

South Mountain Bible Church Statement of Faith

Adopted November 2, 2025

God

We believe in one God, the Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory. (Genesis 1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:18; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 1:3-14; Colossians 1:12-23)

The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, using the words of human authors. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority in all matters of doctrine, faith and life. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; John 17:17)

The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, all human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled and renewed. (Genesis 3; Romans 3:10; 3:23; 5:12; John 3:16-21; Colossians 1:13-23)

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Having forever existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our great High Priest and Advocate. (Luke 1:31-38; John 1:1-3; 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-16)

The Saving Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. This salvation is given because of the love and grace of God and is available to anyone willing to believe this with no limitations whatsoever. (John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 10:1-18; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners. In Him, they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, seals, illuminates, guides, equips

and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service. (John 14:15-26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:14-17; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30)

The Church

We believe that the true Church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone, from Pentecost to the present. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which Jesus is the Head. The true Church is expressed in local churches, whose membership should be composed only of believers. (Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:18)

Ordinances

We believe the Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer. Baptism is only for the believer in Jesus, a public identification with Him and testimony to a newness of spiritual life, completed best by immersion in water. The Lord's Supper should be observed often by all true believers as a commemorative memorial reminding us of the bodily sacrifice and shed blood of Jesus which purchased our salvation. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41; 8:31-38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith through His life and power. He desires that all believers live a life of holiness and submission to the Holy Spirit as He works to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 22:37-40; John 15:1-5; Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 2:8-10)

Miracles, Tongues, and Healings

While we believe the Holy Spirit is fully God, we reject being labeled as charismatic or Pentecostal and the associated, unbiblical emphasis they place on the practice of the sign gifts of tongues, healings, and miracles, especially as proof of salvation. (Romans 10:9-10, 13; 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 2:8-9)

Satan

We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, prince of demons, god of this age, the great enticer and deceiver, the adversary of Christ and His people, the accuser of the brethren, whose end is the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 6:11-12; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9-10; 20:10)

Christ's Return and End Times

We believe in the imminent, personal, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ. His return will unfold in two phases, beginning with the snatching away of all believers (the Rapture) prior to the seven-year tribulation. The second part of Jesus' return, known as His Second Coming, will occur at the end of the tribulation and before He begins His Millennial (1,000 year) reign as King of everything on earth. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission. (John 14:1-3; Titus 2:13; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 19:11-21; 20:1-6)

Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ by faith. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace. (John 3:16-17, 36; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 20-21)