

Statement of Faith

Morning Star Testimony Church

“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is ONE BODY and ONE SPIRIT, even as ye are called in ONE HOPE of your calling; ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM, ONE GOD and FATHER of all, and through all, an in you all. But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.” Eph. 4:1-7

We affirm that the seven-fold unity expressed in this passage is the Holy Spirit’s DOCTRINAL STATEMENT for the Church, which is the Body of Christ. We recognize other doctrinal unities for other fellowships, but we affirm that Ephesians, quoted above, stands alone as the Doctrinal Unity for MORNING STAR TESTIMONY CHURCH.

Desiring to be in full accord with the Mind of the Spirit, we hold and require the following doctrinal beliefs:

WE BELIEVE:

1. That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired of God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and conduct (II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:21). In the presentation of the Word it is to be “rightly divided” according to the dispensational principle as set forth in II Tim. 2:15, A.S.V. – “Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the Word of Truth.”
2. In ONE GOD, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, subsisting eternally in three Persons, FATHER, SON, and HOLY SPIRIT (Deut. 6:4; I Tim. 2:5; Eph. 4:4-6; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; Rom. 9:5).
3. In the eternal deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God the Son; that He was coexistent with the Father and the Spirit; that He is before all things and that by Him all things consist. He was begotten by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true Man (Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:6-9; Rom. 1:3-4; Matt. 1:23; John 20:28; Heb. 1:8).
4. The Holy Spirit, a Person co-equal with the Father and the Son, convicts the world of sin, regenerates, baptizes into the Body of Christ, seals, indwells, enlightens, and empowers the believer (Titus 3:5; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:30; I Cor. 6:19; I Cor. 2:10, 12; Eph. 3:16; John 16:7-11).

5. All men by nature are dead in trespasses and sins, and are, therefore, totally incapable themselves to do anything pleasing to God (Eph. 2:1-3; John 3:6-7; Rom. 3:9-19, 23; Titus 3:3).
6. God justifies ungodly sinners by His grace, upon the ground of the shed blood of Christ, through the means of faith. This complete salvation is bestowed as the free gift of God apart from man's works (Rom. 3:24-28; 4:1-10; 5:1-2; Eph. 2:8-9; II Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5-6).
7. All believers are eternally saved through Christ, having been chosen in Him before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4-14; Gal. 1:15; II Tim. 1:9) to an eternal purpose and glory (Rom. 8:28-30; John 5:24; 10:27-30; 17:6, 11-12; I John 5:11-12; Heb. 7:25).
8. In this present dispensation of the grace of God there is only one Church, which is called the Body of Christ, which by virtue of her union with Christ is GOD'S Sacred Secret (Rom. 16:25-26; Eph. 1:14; 3:1-11; Col. 1:24-27). The Church is composed of all believers from Pentecost to the Rapture. It had its historical beginning on the day of Pentecost (Matt. 16:18; John 7:39, 14:16-17, 20, 26, 15:26-27; 16:13-15; Acts 1:4-5; 2:1-4, 33; 11:15-17; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4-5; Rom. 16:7; I Cor. 15:9). It will have its consummation and resurrection at the Rapture (I Cor. 15:22-24, 51-57; I Thess. 4:13-17; 5:8-11; II Thess. 1:10; Col. 3:3-4; Heb. 11:40).
9. In the pre-tribulation Rapture of both the living and the dead members of the Body of Christ (I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20-21; I Cor. 15:15-53), and the pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ to earth to set up His millennial Kingdom, over which He will reign for a period of 1,000 years (Zech. 14:4-9; Acts 1:10,11; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:4-6; Dan. 12:3, 13; I Cor. 15:22-24).
10. The only gifts necessary for the ministry of the Body of Christ are those enumerated in Rom. 12:6-8; I Cor. 12:28 and Eph. 4:7-16; of these, only the gifts of evangelists, pastor-teachers, ministering servants (such as deacons), teaching, exhortation (i.e.: council and comforting), giving, leading, showing mercy, helps, and administrations are in operation today.
11. By reason of Christ's victory over our sin and through His indwelling Spirit, all of the saved may and should experience deliverance from the power of sin by obedience to Rom. 6:11 (which obedience is a manifestation of being saved in HIS LIFE – Rom. 5:10), but we deny that man's sinful nature is eradicated during this life (Rom. 6:6-14; Gal. 5:16-25; I John 1:8-10). This deliverance from the power of sin is further defined by such phrases as: "reigning in Life through Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:17); "walking in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4; 8:1-11); "crucified with Christ", "Christ living in

me” (Gal. 2:20; 5:24; 6:14; I Peter 4:1-2; Phil. 1:21); “Christ in you the hope of glory” (Col. 1:27).

12. The Lord’s Table, as revealed through the Apostle Paul in I Cor. 11:23-26, is for members of the Body of Christ to observe “until He comes” (I Cor. 10:16-21).
13. All saved persons have been made members of the Body of Christ by one divine baptism. By one baptism (Eph. 4:5; I Cor. 12:13) every member of the Body of Christ is identified with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Water baptism is not a requirement for fellowship, nor a condition of witness or testimony. We recognize the fact that many of God’s choicest saints and spiritual leaders hold different views regarding the teaching of water baptism. MORNING STAR TESTIMONY CHURCH recognizes the sevenfold unity of Eph. 4:5 and I Cor. 12:12-13.
14. In the bodily resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ; that after His sacrificial and vicarious death for the sin of the world on the cross of Calvary, He showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs; that He ascended into heaven as the Man Christ Jesus, the one Mediator between God and man; that now exalted at God’s right hand He represents the believer in God’s presence as Advocate, High Priest, and Intercessor (I Cor. 15:1-8; Heb. 3:1; 7:25; 8:1-2; 9:24; I John 2:1).
15. The destiny of the unbeliever is a conscious state of suffering under eternal judgment in the Lake of Fire (Rev. 14:11; II Thess. 1:7-9; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:15).
16. Satan is a living, personal, active devil (II Cor. 2:11; Eph. 2:2; I Peter 5:8-9; Rev. 12:9; 20:10).
17. The mission and commission of the Church, which is His Body, are twofold:
 - a) to proclaim the message of reconciliation to the lost (II Cor. 5:14-21). In this we should strive to reach those in the regions beyond where Christ is not yet named; and
 - b) to endeavor to make all men see what is the dispensation of the Sacred Secret (Eph. 3:8-9); to edify or build up the Body of Christ with Acts 20:32; Eph. 4:12-16; I Cor. 14:26, 40; 16:14; Phil. 1:9-11; 3:7-17; Col. 3:1-2, 17; I Peter 4:11 specifically in view.