

## Statement of Faith

As you read our Statement of Faith, keep in mind that just as there are no perfect people, there are no perfect churches. We don't claim to have all the answers or even know all the questions, but we see God at work, powerfully forming His church out of this broken lost society. All are welcome to join us to hear God's Word and find fellowship.

### ***We Believe:***

1. God's priority is for us to develop a love for Him, ourselves and others. (Matthew 22:34-40, John 13:34-35, Matthew 28:18-20, Luke 6:27, Ephesians 5:25)
2. The Bible is the true Word of God, without error and our guide for life. (II Timothy 3:14-17, II Peter 1:20-21, Matthew 24:35, Luke 16:17, Hebrews 4:12)
3. In God as Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all one being. (Romans 8:9-11, Ephesians 3:16-19, II Corinthians 3:17)
4. In Jesus Christ:
  - a. In the virgin birth of Jesus. (Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-38)
  - b. Jesus died for all our sins because we cannot pay the penalty ourselves. (John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23, II Corinthians 5:21)
  - c. Jesus was buried, rose from the dead, went to Heaven, and we look forward to His return. (I Corinthians 15:1-4, I John 2:1-2, Philippians 2:5-11, John 14:1-3, I Thessalonians 4:13-18)
5. Each individual must decide if they will accept God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life by receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. (John 1:12, Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-9)
6. The Holy Spirit convicts, guides, and lives in believers, giving them spiritual gifts and empowering them to mature spiritually. (John 16:8, 13, Romans 8:9, I Corinthians 12:7-12, Romans 8:9-16, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 1:13-14)
7. In the Church:
  - a. Jesus is the head of the Church. (Ephesians 1:22-23, Colossians 1:18)
  - b. Jesus established the Church to be made up of all those who have received Him as their Lord and Savior. (Matthew 16:16-18, Colossians 1:18, Acts 2:40-47, Ephesians 1:19-23)

- c. Jesus asked the Church to remember His death and resurrection by observing believer's baptism and communion. (Matthew 28:18-20, I Corinthians 11:23-26)
  - d. God calls His followers to make disciples by telling others about His gift of forgiveness and eternal life that is offered through Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 3:10, Acts 1:8, I Peter 3:15, II Corinthians 5:17-21)
8. In marriage:
- a. That God has always intended marriage to be a union between one biological man and one biological woman in a faithful and monogamous sexual relationship for life. (Genesis 2:20-24, Matthew 19:4-6, I Thessalonians 4:3-8)
  - b. That any sexual intimacy outside of marriage (including adultery, living together, one-night stands, homosexual relations, bisexual conduct, incest, prostitution, use of pornography, etc.) is wrong, sinful, and goes against God's divine plan for us. (Matthew 15:18-20, Romans 1:18-32, I Corinthians 6:9-11, Galatians 5:19-21, Leviticus 18:1-24)
  - c. Because God loves each individual so much, He offers redemption and restoration to all who humbly confess and forsake such sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (I Corinthians 6:9-11, II Corinthians 5:17)
  - d. That no one should serve in ministry in Jesus' church if they are practicing any of the inappropriate sexual behavior listed above. (I Corinthians 5:1-5, 9-12, I Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:6)
9. God hears and answers prayers. (Matthew 5:7, John 14:12-14, James 4:2-3, I Peter 5:7)
10. God is the only One worthy of worship. (Matthew 4:10, Exodus 20:1-6)
11. Worship is an attitude of the heart that honors God in all we do. (John 4:23-24, I Corinthians 6:19-20, I Corinthians 10:31, II Corinthians 5:15)
12. God created angels to serve Him and His people. (Hebrews 1:14, Psalm 34:7, Psalm 91:1-2, Matthew 18:10)
13. The devil and his demons are fallen angels and the enemies of God and all people. (Revelation 12:9, II Corinthians 4:4, Luke 8:12, Ephesians 6:10-18)
14. Hell is a real place of punishment set aside for the devil and his demons, and a natural consequence for those who do not receive Jesus Christ as Savior. (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:10-15)
15. Heaven is the place where believers will spend eternity with God. (John 3:3, John 14:1-3, I John 5:11-13, Revelation 21:1-22:5, II Thessalonians 1:8-9)

