifts must not be neglected: «Do not neglect the gift that is in you...» (*1 Tim. 4:14*)
- e** spiritual gifts must be joined with love for God and neighbour (*1 Cor. 14:1; 13:1-13*)

## VI. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

## VI. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST · continued

### 1 THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Universal Church of Christ consists of people born of God and saved through faith in Jesus Christ, from all nations and tribes. (*Heb. 12:22-23; Acts 2:47; John 10:16; Rev. 5:9*)

- a the Universal Church is one with the Lord Jesus Christ; it is His body: «...and the Church is His body» (*Eph. 1:23*)
- b the Head of the Universal Church is Jesus Christ: «And He is the head of the body, the Church» (*Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22*)
- c the Universal Church lives and acts, preserving unity, through the teaching of Jesus Christ handed down by the prophets and apostles (*Eph. 2:20-22; 1 Cor. 3:11*)
- d the Universal Church is built by Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit (*Eph. 2:22*)
- e the Universal Church keeps and upholds God's truth: «...the Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth» (*1 Tim. 3:15*)
- f the Universal Church in eternity will be with Jesus Christ; she is His bride (*Eph. 5:31-32; Rev. 22:17; 19:7-8*)

### 2 THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Local Church is a union of believers by place of residence for joint service to the Lord. (*1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 1:1; Rom. 1:12*)

- a the local church has the following tasks:
  - to glorify God (*Rom. 15:5-6, 9-11*)
  - to preach the Gospel: «Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature!» (*Mark 16:15*)
  - to establish church members in faith, in holiness, in love (*2 Thess. 1:3; Acts 2:42-47*)
  - to do works of mercy: «...as we have opportunity, let us do good to all...» (*Gal. 6:9-10*)
- b to become a member of the local church one must: believe and repent (*Mark 1:15*), be spiritually born of God (*John 3:3*), receive water baptism (*Acts 2:38, 41*)
- c believers moving from one local church to another should have an oral or written testimony of membership from the pastor of their church
- d only church members and those who have repented and received the Lord as their personal Saviour have the right to take part in conducting the service (*1 John 2:12-14; Joel 2:16*)
- e members of the local church have the right to propose, elect, and be elected to various spiritual ministries, to participate in members' meetings and other church affairs (*Acts 6:3*)
- f every member of the local church is called by the Lord: to live in holiness according to the Lord's commandments (*John 14:15*), to preserve the peace and unity of the church (*Eph. 4:3*), to take sincere part in the ministry and life of the church, and to be faithful to the Lord and His Church