

# Life In Christ LINC Ministries Statement of Faith

- We believe the Bible consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.
- We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful man regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by Whose indwelling power and fullness the Christian is enabled to live a godly life in this present evil world and through the gifts, fruit and graces of the Holy Spirit the Christian enabled to live according God's will, and be equipped to do the ministry according the power of God.
- We believe that the Triune God made the heavens and the earth from nothing, shaping it according to His design, and declaring it very good.
- We believe God made humanity, male and female, in the image of God. This image is the reason all people are precious in His sight from conception to natural death through eternal life in the new heaven and earth. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female he created them" Genesis 1:27
- We believe God designed and sanctified marriage from the beginning, so one man and one woman become one flesh. God's good design creating marriage between one woman and one man. "and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?" Mathew 19:5
- We Believe that Creation was subject to a curse when Adam and Eve rejected the grace offered by their creator and attempted to construct their own righteousness. The present

disordered state of the world, in which we and all things are subject to misery and to evil, is not God's doing, but is rather a result of humanity's free, sinful rebellion against God's will. Under the curse, no part of human life or identity is untouched by sin. Our thoughts, desires, and emotions are no longer trustworthy guides to goodness, and what seems natural to us no longer corresponds to God's design.

- But God did not give up on His creation and promised one day the seed of the woman would crush the tempter. Fulfilling that promise, Jesus Christ, God the Son made flesh, was born of the virgin Mary. In His death on the cross, burial, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus took away the guilt of sin. In union with Christ through the power of the Spirit we are brought into right relation with the Father, who receives us as His adopted children. Jesus Christ is the only way to this adoption; repentance and faith in His work is the sole path by which sinners become children of God. The Holy Spirit is now renewing God's children in the image of the Son, and one day Jesus will return to complete this renewal and free creation from the burden of the curse.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; they that are saved unto the resurrection of life and they that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of all believers in Christ.
- We believe that Jesus, as our Prophet, Priest, and King, gathers His family as His Church. This new community consists of all those "from every tribe and language and people and nation" (Revelation 5:9, NIV) who profess faith in Him as Saviour and Lord, together with the children under their care. This invisible, faithful covenant people is perfectly known only to our Triune God, but it is the one, holy, apostolic body confessing "one hope," "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:4-6) in all times and places.
- The Holy Spirit brings us to repentance, regenerates us, indwells us, and comforts us. Apart from this ministry of the Spirit, we can not find new life in Christ. The sanctifying work of the Spirit produces the fruit of Christ-like character in us, as we are empowered through the gifts that he gives for the common good, so that in His service we may build up the Body of Christ and be witnesses of God's gracious presence to those who are lost.

- In Christ, we are adopted into the family of God and find our new identity as brothers and sisters of one another, since we now share one Father. Within the covenant community of the church, God's grace is extended to all people through the faithful preaching of the Word, the administration of the Sacraments, and the faithful practice of mutual discipline.