What We Believe

# The Tri-une God

## ****We believe in one God****

**We believe in one God, 1 eternally existing in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, 2 who know, love, and glorify one another. 3**

**1. Deuteronomy 6:4, 1 Corinthians 8:4,6; :** LBCF 2:1 ;**"There is one only, living and true God."**

**2. Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14, 1 John 5:7; LBCF 2:3 : "In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences."**

**3. John 17:1-5, John 17:24-26.**

## ****This one true and living God****

**His one true and living God 1 is infinitely perfect 2, both in his love 3 and in his holiness. 4**

**1. Deuteronomy 6:4, Jeremiah 10:10;** LBCF 2:1 **: "The Lord our God is but one only living and true God.";**

**2. Exodus 3:14, 1 John 4:8,16, Leviticus 19:2;** LBCF 2:1 **: "God is infinite in his being and perfection."**

**3. John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4-5;** LBCF 2:1 **: "God is most loving, gracious, merciful, long-suffering, abundant in goodness and truth."**

**4. Leviticus 19:2, 1 Peter 1:16, Isaiah 6:3;** LBCF 2:1 **: "God is most holy in all His counsels, in all His works, and in all His commands."**

## ****He is the Creator of all things****

**He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, 1 and is therefore worthy to receive all glory and adoration. 2**

**1. Genesis 1:1, Colossians 1:16; LBCF 4:1 : "In the beginning it pleased God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for the manifestation of the glory of His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness, to create or make the world, and all things therein, whether visible or invisible, in the space of six days, and all very good."**

**2. Revelation 4:11, Psalm 29:2; LBCF 2:2 : "God, having all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of Himself, is alone in and unto Himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creature which He hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but only manifesting His own glory in, by, unto, and upon them; He is the alone fountain of all being, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, and He hath most sovereign dominion over all creatures, to do by them, for them, or upon them, whatsoever Himself pleaseth."**

## ****Immortal and eternal****

**Immortal and eternal, he perfectly and exhaustively knows the end from the beginning, 1 sustains and sovereignly rules over all things, 2 and providentially brings about his eternal good purposes to redeem a people for himself and restore his fallen creation, to the praise of his glorious grace. 3**

**1. Isaiah 46:10, Psalm 90:2; LBCF 2:1 : "The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; His knowledge is infinite, infallible, and independent upon the creature."**

**2. Colossians 1:17, Psalm 103:19; LBCF 5:1 : "God the good Creator of all things, in His infinite power and wisdom doth uphold, direct, dispose, and govern all creatures and things."**

**3. Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:20; LBCF 3:1 : "God hath decreed in Himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass; yet so as thereby is God neither the author of sin nor hath fellowship with any therein."**

# Revelation

## God has graciously disclosed his existence

God has graciously disclosed his existence and power in the created order, 1 and has supremely revealed himself to fallen human beings in the person of his Son, the incarnate Word. 2

1. Romans 1:20; LBCF 1:1 : "The light of nature shows that there is a God, who has lordship and sovereignty over all."

2. John 1:14, Hebrews 1:2; LBCF 8:2 : "The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with Him who made the world, who upholdeth and governeth all things He hath made."

## Moreover, this God is a speaking God

Moreover, this God is a speaking God who by his Spirit has graciously disclosed himself in human words: 1 we believe that God has inspired the words preserved in the Scriptures, 2 the sixty six books of the Old and New Testaments, which are both record and means of his saving work in the world. 3

1. Hebrews 1:1-2, 2 Timothy 3:16; LBCF 1:1 : "The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience."

2. 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21; LBCF 1:2 : "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."

3. Romans 15:4, 2 Timothy 3:15-17; LBCF 1:1 : "The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience."

## These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God,

These writings alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God, 1 which is utterly authoritative and without error in the original writings, 2 complete in its revelation of his will for salvation, 3 sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do, 4 and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks. 5

1. 2 Timothy 3:16; LBCF 1:2 : "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."

2. Psalms 19:7, John 17:17; LBCF 1:4 : "The authority of the Holy Scripture, for which it ought to be believed, depends not upon the testimony of any man or church, but wholly upon God, who is truth itself."

3. 2 Timothy 3:15; LBCF 1:6 : "The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture."

4. Isaiah 8:20, Luke 16:29,31, Ephesians 2:20; LBCF 1:10 : "The supreme judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit."

5. 2 Peter 1:19-21; LBCF 1:10 : "The supreme judge, by which all controversies of religion are to be determined, and all decrees of councils, opinions of ancient writers, doctrines of men, and private spirits, are to be examined, and in whose sentence we are to rest, can be no other but the Holy Scripture delivered by the Spirit."

## We confess that both our finitude

We confess that both our finitude and our sinfulness preclude the possibility of knowing God’s truth exhaustively, 1 but we affirm that, enlightened by the Spirit of God, we can know God’s revealed truth truly. 2

1. Job 11:7-9, 1 Corinthians 13:12;

2. John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:10-12; LBCF 1:5 : "We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church of God to an high and reverent esteem of the Holy Scriptures; and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, and the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, and many other incomparable excellencies, and entire perfections thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the Word of God."

