

James River Community Church

Statement of Faith

August 1, 2021

Bible

We believe that all of the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired and sovereignly preserved Word of God.¹ It is without error, sufficient, and serves as the final authority for our faith and practice.²

Triune God

We believe in one true and living God,³ eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.⁴ These three persons are completely equal in attributes, each with the same divine nature, yet they are each distinct persons.⁵ The Triune God is wise,⁶ loving,⁷ merciful,⁸ faithful,⁹ patient,¹⁰ abundant in goodness¹¹ and truth.¹² He is infinite in being and perfection,¹³ self-existent and self-sufficient.¹⁴ He is the sovereign Creator of all things,¹⁵ and he upholds and governs all things.¹⁶ He is holy,¹⁷ and utterly opposed to sin;¹⁸ yet he graciously¹⁹ forgives the sin of his people.²⁰

God the Father

We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth;²¹ the eternal,²² almighty²³ Lord of all.²⁴ He is the heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.²⁵ And he is the Father of His people,²⁶ having given them new birth in his Spirit.²⁷ He planned and arranged the salvation of His people,²⁸ sent his Son into the world to save them,²⁹ and adopts them into his family by his Spirit.³⁰ He has reserved a place for them in his presence,³¹ and will raise them from the dead³² into his kingdom³³ to reign with him forever.³⁴

Jesus Christ

We believe in the deity of Christ,³⁵ in his virgin birth,³⁶ in his sinless life,³⁷ in his miracles, in his vicarious and atoning death through his shed blood,³⁸ in his bodily resurrection,³⁹ in his ascension to the right hand of the Father,⁴⁰ and in his personal return in power and glory.⁴¹

Holy Spirit

We believe in the Person of the Holy Spirit.⁴² Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for the salvation of lost and sinful man.⁴³ We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, eternally existent with the Father and the Son;⁴⁴ who draws God's people to himself;⁴⁵ indwells them and regenerates their hearts so that they can trust in Christ;⁴⁶ fills and empowers them,⁴⁷ producing fruit in their lives,⁴⁸ so that they can grow to be more like Jesus;⁴⁹ and seals them for the day of redemption,⁵⁰ ensuring that they will persevere to the end.⁵¹

Mankind

We believe that God created humanity, male and female, in His image,⁵² for his glory.⁵³ Divinely ordained differences between male and female reflect God's original creation design and are meant for human good and human flourishing.⁵⁴ Humanity was created to know God,⁵⁵ and to experience His fellowship, and to glorify him.⁵⁶

Sin

We believe that all mankind, beginning with Adam, have rebelled, sinned against God, and are wholly marred by sin and its consequences.⁵⁷ For these reasons, mankind is incapable of pleasing or having a productive relationship with God without having a supernatural spiritual rebirth.⁵⁸

Salvation

We believe that salvation from the penalty of our sin can only be attained through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,⁵⁹ who forgives our sin and declares us righteous by his grace,⁶⁰ and not by works, or effort, or merit.⁶¹ Saving faith is always accompanied by true repentance.⁶² Because of God's sustaining power, every true believer will persevere to the end.⁶³

Judgment

We believe that those who persist in their rebellion and rejection, and do not repent and believe the gospel, will experience eternal conscious punishment under the wrath of God in Hell.⁶⁴

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is a progressive act of God's grace in us, conforming us to the image of his Son,⁶⁵ starting with conversion and continuing by faith and repentance.⁶⁶ Genuine faith and repentance will inevitably result in obedience, forgiveness, and good works.⁶⁷

Christian Life

We believe that the Christian should strive, enabled by the Holy Spirit, to live a godly, holy life in this present evil world.⁶⁸ God accords to each the responsibility and privilege of discernment and the liberty of conscience which should be stewarded and exercised.⁶⁹

Family

We believe that God ordained marriage as a covenantal, lifelong union between one man and one woman,⁷⁰ as husband and wife, and is meant to signify the covenant love between Christ and his bride, the church.⁷¹ God's revealed will for all people is chastity outside⁷² of marriage and fidelity within marriage.⁷³

Church

We believe in the Church, the body of believers that God has saved, and has called out of the world to live with him under His rule. All believers are members of the universal, invisible church – the bride for whom Christ died.⁷⁴ The local church is an earthly, visible expression of the universal, invisible Church.⁷⁵ It is to be comprised of regenerate members,⁷⁶ led by a plurality of elders,⁷⁷ and served by deacons.⁷⁸

