

*“Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things most commonly believed among us”
(Luke 1:1)*

**A DECLARATION
Of Things Most Commonly
Believed Among Us**

**CHURCH OF GOD (7TH DAY)
Headquarters
Meridian, Idaho**

A. GENERAL STATEMENT

The Churches of God - 7th Day cherish liberty of thought as an essential condition for the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Therefore we have no binding creed to which members must subscribe, however there are certain fundamental truths which have been binding upon Christians through all ages. Therefore these are the historic doctrines taught by the Church of God, which we reaffirm as the fundamental principles of the faith.

These statements of faith approved by the General Council are passed on to the churches of God for such action as the Spirit of God may direct. It is believed that they will be helpful in giving Christian training to our children, in establishing our people in the faith, and making known our essential doctrines to others.

B. POLITY

The Church of God (Seventh Day) is historically, congregational in polity. We desire that our churches and their members continue to enjoy this blessed freedom of local autonomy. Therefore, the statements set forth here are simply an exhibition of the things most commonly believed among us and is not adopted as having binding force in itself, nor is the inspiration of the phraseology contended for.

THE FUNDAMENTAL ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible (both Old and New Testament) to be the inspired Word of God, containing the revelation of God given to man under divine supervision and providence; that its historic statements are correct and that it is the only rule for faith and practice. (Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:15, 16; John 17:17)

2. THE GODHEAD

We believe, as revealed in the Bible—

- a. In the one true God the Father who is the eternal and supreme Deity. He is infinite in His wisdom, love and power, the Creator and Sustainer of all things, “in whom we live, and move, and have our being.” (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:28; Matthew 6:6)
- b. And in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the only begotten Son of God; who came into the world to seek and to save that which was lost; we believe in His deity, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death on Calvary, in His bodily resurrection late on the Sabbath day, in His ascension to the right hand of God in heaven, in His ministry as our High Priest and Mediator, in His personal return to earth at the end of this age, to establish His kingdom and rule this earth in great power and glory, judging the living and the dead. (1 Timothy 3:16)

- c. And in the Holy Spirit, the Promised Comforter, which is the agency of the Father and the Son to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment to come. By this same Spirit of God we are sanctified and sealed unto the day of redemption. For those who diligently seek Him, he will lead and guide into all truth and empower the believer for witnessing and service. (John 14:16, 26; 16: 7-11; Ephesians 1:13)

3. CRUCIFIXION AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST

We believe the Scriptures plainly teach that Jesus Christ was crucified in the middle of the week, on the day we call Wednesday, and He was in the tomb three days and three nights. He arose towards the end of the Sabbath day (Saturday) and thus fulfilled the “sign” given by Jesus in Matthew 12:39-40.

4. MAN’S CONDITION

We believe man was created for immortality, but through sin he forfeited his divine birthright; that because of sin, death entered into the world, and passed upon all men and that only through faith in Jesus Christ can depraved man become “partakers of the divine nature,” and live forever. (2 Timothy 1:10; Romans 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:22, 51-54)

5. STATE OF THE DEAD

We believe that death is a condition of “unconsciousness” (sleep) to all persons, both the just and the unjust, a condition which shall remain unchanged until the great resurrection at Christ’s second advent, at which time the righteous will receive eternal life, while at their appointed time the wicked will be “punished with everlasting destruction;” suffering the complete **extinction of being**, this is the second death. (Ecclesiastes 9:5; Job 14:14; John 5:28-29; Matthew 10:28)

6. MAN’S SALVATION

We believe that man in his state of depravity can not extricate himself and therefore God provided salvation free to all those who, in this life and this age, accept it on the conditions imposed, which conditions are simple; namely, turning from sin, repenting before God, exercising faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and His precious blood, making restitution where possible, and obeying the command to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. A life of consecration to Christ and obedience to His commandments must follow in order to obtain eternal life. (John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 6:2; Luke 3:25-28; Acts 2:38)

7. A HOLY LIFE AND SANCTIFICATION

We believe that God is holy and requires that His children be holy and sanctified. Sanctification means a cleansing from sin, separation from the world, and consecration to God. The sanctification of a Christian is attained through faith in the Word, faith in the blood of Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life. Sanctification is effected instantaneously, at the time of conversion and continuously, each day as the believer walks with God. (1 Peter 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Corinthians 6:11)

8. THE CHURCH

We believe “The Church of God” to be the common Bible name for God’s Church and that the church is of divine origin, established upon the foundation of the prophets and apostles with Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. This spiritual body includes all true Christians which have been “called out” of the world and gathered into it. Jesus Christ is the Head of the church of God, which is His body; and all local churches

should be independent of outside control, congregational in government, under the spiritual oversight of godly elders and under the direction of the Holy Spirit, and subject to no priest, bishop or overseer - although true Christian fellowship and unity of action should exist between all local churches of God. (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 5:25, 4:15, 2:19-22; Acts 20:28)

9. ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

We believe Christ has placed in His church certain ordinances which all of the children of God should participate in - we believe they are:

- a. Christian baptism of believers by immersions as the only true water baptism. After repentance of sin, the believer is to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sin and as a public witness to their acceptance of Christ as Lord and Saviour, a symbol of death to sin, and a pledge to walk in "newness of life" in Christ Jesus.
- b. The Lord's Supper which commemorates the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ, "Till He comes," and is a memorial which should be observed yearly at the beginning of the 14th of Nisan (Abib) with unleavened bread and "fruit of the vine" which represent the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is also a loving symbol of Christian fellowship, and a pledge of renewed allegiance to our risen Lord and Saviour.
- c. The observance of the act of humility or the washing of the saint's feet, should be held in connection with the Lord's Supper. Jesus said "If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, ye also OUGHT to wash one another's feet." (Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:3-5; John 13)