## The Bible is to be believed

The Bible is to be believed, as God’s instruction, in all that it teaches, 1 obeyed, as God’s command, in all that it requires, 2 and trusted, as God’s pledge, in all that it promises. 3

1. 2 Timothy 3:16; LBCF 1:2 : "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."

2. James 1:22, John 14:15; LBCF 1:6 : "The whole counsel of God concerning all things necessary for his own glory, man's salvation, faith and life, is either expressly set down or necessarily contained in the Holy Scripture."

3. Hebrews 6:17-18, 2 Corinthians 1:20; LBCF 1:1 : "The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience."

## As God’s people hear, believe, and do the Word

As God’s people hear, believe, and do the Word, 1 they are equipped as disciples of Christ 2 and witnesses to the gospel. 3

1. Romans 10:17, James 1:22; LBCF 14:1 : "The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts."

2. Matthew 28:19, John 8:31; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal Church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all."

3. Acts 1:8, 1 Peter 3:15; LBCF 27:1 : "Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification."

Redeemer also affirms the [Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy (1978)](https://www.etsjets.org/files/documents/Chicago_Statement.pdf)

# Creation of Humanity

## We believe that God created human beings

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in his own image. 1

1. Genesis 1:27, Matthew 19:4; LBCF 4:2 : "After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created."

## Adam and Eve belonged to the created order

Adam and Eve belonged to the created order that God himself declared to be very good, 1 serving as God’s agents to care for, manage, and govern creation, 2 living in holy and devoted fellowship with their Maker. 3

1. Genesis 1:31; LBCF 4:2 : "After God had made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls, rendering them fit unto that life to God for which they were created."

2. Genesis 1:28, Genesis 2:15; see footnote 1.

3. Genesis 3:8; LBCF 4:2 : "Being made in the image of God, in knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness, having the law of God written in their hearts, and power to fulfill it, and yet under a possibility of transgressing, being left to the liberty of their own will, which was subject to change."

## Men and women, equally made in the image of God

Men and women, equally made in the image of God, 1 enjoy equal access to God by faith in Christ Jesus 2 and are both called to move beyond passive self-indulgence to significant private and public engagement in family, church, and civic life. 3

1. Genesis 1:27

2. Ephesians 2:18, Ephesians 3:12, Hebrews 10:19, Romans 5:2, Galatians 3:26-29

3. Ecclesiastes 2:1-11

## Adam and Eve were made to complement each other

Adam and Eve were made to complement each other in a one-flesh union 1 that establishes the only normative pattern of sexual relations for men and women, 2 such that marriage ultimately serves as a type of the union between Christ and his church. 3

1. Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5; Ephesians 5:31; LBCF 4:2 : "After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female."

2. 1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4; LBCF 25:1 : "Marriage is to be between one man and one woman."

3. Ephesians 5:25-32; Revelation 21:2,9; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal Church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all."

## In God’s wise purposes,

In God’s wise purposes, men and women are not simply interchangeable, 1 but rather they complement each other in mutually enriching ways. 2

1. Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:18; 1 Corinthians 11:11-12; LBCF 4:2 : "After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female."

2. Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Peter 3:7; LBCF 25:2 : "Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife."

## God ordains that they assume distinctive roles

God ordains that they assume distinctive roles which reflect the loving relationship between Christ and the church, 1 the husband exercising headship in a way that displays the caring, sacrificial love of Christ, 2 and the wife submitting to her husband in a way that models the love of the church for her Lord. 3

1. Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 11:3; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal Church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of Him that fills all in all."

2. Ephesians 5:25-33; Colossians 3:19; LBCF 25:2 : "Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife."

3. Ephesians 5:22-24; Colossians 3:18; see footnote 2.

## In the ministry of the church

In the ministry of the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ 1 and to be developed to their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God. 2

1. Galatians 3:28; 1 Peter 4:10-11; LBCF 26:10 : "All believers are obligated to join themselves to local churches when and where they have the opportunity."

2. Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-31; LBCF 26:8 : "A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members."

## The distinctive leadership role within the church

The distinctive leadership role within the church given to qualified men is grounded in creation, 1 fall, 2 and redemption 3 and must not be sidelined by appeals to cultural developments. 4

1. Genesis 2:15-25; 1 Timothy 2:12-13; LBCF 4:2 : "After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female."

2. Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 5:12-21; LBCF 6:1 : "Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit."

3. Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7; LBCF 8:1 : "It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, to be the mediator between God and man."

4. 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; LBCF 26:8 : "A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members."

