

ECB STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 1 - The Scriptures - We believe the Holy Bible is the complete and only inspired Word of the living God. The entire Bible has been preserved by God to teach His absolute truth through all ages of mankind (II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:19-21; I Peter 1:24,25; Matthew 24:35).
- 2 - One True God - We believe that the LORD (Jehovah) God (Elohim) of the Bible is the one and only true God from eternity past to eternity future (Isaiah 43:10; Isaiah 44:6,8; Isaiah 45:5,6). This one God eternally exists in the three distinct persons of:
 - a - The Almighty Father who is glorious, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, and holy.
He dwells in unapproachable light and no man can see His glory and live (I Timothy 6:14-16). Because of His great love for His creation, He desires to reconcile all mankind to himself through Jesus Christ (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:19-21).
 - b - Jesus Christ the Son, God manifested in the flesh (Matthew 1:23; I Timothy 3:16), came to earth to be the perfect sacrifice and by His death on the cross provides the only means of reconciliation between sinful man and a holy God (I Peter 1:18,19; I John 2:1,2).
 - c - The Holy Spirit of God is God's abiding presence in the world. The Spirit indwells all believers and convicts all men of sin and judgment (I Corinthians 6:19,20; John 16:7,8).
- 3 - The Virgin Birth - As foretold in Isaiah 7:14, Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit of God in a miraculous manner, unlike any other conception in history and without a physical relationship. This child, conceived by the Holy Ghost, is called Jesus, the Son of God (Matthew 1:18-20; Luke 1:26-35).
- 4 - The Devil (Satan, Lucifer) - Satan, presently god of this world or age (Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 4:4; John 8:44), is a created angel of God Almighty who fell from God's presence because of sin (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:11-19). He is the ruler of the powers of darkness and will suffer the judgment of eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).
- 5 - Creation - God created the heavens and the earth from nothing (no pre-existent matter) in seven days without any evolutionary process (Genesis Chapters 1,2).
- 6 - Man - Man was created (body, soul and spirit) on the 6th day of creation. God formed man's body from the dust of this earth (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:7) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living soul (Zechariah 12:1). All of mankind is descended from Adam and Eve and did not originate from any previously existing forms of life (Genesis 3:20, Acts 17:26). God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union (Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesians 5:22-33).
- 7 - The Fall of Man - Adam and Eve willfully rebelled against God's law in the Garden of Eden through the deceitful influence of Satan. Their sin plunged the whole human race into sin (Romans 5:12). Because of their disobedience, God cursed mankind so all are born with a sinful nature (Psalms 51:5; Romans 3:23), separated from God and under condemnation of physical and spiritual death.

8 - Salvation - Salvation is a free gift offered to all who will receive Jesus Christ as Savior (Romans 5:8; Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9,10,13). His death on the cross provided the only way of reconciliation to God (I Corinthians 1:18; Ephesians 2:13-16) which reconciliation cannot be earned by good works, baptism, tithing, church membership or any human merit (Romans 3:10,23; Ephesians 2:8,9; Galatians 2:16). Every person must be “born-again” by the Spirit of God through repentance and faith or he/she will never see the Kingdom of Heaven (John 3:1-7).

9 - Second coming of Jesus Christ - Before His millennial reign, Jesus Christ is coming back bodily to rapture (catch away) all believers who make up His body, the Universal Church. This will happen at God’s appointed time, the exact time known only to God (Matthew 24:36; Acts 1:7). At His return the dead in Christ will rise first, then all living believers will be caught up to meet Him in the air (I Thes. 4:13-18).

10 - The True Church (Universal Church) - This is not a human organization, denomination or a building but rather is composed of all born-again believers in Jesus Christ and will be complete at the end of this age (Ephesians 1:9-13; I Corinthians 12:4-27).

11 - The Local Church - These churches consist of groups of believers who have joined together throughout the world with the express purpose of fulfilling the Lord’s commands to share the good new of Jesus Christ with the world around them, to worship God and to do good works that will glorify Him (Acts 2:41-47).

12 - Two Biblical Ordinances

- a - In obedience to the Lord’s command and as a public testimony of salvation, those professing personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord shall be immersed in water by the pastor or someone else approved by the church (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 8:29-38).
- b - Communion is observed in obedience to the Lord’s command and will be served as often as decided by the congregation. The grape juice is the symbol of His blood shed on the cross and the unleavened bread symbolizes the sinless, broken body of Jesus Christ. Communion will be served to believers by the pastor or other persons authorized by the church after the partakers have solemnly examined themselves for known sin, as much as possible making their relationship right with God (I Corinthians 11:23-32).

13 - Heaven - One literal heaven, the dwelling place of Jehovah God (Acts 7:49; Deuteronomy 10:14; Nehemiah 9:6) will be the final resting place for all who have received the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ, those whose names are written in the Book of Life (Revelation 21: 2-5).

14 - Hades (Hell) and the Lake of Fire - Hades is a temporary holding place for all that die on this earth (Luke 16:19-31) and are not “born-again” into God’s family (John 1:12). At God’s appointed time, Hades will be emptied and all of sinful mankind will stand before God at The Great White Throne Judgment. This will be the final judgment and those who had been confined in Hades will be cast into the Lake of Fire along with the Devil and his angels where they will be for all eternity. This is a permanent judgment and there will be no opportunity ever again to repent and be reconciled to God (Revelation 20:11-14).

15 - Separation from Sin - Every believer is responsible to live a life that is pleasing to God and to confess and turn away from known sin (I John 1:9).

16 – Final Authority on Matters of Belief and Conduct - This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Ephraim Church of the Bible's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastor together with the Deacons are Ephraim Church of the Bible's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application (Acts 20:28; Hebrews 13:17).