

# Statement of Faith of the Faros Christian Fellowship

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit inspired the human authors of Holy Scripture so that the Bible is without error in the original manuscripts. We receive the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments as our final, absolute authority; the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. We believe that God is the Eternal King. He is an infinite, unchangeable Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, goodness, justice, power and love. He exists from all eternity as the one living and true God in three persons of one substance, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power, honour, and glory. He alone is to be worshipped.
3. We believe that God's kingdom is everlasting. From his throne, through his Son, his eternal Word, God created, upholds, and governs all that exists: the spiritual and physical universes and every living thing in them. When they were created, all things were very good.
4. We believe that Satan, who was originally a powerful angel, rebelled against God, taking a host of angels with him. He was cast out of God's presence and established a kingdom of darkness and evil on the earth in opposition to God's rule.
5. We believe that God created mankind in his own image, male and female, for relationship with himself and to govern the earth. Through believing Satan's lies, our original parents also rebelled against God, bringing sin, sickness, and God's judgement of death to the earth. Creation now experiences the consequences and effects of Adam's original sin. Human beings are born in sin - subject to God's judgement of death and captive to Satan's kingdom of darkness.
6. We believe that as part of his plan to bring redemption, God established covenants and promises that revealed his grace to sinful people.
7. We believe that God revealed his law to order our fallen race and to make us conscious of our moral responsibility. By the work of God's Spirit, it convicts us of our sin and God's righteous judgement against us and brings us to Christ alone for salvation.
8. We believe that when Israel rejected God's rule over her as King, God established the monarchy in Israel and made an unconditional covenant with David, promising that his heir would restore God's kingdom reign over his people as Messiah forever.
9. In the fullness of time, God honoured his covenants and his prophetic promises of salvation by sending his only Son, Jesus, into the world. Conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, as fully God and fully man in one person, he is humanity as God intended us to be.

10. Jesus was anointed as God's Messiah and, empowered by the Holy Spirit, inaugurated God's kingdom reign on earth, overpowering the reign of Satan by living a sinless life, preaching the good news of salvation and doing miraculous signs and wonders such as healing the sick, casting out demons and raising the dead. Gathering his disciples, he reconstituted God's people as his Church to be the instrument of His kingdom.

After dying for the sins of the world, Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day.

In his sinless, perfect life, Jesus met the demands of God's law and in his atoning death on the cross he took God's judgement for sin, which we deserve as law-breakers.

By his death on the cross, he also disarmed the demonic powers.

He then ascended into heaven where he rules at the right hand of the Father, to advance God's reign throughout every generation and throughout the whole earth today.

11. We believe that the Holy Spirit was poured out onto the church at Pentecost and we believe in his continued ministry as the presence of God with us.

We believe that he permanently indwells every believer in Jesus Christ and is our helper, teacher, and guide in spiritual worship, personal sanctification, the building up of the church and the evangelisation of the world. To these ends, we believe that he continues to give his gifts to the church to equip us for ministry in proclaiming the word of Jesus and doing the works of Jesus.

We reject as unscriptural any doctrine that teaches the cessation of signs and wonders or the termination of the gifts of the Holy Spirit after the age of the apostles.

We acknowledge the value of praying in tongues, but we do not we force people to pray in tongues, nor believe that praying in tongues is the evidence of salvation.

12. We practice the laying on of hands for the empowering of the Spirit, for healing, for blessing, and for recognition and empowering of those whom God has ordained to lead and serve the Church.

13. We believe that the whole world is under the domination of Satan and that all people are sinners by nature and choice. All people therefore are under God's just judgement. Through the preaching of the Good News of Jesus and the kingdom of God together with the work of the Holy Spirit, God regenerates, justifies, adopts, and sanctifies through Jesus by the Spirit all who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. By this, they are released from Satan's domain and enter into God's kingdom reign.

14. We believe in the one, holy, universal and apostolic Church locally manifested in various forms. All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord and Saviour are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and form the living Body of Christ, of which he is the head and of which we are all members.

15. We believe that Jesus Christ committed two ordinances to the Church: baptism in water and the Lord's Supper. Both are available to, and enjoined upon, all believers.

16. We believe that God's kingdom has come in the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, that it continues to come in the ministry of the Spirit through the Church, and that it will be consummated in the glorious, visible, and triumphant appearing of Christ - his return to the Earth as King.

After Christ returns to reign, he will bring about the final defeat of Satan and all of his minions and works, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgement, and the eternal blessing of the righteous and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked.

Finally, God will be all in all and his kingdom, his rule and reign will be fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth recreated by his mighty power, in which righteousness dwells and in which he will forever be worshipped.