Redeemer also affirms the [Danvers Statement (1987)](https://grbc.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/The-Danvers-Statement-on-Biblical-Manhood-and-Womanhood.pdf) and the[Nashville Statement (2017)](https://cbmw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/The-Nashville-Statement.pdf)

# The Fall

## We believe that Adam, made in the image of God

We believe that Adam, made in the image of God, 1 distorted that image 2 and forfeited his original blessedness—for himself and all his progeny 3 —by falling into sin through Satan’s temptation. 4

1. Genesis 1:26-27; LBCF 4:2 : "After God had made all other creatures, He created man, male and female."

2. Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12; LBCF 6:1 : "Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit."

3. Romans 5:12-21; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; LBCF 6:2 : "By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God."

4. Genesis 3:1-7; 2 Corinthians 11:3; see footnote 2.

## As a result, all human beings are alienated

As a result, all human beings are alienated from God, 1 corrupted in every aspect of their being (e.g., physically, mentally, volitionally, emotionally, spiritually) 2 and condemned finally and irrevocably to death—apart from God’s own gracious intervention. 3

1. Isaiah 59:2; Ephesians 2:12; LBCF 6:1 : "Our first parents, being seduced by the subtlety and temptation of Satan, sinned in eating the forbidden fruit."

2. Romans 3:10-18; Ephesians 2:1-3; LBCF 6:2 : "By this sin they fell from their original righteousness and communion with God."

3. Romans 6:23; John 3:16; Ephesians 2:4-5; LBCF 6:3 : "This their sin God was pleased, according to His wise and holy counsel, to permit, having purposed to order it to His own glory."

## The supreme need of all human beings

The supreme need of all human beings is to be reconciled to the God under whose just and holy wrath we stand; 1 the only hope of all human beings is the undeserved love of this same God, who alone can rescue us and restore us to himself. 2

1. Romans 5:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20; LBCF 7:3 : "Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace."

2. John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 2:4-5; LBCF 7:3 : "Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace."

# The Plan of God

## We believe that from all eternity God determined

We believe that from all eternity God determined in grace to save a great multitude of guilty sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation, 1 and to this end foreknew them and chose them. 2

1. Revelation 5:9; Ephesians 1:4-5; LBCF 3:5 : "Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, has chosen in Christ to everlasting glory."

2. Romans 8:29-30; Ephesians 1:4-5; LBCF 3:5 : "Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, has chosen in Christ to everlasting glory."

## We believe that God justifies and sanctifies

We believe that God justifies 1 and sanctifies those who by grace have faith in Jesus, 2 and that he will one day glorify them 3 —all to the praise of his glorious grace. 4

1. Romans 3:24; Romans 5:1; LBCF 11:1 : "Those whom God effectually calls, He also freely justifies."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 15:11; LBCF 14:1 : "The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts."

3. Romans 8:30; Colossians 3:4; LBCF 8:1 : "It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, to be the mediator between God and man."

4. Ephesians 1:6, Ephesians 1:12; LBCF 3:5 : "Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to his eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of his will, hath chosen in Christ unto everlasting glory."

## In love God commands

In love God commands and implores all people to repent and believe, 1 having set his saving love on those he has chosen 2 and having ordained Christ to be their Redeemer. 3

1. Acts 17:30; Mark 1:15; LBCF 15:3 : "Repentance is of such necessity to all sinners that none may expect pardon without it."

2. Ephesians 1:4-5; Romans 8:30; LBCF 3:5 : "Those of mankind that are predestinated to life, God, before the foundation of the world was laid, according to His eternal and immutable purpose, and the secret counsel and good pleasure of His will, has chosen in Christ to everlasting glory."

3. 1 Peter 1:20; John 3:16; LBCF 8:1 : "It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, to be the mediator between God and man."

# The Gospel

## We believe that the gospel is the good news

We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ— God’s very wisdom. 1

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18-24; Romans 1:16-17;

## Utter folly to the world,

Utter folly to the world, even though it is the power of God to those who are being saved, 1 this good news is christological, centering on the cross and resurrection: 2 the gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, 3 and the authentic Christ has not been proclaimed if his death and resurrection are not central 4 (the message is: “Christ died for our sins . . . [and] was raised”). 5

1. 1 Corinthians 1:18; Romans 1:16; LBCF 20:1 : "The covenant of works being broken by sin, and made unprofitable unto life, God was pleased to give forth the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect, and begetting in them faith and repentance."

2. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 4:25; LBCF 8:4 : "This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which that He might discharge He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered."

3. Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 2:2;

4. 1 Corinthians 15:14; Romans 10:9; LBCF 8:4 : "This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which that He might discharge He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered."

5. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 4:25; LBCF 8:5 : "The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up to God, has fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father has given to Him."

## This good news is biblical

This good news is biblical (his death and resurrection are according to the Scriptures), 1 theological and salvific (Christ died for our sins, to reconcile us to God), 2 historical (if the saving events did not happen, our faith is worthless, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others), 3 apostolic (the message was entrusted to and transmitted by the apostles, who were witnesses of these saving events), 4 and intensely personal (where it is received, believed, and held firmly, individual persons are saved). 5

1. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4;

2. Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; LBCF 8:5 : "The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up to God, has fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father has given to Him."