16. Every individual is incredibly important to God and so every individual is also incredibly important to us. (II Peter 3:9, I Timothy 2:1-4, Ezekiel 33:11, Isaiah 30:18, John 3:16-17)

## **Non-Negotiable/Essential Doctrines**

### ***Sexual Morality***

1. We believe God's design and intention for marriage is that it is to be between one man and one woman for a lifetime.
2. We believe that any sexual intimacy outside of a marriage between one man and one woman in marriage is immoral, whether heterosexual (I Thessalonians 4:3-8) or homosexual (Romans 1:18-32).
3. We don't expect people who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior to live by kingdom standards, but we do expect those who claim Christ as Savior to live in accordance with His word (I Corinthians 5:9-13).
4. We seek to show love to everyone – no matter what behavior they may be involved in. We want to accept people for who they are even if we do not approve of what they do – and we seek to point them to Jesus as Lord and Savior for their eternal salvation, and for a full and healthy life on earth.
5. In our church by-laws we have defined marriage as a legal union between one man and one woman in a monogamous relationship for life. Because of this, anyone who participates in leadership at Crossroads must also agree with this definition of marriage and neither participate in nor give approval to other relationships of sexual intimacy outside of this definition.

### ***Abortion***

1. We believe that God is the author of life and that all life, even life conceived in the womb, is precious to Him. Jesus Himself spoke of how precious children are, and we believe all unborn children are precious in His sight.
2. We believe that from the beginning of conception that life constitutes a person – a human being – and that life is to be protected and seen as valuable.
3. We believe that to bring a pregnancy to a premature termination, or to abort a child, is to choose to take a life.
4. We not only value the life of a child in the womb, but also the life of the mother and father. Abortion brings "unseen wounds" to the heart, soul, spirit, and emotions of both parents, so we encourage them to seek guidance and options other than abortion when dealing with an unplanned pregnancy.
5. We believe that even if a woman has had an abortion, or a man encourages an abortion, God through Jesus offers forgiveness and healing, if the man and/or woman is repentant and seeks God's forgiveness and healing.

### ***Biblical Marriage***

See # 8 above within Statement of Faith

# Convictional, but not Essential Doctrines

## ***Male Leadership***

### **In Marriage**

1. We believe God calls husbands to be the primary leaders in their homes. (Ephesians 5:22-31, Colossians 3:18-19, I Peter 3:1-7)
2. We believe that men, as the primary leaders of their homes, are called to set aside their own desires and make decisions based on what is best for those under their God given charge. (Do what is best for their wives and children.)
3. We believe wives are to submit to their husbands as the primary leaders in their homes, but this does not mean being a doormat. Submission means to voluntarily offer their strengths to serve their husbands, keeping in mind that their husbands will answer to God for the direction they take their family.
4. We do NOT believe that men are more spiritual than women, or smarter than women, or better leaders than women. We simply believe God has appointed husbands to be the primary leaders of the home, and wives are to respect the responsibility their husbands have before God.

### **In the Church**

1. We believe men are called to step up and be the primary spiritual leaders in the church. (I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, I Peter 5:1-4)
2. All descriptions given of elders, overseers, and pastors in the New Testament refer to men, and the words are written in the masculine gender in the Greek.
3. At Crossroads, the pastoral staff serve as our elders and are therefore required to meet the qualifications listed in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9.
4. The Crossroads Leadership Council (CLC) members serve like the seven listed in Acts 6 did. When the apostles could not keep up with taking care of widows, they asked the people to select seven godly people to help with this so that the apostles could devote themselves to God's word and prayer. Our CLC focuses on the business of the church so that the pastoral and ministry staff can be focused on God's word, prayer, and shepherding.
5. We acknowledge that there were times when God has chosen to use women to lead spiritually, but these are the exception in the Scripture and not the predominate pattern.
  - a. It seems Priscilla was the primary spiritual leader in her marriage because her name is always listed first when mentioned in Acts – Priscilla and Aquila.
  - b. Deborah, in the book of Judges, chapters 4-5, is recognized as the leader, but she rebukes Barak for not taking the lead as the man God called to lead – since he surrendered his leadership to her.
6. There were women who held positions of significant influence throughout the New Testament like Phoebe (Romans 15:1), Mary (Romans 15:6), and others mentioned in Romans 15, but