Sacraments

We believe in Baptism and the Lord's Supper - the two sacraments ordained by Jesus to be practiced in the church. God's people are to be baptized by true believers in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.⁷⁹ And they are to enjoy the Lord's Supper together regularly, as an ongoing act of remembering the death of Jesus Christ – his broken body and shed blood.⁸⁰

Christ's Return

We believe in the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. That Jesus will return, in bodily form, to restore all things.⁸¹ He will gather his people, who have repented of their sins and trusted in Christ, to reign together with him and enjoy him forever. He will consign those who oppose him in unbelief to eternal conscious punishment in Hell.⁸²

¹ 2 Peter 1:20-21
² 2 Timothy 3:16-17
³ Deuteronomy 6:4
⁴ 2 Corinthians 13:14
⁵ John 1:1-2, 14:26
⁶ Romans 16:27, Job 9:4, Job 12:13, Psalm 104:24
⁷ 1 John 4:8, Psalm 136
⁸ Exodus 34:6
⁹ Psalm 117, Psalm 57:10
¹⁰ Psalm 86:15, 2 Peter 3:9
¹¹ Psalm 100:5, Luke 18:19
¹² Numbers 23:19, 2 Samuel 7:28
¹³ Matthew 5:48, Psalm 18:30
¹⁴ Job 41:11, Acts 17:24-25
¹⁵ Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1-4
¹⁶ Isaiah 40:21-26, Psalm 147:7-9
¹⁷ Leviticus 19:1-2
¹⁸ Hebrews 12:14, Proverbs 6:16-19
¹⁹ Psalm 103:8
²⁰ Psalm 103:1-5, Mark 2:7, Acts 3:19-21
²¹ Genesis 1:1, Jeremiah 32:17, Psalm 121:1-2
²² Psalm 90:2, Job 36:26, John 8:58
²³ Psalm 115:3, Matthew 19:26
²⁴ 1 Corinthians 8:6
²⁵ John 1:14, John 5:17-24
²⁶ Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:6-7, Ephesians 4:4-6
²⁷ John 3:1-8
²⁸ Ephesians 1:3-6
²⁹ John 3:16-17, John 5:30-38, John 12:49-50, John 17
³⁰ Romans 8:14-17, Galatians 4:1-7
³¹ John 14:1-7
³² Ephesians 2:1-7
³³ Matthew 25:31-34
³⁴ Revelation 22:1-5
³⁵ Hebrews 1:1-3
³⁶ Luke 1:26-38
³⁷ Hebrews 4:14-15
³⁸ Romans 3:21-26
³⁹ 1 Corinthians 15:3-8
⁴⁰ Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:6-11
⁴¹ Revelation 19:11-16
⁴² John 14:15-17, 26
⁴³ John 3:3
⁴⁴ Genesis 1:1-2
⁴⁵ John 16:7-11
⁴⁶ John 14:16-17
⁴⁷ Ephesians 5:18-20
⁴⁸ Galatians 5:22-23
⁴⁹ 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, Romans 8:29
⁵⁰ Ephesians 4:30
⁵¹ Ephesians 1:13-14
⁵² Genesis 1:26-27
⁵³ Isaiah 43:7
⁵⁴ Genesis 1:26-30
⁵⁵ John 17:3
⁵⁶ Isaiah 43:1-7
⁵⁷ Genesis 3, Romans 5:12-14
⁵⁸ Romans 3:9-20
⁵⁹ Romans 10:9
⁶⁰ Romans 4:4-6
⁶¹ Romans 9:16, Ephesians 2:8-9
⁶² Acts 20:21, Mark 1:14-15, Ephesians 2:8-10
⁶³ Matthew 24:13, John 6:39-40, John 10:28-29
⁶⁴ Matthew 25:32-46, Luke 16:22-24, Revelation 14:9-11
⁶⁵ 2 Corinthians 3:18
⁶⁶ Romans 8:29-30
⁶⁷ Romans 6, Ephesians 2:8-10
⁶⁸ 1 Timothy 2:1-4
⁶⁹ Romans 14
⁷⁰ Genesis 1:23-25
⁷¹ Ephesians 5:22-33
⁷² 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Ephesians 5:3

⁷³ Hebrews 13:4, Exodus 20:14

⁷⁴ Ephesians 5:25-27

⁷⁵ 1 Corinthians 1:2

⁷⁶ Acts 2:47

⁷⁷ 1 Peter 5:1-4

⁷⁸ Acts 6:1-4

⁷⁹ Matthew 28:18-20, Romans 6:1-4

⁸⁰ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

⁸¹ Acts 3:19-21

⁸² Matthew 25:31-46