3. 1 Corinthians 15:14; LBCF 8:4 : "This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which that He might discharge He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered."

4. Ephesians 2:20; Acts 1:21-22; LBCF 26:8 : "A particular church, gathered and completely organized according to the mind of Christ, consists of officers and members."

5. John 1:12; Romans 10:9-10; LBCF 14:1 : "The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts."

# The Redemption of Christ

## We believe that, moved by love

We believe that, moved by love and in obedience to his Father, the eternal Son became human: the Word became flesh, fully God and fully human being, one Person in two natures. 1

1. John 1:14; Philippians 2:6-8; Colossians 2:9; LBCF 8:2 : "The Son of God...did take upon Him man's nature...so that two whole, perfect, and distinct natures were inseparably joined together in one person."

## The man Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel

The man Jesus, the promised Messiah of Israel, was conceived through the miraculous agency of the Holy Spirit, and was born of the virgin Mary. 1

1. Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Isaiah 7:14; LBCF 8:2 : "It was by the conception of the Holy Spirit that the eternal Son of God became the Son of Man."

## He perfectly obeyed his heavenly Father,

He perfectly obeyed his heavenly Father, lived a sinless life, performed miraculous signs, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead on the third day, and ascended into heaven. 1

1. Philippians 2:8; Hebrews 5:8; 1 Peter 2:22; John 20:30-31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Acts 1:9; LBCF 8:3 : "This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake; which that He might discharge, He was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it."

## As the mediatorial King

As the mediatorial King, he is seated at the right hand of God the Father, exercising in heaven and on earth all of God’s sovereignty, and is our High Priest and righteous Advocate. 1

1. Hebrews 1:3; Ephesians 1:20; 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 8:6; Hebrews 9:15; LBCF 8:1 : "It pleased God...to be the mediator between God and man; the prophet, priest, and king; head and savior of the church."

## We believe that by his incarnation

We believe that by his incarnation, 1 life, 2 death, 3 resurrection, 4 and ascension, 5 Jesus Christ acted as our representative and substitute. 6

1. John 1:14, Philippians 2:7; LBCF 8:2 : "The Son of God, the second person in the Holy Trinity, being very and eternal God, the brightness of the Father's glory, of one substance and equal with him who made the world, who upholdeth and governeth all things he hath made."

2. 1 Peter 2:22, Hebrews 4:15; LBCF 8:4 : "This office the Lord Jesus did most willingly undertake, which that he might discharge he was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfill it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered."

3. Romans 5:6, 1 Peter 3:18; see footnote 2.

4. 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Romans 6:4; see footnote 2.

5. Acts 1:9, Ephesians 1:20; see footnote 2.

6. 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24; LBCF 8:5 : "The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father hath given unto him."

## He did this so that in him

He did this so that in him we might become the righteousness of God: 1 on the cross he canceled sin, 2 propitiated God, 3 and, by bearing the full penalty of our sins, 4 reconciled to God all those who believe. 5

1. 2 Corinthians 5:21; LBCF 11:1 : "Those whom God effectually calleth, he also freely justifieth, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous."

2. Colossians 2:14; LBCF 8:5 : "The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him."

3. Romans 3:25; see footnote 2.

4. Isaiah 53:5; see footnote 2.

5. Romans 5:10; see footnote 2.

## By his resurrection Christ Jesus

By his resurrection Christ Jesus was vindicated by his Father, 1 broke the power of death and defeated Satan who once had power over it, 2 and brought everlasting life to all his people; 3 by his ascension he has been forever exalted as Lord 4 and has prepared a place for us to be with him. 5

1. Romans 1:4; LBCF 8:4 : "Christ did truly rise again from the dead, and took again his body, with all things appertaining to the perfection of man's nature, wherewith he ascended into heaven, and there sitteth until he return to judge all men at the last day."

2. Hebrews 2:14; see footnote 1.

3. John 3:16; LBCF 8:5 : "The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him."

4. Philippians 2:9-11; see footnote 1.

5. John 14:2-3; see footnote 1.

## We believe that salvation is found

We believe that salvation is found in no one else, 1 for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved. 2

1. Acts 4:12; LBCF 10:4 : "Others not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the Word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet not being effectually drawn by the Father, they neither will nor can truly come to Christ, and therefore cannot be saved."

2. Acts 4:12

## Because God chose the lowly things

Because God chose the lowly things of this world, the despised things, the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, 1 no human being can ever boast before him—Christ Jesus has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, 2 holiness, 3 and redemption. 4

1. 1 Corinthians 1:28-29; LBCF 3:7 : "The rest of mankind, God was pleased, according to the unsearchable counsel of his own will, whereby he extendeth or withholdeth mercy as he pleaseth, for the glory of his sovereign power over his creatures, to pass by, and to ordain them to dishonor and wrath for their sin, to the praise of his glorious justice."

2. Ephesians 2:9

3. 1 Peter 1:16; LBCF 13:1 : "They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also farther sanctified, really and personally, through the same virtue, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them."