none are listed as primary spiritual leaders in the church. There were also prophetesses and other women who influenced the leadership of the church.

7. Jesus himself had no problem breaking with the traditions of the elders in order to honor the commands of God, but when He chose 12 disciples, He did not choose 9 men and 3 women or 6 men and 6 women. He only chose men. There were women who played a significant role in his ministry (Luke 8:1-3), but they were not called to be His chosen disciples or apostles.
8. Again, we are not saying men are smarter than women, or more spiritual or even better leaders. We are just saying that Scripture teaches that “men” are called by God to be the primary leaders of his church.
9. This will not keep us from fellowshiping with other churches that have female elders or pastors, but we will not put women in these positions because we are seeking to “Trust in the Lord with all our hearts and not lean on our own understanding.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

## ***Official Membership***

1. We believe that anyone who has received Jesus Christ as his/her personal Lord and Savior is a member of Christ’s church universal.
2. We do not have formal “membership” at Crossroads. (See our by-laws)
3. While we do not have formal membership at Crossroads, we do require that anyone in leadership at Crossroads attends and completes our *Joining Crossroads* class. As a result of completing the class, we ask that those who want to be in leadership or who want to be considered a committed part of our church family sign the agreement included in the material. Some of those agreements are listed immediately below:
  - a. We absolutely believe that it is essential for anyone in leadership at Crossroads to have given their heart and life to Jesus as Lord and Savior and be in agreement/unity with us regarding key matters, such as our Statement of Faith, our stance on Sexual Morality and Biblical Marriage, and abortion.
  - b. We absolutely believe that it is essential for anyone in leadership at Crossroads to be in agreement with our Purpose Statement, our Mission Statement, and our Values.
4. We do not require someone to be a part of the Crossroads’ family to participate in our worship services, our Life Groups, Baptism, Communion or various other ministries like these.

## ***Baptism***

1. We do NOT believe that baptism is essential to salvation. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
2. We do believe that each individual should decide for himself/herself if he/she wants to be baptized – only AFTER giving his/her life to Jesus as Lord and Savior.
3. We believe the baptisms in the Bible were all done by immersing the person underwater as his/her declaration of his/her belief in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By being baptized, the individual is showing by his/her actions that he/she is identifying with Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection. (Romans 6:3-4)

4. We believe that if someone's parents had him/her christened/baptized as an infant that it is admirable that the parents wanted God's blessing over his/her life, but still, after giving one's life to Jesus each individual should choose, on their own, to be baptized by immersion in response to Jesus' command given in Matthew 28:18-20.
5. If a person has trusted Christ as Savior and then had a public profession of their faith using another mode of baptism, we would encourage them to seriously and prayerfully consider being baptized again by immersion.
6. Since baptism is NOT essential to salvation, we do not require people who are a part of Crossroads to be baptized by immersion after giving their lives to Christ as Savior, but we encourage them to be obedient to Christ and take this public stand to let others know He is their Savior.