10. THE TEN COMMANDMENT LAW AND THE SABBATH DAY

We believe the Ten Commandments are the eternal law of God and this law is still binding upon all Christians and Christ did not come to destroy it, but instead to magnify it. Therefore the Scriptures enjoin the observance of the 4th Commandment, which declares the observance of the 7th day of the week as the Christian Sabbath (which is commonly called Saturday). It should be observed from sunset on Friday until sunset on Saturday and is to be observed as a day of rest and religious worship. However the handwriting of ordinances that was against us was blotted out and taken out of the way, by Christ nailing it to His cross. (Exodus 20:2-17; Deuteronomy 9:10; Matthew 5:17, 19:16-22; 5:18; James 2:8-12; 1 Corinthians 7:19; Romans 3:20; Genesis 2:3; Matthew 28:1; Leviticus 23: 32; Mark 2:27-28; Colossians 2:14)

11. PRAYER AND DIVINE HEALING

We believe prayer is the privilege and duty of every Christian and it is a drawing near to God in spiritual communion, in order to worship Him and praise Him for His mercies and to bring our requests to Him and to intercede on behalf of others. Prayer should be made to God in the name of Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and with understanding. We believe in the "laying on of hands" of the elders and the prayer of faith for divine healing. (Acts 5:15-16; 28:9; James 5:14-16; 1 Timothy 2:8; Luke 4:6; John 14:13; Romans 8:34; Philippians 4:6)

12. THE SECOND COMING AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD

We believe that Jesus Christ, according to His promise, will come again to this earth, even "in like manner" as He went into heaven - personally, visibly and gloriously - to reign here on earth, with His holy saints for a thousand years; and that this coming is the blessed hope of the church, inasmuch as upon that coming depend the resurrection of the dead and the reward of the righteous, the abolition of sin and its fruits, and

the renewal of the earth now marred by sin, which will become the eternal home of the redeemed, after which event the earth will forever be free from sin and the curse of death. (Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 22:12, 20; Matthew 25:31-32; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Acts 3:21; Revelation 19: 11-16; Daniel 7:27; 2 Peter 3:13; Proverbs 10:30; Matthew 5:5)

13. SIGNS OF THE TIMES

We believe that Bible prophecy has indicted the approximate time or season of Christ's return; comparing testimony with the signs of the times, (Such as the regathering of Israel) we are confident that He is near, "even at the doors," and we believe that the great duty of the hour is the proclamation of this soon coming redemption, the defense of the Bible truth and authority, warning the nations to flee the wrath to come and following the last command of our Saviour to His disciples to preach (teach) this message to all of the world, and to remember His promise that He would be with us even till the end of the age. (2 Peter 1:19-21; Matthew 24: 42-45; Revelation 22:17; 11:18; 2 Timothy 3:1-7; Romans 15:4)

-Even So, Come Lord Jesus –

Amen

(Adopted by the 1963 session of the General Council at Meridian, Idaho, U.S.A.)

STANDING RESOLUTIONS

Realizing the need for higher standards in the church of today, we recommend that the following resolutions to be presented to the General Council. In no way are they designed to be “high” church dictation or religious legislation, but resolutions formulated as guides for our churches and a testimony to the world of our determination to hold fast to that which is good in the face of the present moral and spiritual decline in the United States and elsewhere.

BE IT RESOLVED that we accept the Bible plan for financing the general ministry of the church. We believe the paying of tithes and giving freewill offerings the duty and obligation of all Christians. By dedicated Christian stewardship the work of the church can be greatly blessed.

BE IT RESOLVED that the General Council go on record as being opposed to worldliness. The Scriptures condemn worldliness and it involves our manner of speech, actions, patronizing of certain places of amusement, immodesty of dress and the participation in certain things which a Christian should not participate in or be a part of.

BE IT RESOLVED that we maintain the following position concerning defiling habits, since our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit; each child of God should refrain from all fleshly lusts and this would include tobacco, narcotic drugs and intoxicating liquors.

BE IT RESOLVED that we reaffirm our position on marriage. We believe it is a sacred ordinance instituted by God and thus it belongs to the church. Divorce is a present day evil and since it breaks the law of God and weakens the homes of our nation, we therefore encourage our members to avoid this evil, except for the Bible reason.

BE IT RESOLVED that we now reaffirm our faith in the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Therefore, as we near the second advent of our Saviour, let us boldly declare the traditional faith of our fathers, with new zeal and devotion that all men might hear the Gospel and escape the wrath to come. May we use every means at our disposal to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Adopted by the 1963 session of the General Council at Meridian, Idaho, U.S.A.)

STATEMENT OF CARNAL WARFARE

Whereas the General Council of the Churches of God - 7th Day recognizes that the young people who refuse military service for reasons of religious conscience have taken a position that is upright, honest, and above reproach; therefore be it

Resolved that we as Christians stand opposed to carnal warfare and whereas, there is a sincere difference of opinion as to the duty of a Christian concerning military service, some of the members of our churches being conscientiously opposed to any participation in war on ground that war is contrary to the teachings of Christ, and others believing that they can conscientiously serve the cause of righteousness through such participation, be it therefore

Resolved, that we recognize the need of maintaining fellowship in spite of these differences of opinion, pledging our moral support and protection to those who follow the voice of conscience.

We invite the conscientious objectors among our people to register their conviction in writing with the corresponding secretary of the General Council with respect to their status.

(Adopted by the 1963 session of the General Council at Meridian, Idaho, U.S.A.)

Further Church of God information and literature can be supplied by:

General Council of the Churches of God 7th Day - Publishing House
1827 West 3rd Street, Meridian, ID 83646-1653