4. Ephesians 1:7; LBCF 8:5 : "The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him."

# The Justification of Sinners

## We believe that Christ

We believe that Christ, by his obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified. 1

1. Romans 5:19, 1 Peter 2:24; LBCF 11:3 : "Christ, by his obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are justified; and did, by the sacrifice of himself in the blood of his cross, undergoing in their stead the penalty due unto them, make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in their behalf."

## By his sacrifice,

By his sacrifice, he bore in our stead the punishment due us for our sins, making a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God’s justice on our behalf. 1

1. Isaiah 53:5, 2 Corinthians 5:21; LBCF 8:5 : "The Lord Jesus, by his perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself, which he through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, hath fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto him."

## By his perfect obedience

By his perfect obedience he satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf, 1 since by faith alone that perfect obedience is credited to all who trust in Christ alone for their acceptance with God. 2 Inasmuch as Christ was given by the Father for us, 3 and his obedience and punishment were accepted in place of our own, 4 freely and not for anything in us, this justification is solely of free grace, 5 in order that both the exact justice and the rich grace of God might be glorified in the justification of sinners. 6

1. Romans 5:19; Hebrews 5:8-9; 1 Peter 2:22; Isaiah 53:11; LBCF 8:5 : "The Lord Jesus, by His perfect obedience and sacrifice of Himself, which He through the eternal Spirit once offered up unto God, has fully satisfied the justice of God, procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven for all those whom the Father has given unto Him."

2. Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:28, Romans 4:5, Romans 5:1, Galatians 2:16; LBCF 11:1 : "Those whom God effectually calleth, he also freely justifieth, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous."

3. John 3:16, Romans 8:32; LBCF 8:1 : "It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, to be the mediator between God and man; the prophet, priest, and king; head and savior of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom He did from all eternity give a people to be His seed and to be by Him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified."

4. Isaiah 53:5, 1 Peter 2:24, 2 Corinthians 5:21; see footnote 1.

5. Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8; LBCF 11:3 : "Christ, by his obedience and death, did fully discharge the debt of all those that are justified; and did, by the sacrifice of himself in the blood of his cross, undergoing in their stead the penalty due unto them, make a proper, real, and full satisfaction to God's justice in their behalf."

6. Romans 3:26, Ephesians 1:6,7, Ephesians 2:7; see footnote 1.

## We believe that a zeal for personal and public obedience

We believe that a zeal for personal and public obedience flows from this free justification. 1

1. Romans 6:1-2, Titus 2:11-14; LBCF 16:2 : "Good works done in obedience to God's commandments are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith."

# The Power of the Holy Spirit

## We believe that this salvation

We believe that this salvation, attested in all Scripture and secured by Jesus Christ, is applied to his people by the Holy Spirit. 1

1. Titus 3:5-6; LBCF 14:1 : "The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts, and is ordinarily wrought by the ministry of the Word."

## Sent by the Father and the Son

Sent by the Father and the Son, the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ 1 and is present with and in believers. 2

1. John 16:14; LBCF 2:3 : "In this divine and infinite Being there are three subsistences, the Father, the Word or Son, and Holy Spirit, of one substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence, yet the essence undivided."

2. 1 Corinthians 3:16; LBCF 13:1 : "They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also farther sanctified, really and personally, through the same virtue, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them."

## He convicts the world of sin

He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, 1 and by his powerful and mysterious work regenerates spiritually dead sinners, 2 awakening them to repentance and faith, 3 and in him they are baptized into union with the Lord Jesus, 4 such that they are justified before God by grace alone through faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. 5

1. John 16:8; LBCF 15:3 : "This saving repentance is an evangelical grace, whereby a person, being by the Holy Spirit made sensible of the manifold evils of his sin, doth, by faith in Christ, humble himself for it with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-abhorrency, praying for pardon and strength of grace, with a purpose and endeavour, by supplies of the Spirit, to walk before God unto all well-pleasing in all things."

2. John 3:3, Ephesians 2:1-5; LBCF 20:4 : "Although the Gospel be the only outward means of revealing Christ and saving grace, and is, as such, abundantly sufficient thereunto; yet that men who are dead in trespasses may be born again, quickened or regenerated, there is moreover necessary an effectual insuperable work of the Holy Spirit upon the whole soul, for the producing in them a new spiritual life; without which no other means will effect their conversion unto God."

3. Acts 11:18, Ephesians 2:8; LBCF 15:1 : "...God in their effectual calling gives them repentance unto life."

4. Romans 6:3-4; LBCF 29:1 : "Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, to be unto the party baptized, a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death and resurrection; of his being engrafted into him; of remission of sins; and of giving up into God, through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life."

5. Ephesians 2:8-9; LBCF 11:1 : "Those whom God effectually calleth, he also freely justifieth, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous."

## By the Spirit’s agency

By the Spirit’s agency, believers are renewed, 1 sanctified, 2 and adopted into God’s family; 3 they participate in the divine nature 4 and receive his sovereignly distributed gifts. 5

1. Titus 3:5; LBCF 13:1 : "They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also farther sanctified, really and personally, through the same virtue, by his Word and Spirit dwelling in them."