## Flexible Doctrines

### *Gifts of the Spirit*

1. God's Word clearly teaches that when anyone gives their life to Jesus that he/she receives the Holy Spirit, who comes to dwell within him/her. (John 7:38-39, Romans 8:13-17, I Corinthians 2:11-16)
2. God's word also clearly teaches that when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us, He gives us "gifts" – or "manifestations" of His presence within us. (Romans 12:3-8, I Corinthians 12:4-31, I Peter 4:10-11)
3. We believe God's Spirit determines what "gifts" each person receives – or which way He will "manifest" Himself through that believer. (I Corinthians 12:4, 11)
4. We believe God's Spirit gives us His gifts for the common good – NOT for our own personal benefit. (I Corinthians 12:7)
5. While we believe wholeheartedly that God's Spirit can work through anyone, He wants to do miraculous things through, we also believe that often the miraculous gifts or "sign gifts" of the Holy Spirit have been misunderstood. Some who desperately want the Holy Spirit to do miraculous things through them, at times fool themselves into believing that they have a miraculous gift or sign gift. Many churches emphasize these gifts above all the other gifts (like serving, giving or leading).
6. We encourage each individual to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading and work in his/her life, but we discourage anyone from trying to guilt other people into trying to receive a miraculous or sign gift, like speaking in tongues or healing.
7. We believe every part of Christ's body needs every other part and that every church that lifts up Jesus as Lord and Savior, and God's word as truth, is interdependent on every other church that does the same. We acknowledge that in some churches God's Spirit works in different ways than in others.
8. Some churches have much more expressive worship than we do. These churches often emphasize the miraculous or sign gifts more than we feel the Spirit leading us to do at Crossroads. We accept that we have brothers and sisters in these churches, but if someone comes to Crossroads and wants this kind of expressive worship or this kind of emphasis on miraculous gifts and/or sign gifts, we encourage them to find a church that already has that emphasis in place.

### *Eschatology*

1. We preach that Jesus is coming back, and as a church we understand that many are passionate about trying to understand many details about the end times, but we as a church do not have a specific conviction about when He will return (pre-tribulation rapture, mid-tribulation rapture or post-tribulation return). We will not fight over issues like this, but will seek to believe Jesus when he said, "It is not for you to know times or dates the Father has set by



His authority” (Acts 1:7), or “You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him” (Luke 12:40).

2. The Bible is filled with prophetic information.
  - a. The Old Testament has a great number of prophetic statements, many of which are about Jesus Christ.
  - b. Those who studied the Old Testament the most, seriously thought they understood the prophecies regarding the Messiah, but when He arrived, they did not recognize Jesus as the Messiah because they misunderstood the prophecies. (Matthew 2)
3. We believe that at the end of this world Jesus will come back for us, his children. (John 14:1-3)
  - a. There are many prophetic statements in the New Testament, and the Old Testament, about Jesus’ return.
  - b. Many have devoted their lives to seeking to understand the prophecies from books like Ezekiel, Daniel, and Revelations.
    - i. As a result, many have made very declarative statements about when Jesus will return (before the Great Tribulation, or in the middle of it, or after it).
    - ii. Many have strong beliefs about the millennium and what it will be like and what will take place during that 1,000-year period. Others see this as only symbolic.
4. When Jesus was on earth He made reference more than once to His return, but almost every time someone asked Him about the end times and His return He would say something like, “It is not for you to know times or dates the Father has set by His authority” (Acts 1:7), or “You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him” (Luke 12:40).
5. While Jesus called His followers to be discerning about the seasons, His primary emphasis was on living in a way that honors God so that no matter when He returns, we would not be ashamed.
6. Since at least 1840, people like William Miller have sought to study God’s prophecies in a very serious manner. Many preachers have attempted to predict a season of time when they believed Jesus was going to return to earth – and over and over these preachers have been wrong. As a result, they have brought dishonor to God’s word and to the churches they pastored or led.
7. While we believe with all our hearts that Jesus will return, and while we believe many of the prophesies of Scripture regarding his return have been fulfilled, we do not spend a lot of time at Crossroads preaching about the end times. Instead, we preach that we should be so deeply committed to Jesus that we are willing to even die for Him if necessary before He returns.
8. We believe that Biblical prophecy is like a 5,000-piece jigsaw puzzle with about 283 pieces and no picture on the front of the box. When we try to take the prophetic statements, God has shared with us and attempt to come up with a complete picture of what we believe God is going to do, we make many mistakes. (The Jewish chief priests and teachers of the law certainly did the first time Jesus came. Matthew 2:3-7)