2. 1 Peter 1:2; see footnote 1.

3. Romans 8:15; LBCF 12:1 : "All those that are justified, God vouchsafed, in and for the sake of his only Son Jesus Christ, to make partakers of the grace of adoption, by which they are taken into the number, and enjoy the liberties and privileges of children of God."

4. 2 Peter 1:4; see footnote 3.

5. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; LBCF 13:1 : "The saints are enabled to lead a life that is pleasing to God through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection. This includes the exercise of the gifts which the Spirit imparts to them according to His own will."

## The Holy Spirit is himself the down payment

The Holy Spirit is himself the down payment of the promised inheritance, 1 and in this age indwells, 2 guides, instructs, equips, revives, and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service. 3

1. Ephesians 1:14-16;2 Corinthians 1:22

2. 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19; LBCF 13:1 : "They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated, having a new heart and a new spirit created in them through the virtue of Christ's death and resurrection, are also farther sanctified, really and personally, through the same virtue, by His Word and Spirit dwelling in them."

3. John 16:13, 1 Corinthians 2:10-14, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; see footnote 2.

# The Kingdom of God

## We believe that those

We believe that those who have been saved by the grace of God 1 through union with Christ by faith 2 and through regeneration by the Holy Spirit 3 enter the kingdom of God 4 and delight in the blessings of the new covenant: 5 the forgiveness of sins, 6 the inward transformation that awakens a desire to glorify, trust, and obey God, 7 and the prospect of the glory yet to be revealed. 8

1. Ephesians 2:8-9; LBCF 11:1 : "Those whom God effectually calleth, he also freely justifieth."

2. Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 1:4; LBCF 17:2 : "Upon the efficacy of the merit and intercession of Jesus Christ and union with Him, the oath of God, the abiding of His Spirit, and the seed of God within them."

3. Titus 3:5, John 3:5-8; see footnote 2.

4. John 3:5; LBCF 8:5 : "Procured reconciliation, and purchased an everlasting inheritance in the kingdom of heaven, for all those whom the Father hath given unto Him."

5. Jeremiah 31:33; LBCF 7:3 : "This covenant is revealed in the gospel."

6. Acts 2:38; LBCF 15:1 : "Such of the elect as are converted at riper years, having sometime lived in the state of nature."

7. Romans 12:2, Proverbs 3:5-6, John 14:15; LBCF 13:1, 14:2, 16:1 : "They who are united to Christ, effectually called, and regenerated.", "By this faith a Christian believeth to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word.", "Good works are only such as God hath commanded in his Holy Word."

8. Romans 8:18; LBCF 32:2 : "At the last day, such of the saints as are found alive, shall not sleep, but be changed."

## Good works

Good works constitute indispensable evidence of saving grace. 1

1. James 2:14-26; LBCF 16:2 : "These good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith."

## Living as salt

Living as salt in a world that is decaying and light in a world that is dark, believers should neither withdraw into seclusion from the world, nor become indistinguishable from it: rather, we are to do good to the city, for all the glory and honor of the nations is to be offered up to the living God. 1

1. Matthew 5:13-16, Jeremiah 29:7, Revelation 21:26; LBCF 16:2 : "Good works, done in obedience to God's commandments, are the fruits and evidences of a true and lively faith."

## Recognizing whose created order

Recognizing whose created order this is, and because we are citizens of God’s kingdom, we are to love our neighbors as ourselves, 1 doing good to all, especially to those who belong to the household of God. 2

1. Matthew 22:39, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27; LBCF 22:1 : "The light of nature showeth that there is a God, who hath lordship and sovereignty over all; is just, good and doth good unto all; and is therefore to be feared, loved, praised, called upon, trusted in, and served, with all the heart and all the soul, and with all the might."

2. Galatians 6:10; LBCF 27:2 : "Saints by profession are bound to maintain an holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God, and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things according to their several abilities, and necessities; which communion, according to the rule of the gospel, though especially to be exercised by them, in the relations wherein they stand, whether in families, or churches, yet, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended to all the household of faith, even all those who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus."

## The kingdom of God, already present but not fully realized,

The kingdom of God, already present but not fully realized, 1 is the exercise of God’s sovereignty 2 in the world toward the eventual redemption of all creation. 3

1. Mark 1:15, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 6:10, Luke 17:21, John 18:36; LBCF 26:4 : "The kingdom of God is, and will be in the end, manifestly to be the kingdom of Christ."

2. Psalm 97:1-5, Psalm 103:19, Daniel 4:34-35; LBCF 3:1 : "God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass."

3. Revelation 21:1, Romans 8:19-23, Colossians 1:20;

## The kingdom of God is an invasive power

The kingdom of God is an invasive power that plunders Satan’s dark kingdom 1 and regenerates and renovates through repentance and faith 2 the lives of individuals rescued from that kingdom. 3

1. Mark 3:27

2. Acts 20:21; LBCF 15:1 : "Such of the elect as are converted at riper years, having sometime lived in the state of nature."

3. Colossians 1:13; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."

## It therefore inevitably establishes a new community

It therefore inevitably establishes a new community of human life together under God. 1

1. Acts 2:42-47; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."

# God's New People

## We believe that God’s new covenant

We believe that God’s new covenant people have already come to the heavenly Jerusalem; 1 they are already seated with Christ in heaven. 2

1. Hebrews 12:22-24; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."

2. Ephesians 2:6; see footnote 1.

## This universal church is manifest in local churches

The kingdom of God is an invasive power that plunders Satan’s dark kingdom 1 and regenerates and renovates through repentance and faith 2 the lives of individuals rescued from that kingdom. 3

1. Mark 3:27; LBCF 26:4 : "The kingdom of God is, and will be in the end, manifestly to be the kingdom of Christ."

2. Titus 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Acts 17:30; LBCF 15:2 : "God hath, in the covenant of grace, mercifully provided that believers so sinning and falling be renewed through repentance unto salvation."

3.Colossians 1:13; 2 Timothy 4:18; Acts 26:18.

## The church is the body of Christ

The church is the body of Christ, 1 the apple of his eye, 2 graven on his hands, 3 and he has pledged himself to her forever. 4

1. 1 Corinthians 12:27, Romans 12:5, Ephesians 4:12; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal church...is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that fills all in all."

2. Deuteronomy 32:10, Psalms 17:8

3. Isaiah 49:16

4. Ephesians 5:25-27, Revelation 21:2-3; LBCF 26:1 : "Christ...has fully furnished it with all officers and ordinances necessary for the edification and well-being of his church."

## The church is distinguished by her gospel message

The church is distinguished by her gospel message, 1 her sacred ordinances, 2 her discipline, 3 her great mission, 4 and, above all, by her love for God, 5 and by her members’ love for one another and for the world. 6

1. Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; LBCF 20:1 : "The covenant of works being broken by sin, and made unprofitable unto life, God was pleased to give forth the promise of Christ, the seed of the woman, as the means of calling the elect, and begetting in them faith and repentance."

2. Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LBCF 28:1 : "Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of positive and sovereign institution, appointed by the Lord Jesus, the only lawgiver, to be continued in his church to the end of the world."

3. Matthew 18:15-17, 1 Corinthians 5:1-5; LBCF 26:7 : "To each of these churches thus gathered, according to His mind declared in His word, He has given all that power and authority, which is in any way needful for their carrying on that order in worship and discipline."

4. Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; John 20:21; LBCF 26:5 : "In the execution of this power wherewith he is so intrusted, the Lord Jesus calls out of the world unto himself, through the ministry of his word, by his Spirit, those that are given unto him by his Father."

5. Matthew 22:37-39, 1 John 4:19-21;

6. John 13:34-35, 1 John 4:7-12;

## Crucially, this gospel we cherish

Crucially, this gospel we cherish has both personal 1 and corporate dimensions, 2 neither of which may properly be overlooked.

1. Romans 1:16-17; LBCF 14:1 : "The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts."

2. 1 Corinthians 12:12; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal church, which (with respect to the internal work of the Spirit and truth of grace) may be called invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the head thereof; and is the spouse, the body, the fullness of him that fills all in all."

## Christ Jesus is our peace:

Christ Jesus is our peace: 1 he has not only brought about peace with God, 2 but also peace between alienated peoples. 3

1. Romans 5:1; LBCF 18:3 : "His heart may be enlarged in peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

2. Romans 5:1; see footnote 1.

3. Ephesians 2:14-16; LBCF 24:2 : "They ought especially to maintain justice and peace."

## His purpose was to create

His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity, thus making peace, and in one body 1 to reconcile both Jew and Gentile to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.  2

1. Revelation 21:2; Galatians 3:28; LBCF 27:1 : "All saints that are united to Jesus Christ, their head, by his Spirit, and faith, although they are not made thereby one person with him, have fellowship in his graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory."

2. Ephesians 2:14-16; Colossians 1:20-22; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; LBCF 8:2 : "Christ alone is the Mediator of the covenant of grace, where He stands to reconcile His elect people to God as their Priest and King."

## The church serves as a sign

The church serves as a sign of God’s future new world when its members live for the service of one another and their neighbors, 1 rather than for self-focus. 2

1. Galatians 5:13; Hebrews 13:16; Matthew 25:35-40; LBCF 26:5 : "In the execution of this power wherewith he is so intrusted, the Lord Jesus calls out of the world unto himself, through the ministry of his word, by his Spirit, those that are given unto him by his Father."

2. Philippians 2:4; Romans 12:10; Romans 14:13.

## The church is the corporate dwelling

The church is the corporate dwelling place of God’s Spirit, 1 and the continuing witness to God in the world. 2

1. Ephesians 2:21-22; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the Head thereof."

2. Acts 1:8;

# Baptism and the Lord's Supper

## We believe that baptism and the Lord’s Supper

We believe that baptism and the Lord’s Supper are ordained by the Lord Jesus himself. 1

1. Matthew 28:19, Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; LBCF 28:1 : "Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of positive and sovereign institution, appointed by the Lord Jesus, the only lawgiver, to be continued in his church to the end of the world."

## The former is connected with entrance

The former is connected with entrance into the new covenant community, 1 the latter with ongoing covenant renewal. 2

1. Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12; LBCF 29:1 : "Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, to be unto the party baptized, a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death and resurrection; of his being engrafted into him; of remission of sins; and of giving up into God, through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life."

2. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; LBCF 30:1 : "The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by him the same night wherein he was betrayed, to be observed in his churches, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance, and showing to all the world the sacrifice of himself in his death, confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits thereof, their spiritual nourishment, and growth in him, their further engagement in, and to all duties which they owe to him; and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other."

## Together they are simultaneously

Together they are simultaneously God’s pledge to us, 1 divinely ordained means of grace, 2 our public vows of submission to the once crucified and now resurrected Christ, 3 and anticipations of his return and of the consummation of all things. 4

1. Numbers 23:19, 2 Corinthians 1:20; LBCF 3:1 : "God hath decreed in himself, from all eternity, by the most wise and holy counsel of his own will, freely and unchangeably, all things, whatsoever comes to pass."

2. Acts 2:38, Ephesians 2:8; LBCF 14:1 : "The grace of faith, whereby the elect are enabled to believe to the saving of their souls, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts."

3. Romans 10:9, Philippians 2:11; LBCF 14:2 : "By this faith a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word for the authority of God himself, and also apprehends an excellency therein above all other writings and all things in the world, as it bears forth the glory of God in his attributes, the excellency of Christ in his nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in his workings and operations: and so is enabled to cast his soul upon the truth thus believed."

4. Acts 1:11, Revelation 22:20; LBCF 32:1 : "The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them."

# The Restoration of All Things

## We believe in the personal,

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with his holy angels, 1 when he will exercise his role as Final Judge, 2 and his kingdom will be consummated. 3

1. Matthew 16:27, Matthew 25:31, Mark 8:38, 2 Thessalonians 1:7, Revelation 19:11-14; LBCF 8:4 : "The Lord Jesus, in His human nature thus united to the divine, in the person of the Son, was sanctified and anointed with the Holy Spirit above measure, having in Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

2. Acts 10:42, 2 Corinthians 5:10, John 5:22, 27; LBCF 32:1 : "The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them."

3. 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; LBCF 26:1 : "The catholic or universal church, which is invisible, consists of the whole number of the elect, that have been, are, or shall be gathered into one, under Christ, the Head thereof."

## We believe in the bodily resurrection

We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust—the unjust to judgment and eternal conscious punishment in hell, as our Lord himself taught, 1 and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of him who sits on the throne and of the Lamb, 2 in the new heaven and the new earth, the home of righteousness. 3

1. Acts 24:15, Revelation 20:10, 14-15; LBCF 31:1 : "The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them."

2. Romans 5:1, Revelation 7:15-17; see footnote 1.

3. 2 Peter 3:13; LBCF 32:2 : "At the last day, such as are found alive shall not sleep, but be changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies, and none other, although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls forever."

## On that day the church will be presented faultless before God

On that day the church will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering and triumph of Christ, 1 all sin purged and its wretched effects forever banished. 2 God will be all in all 3 and his people will be enthralled by the immediacy of his ineffable holiness, 4 and everything will be to the praise of his glorious grace. 5

1. Ephesians 5:27, Jude 1:24; LBCF 26:2 : "All persons throughout the world, professing the faith of the gospel, and obedience unto God by Christ according unto it, not destroying their own profession by any errors everting the foundation, or unholiness of conversation, are and may be called visible saints."

2. Hebrews 10:10-14; LBCF 11:1 : "Those whom God effectually calls, he also freely justifies, not by infusing righteousness into them, but by pardoning their sins, and by accounting and accepting their persons as righteous."

3. 1 Corinthians 15:28; LBCF 2:1 : "The Lord our God is but one only living and true God; whose subsistence is in and of himself, infinite in being and perfection; whose essence cannot be comprehended by any but himself."

4. 1 Peter 1:16, Revelation 4:8; LBCF 2:2 : "God, having all life, glory, goodness, blessedness, in and of himself, is alone in and unto himself all-sufficient, not standing in need of any creature which he hath made, nor deriving any glory from them, but onely manifesting his own glory in, by, unto, and upon them."

5. Ephesians 1:6-7; LBCF 14:2 : "By this faith a Christian believes to be true whatsoever is revealed in the Word for the authority of God himself, and also apprehends an excellency therein above all other writings and all things in the world, as it bears forth the glory of God in his attributes, the excellency of Christ in his nature and offices, and the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit in his workings and operations."