

Anvil Island Statement of Faith

1. God: We believe in one God, all-loving and all-powerful, who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:

God the Father created all things through His Son and Spirit, sent His only Son to earth to save humanity, and made His Spirit available to all people. God the Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, shares in the full divinity of the Father, yet he came to earth and became fully human, born from a virgin by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless life, performed miracles, submitted to death on the cross in our place to atone for our sin, and then rose from the dead to save us. He has ascended to heaven, but he will return again as the believer's blessed hope. God the Holy Spirit shares in the full divinity of the Son and the Father. The Spirit reveals and glorifies the Father and the Son, convicts humanity of its sin, and dwells within followers of Christ, guiding and empowering them to live a godly life. This life is demonstrated by increasing love of God, holiness of life, and deep concern for the spiritual and practical needs of others.

2. The Bible: We believe that the Bible is the inspired record of God's complete revelation to humanity, and therefore that it is universally true, reliable, and of binding authority. We affirm that the Bible is infallible - that is, no less than completely trustworthy as a guide to salvation and the life of faith which will not fail to accomplish its purpose.

3. Humanity: We believe that humanity was created in the image of God, male and female, and therefore that every person has intrinsic value and is worthy of love.

4. Sin: We believe that because of Adam and Eve's disobedience to God, all humanity has been marred by the effects of sin, incurring both physical and spiritual death. All people are born with a sinful nature, are alienated from God, are sinners in thought, word, and deed, are subject to the fair judgment of God, and are in need of salvation. Apart from this salvation, the inevitable consequence of sin is the judgment of suffering, and eternal separation from God.

5. Salvation: We believe that humanity receives salvation only by the grace of God through personal faith in Jesus Christ and his all-sufficient atoning death on the cross and victorious resurrection. Those who turn away from sin and trust in Him are thereby cleansed from sin, regenerated by the Spirit, and granted the gift of eternal life as adopted children of God.

6. The Christian Life: We believe that Christians are called to grow in godliness and love and resist evil through submission to the Lordship of Christ, the knowledge of God's Word, the power and wisdom of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and prayerful dependence on God. Scripture commands believers to love God and others and to live out their salvation with care for one another, compassion for the poor and needy, and justice for all. In obedience to Christ's commission, they are to make disciples among all people.

7. The Church: We believe that the universal Church, of which Christ is the Head, consists of all those who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, are being renewed by the Holy Spirit, and have been commissioned to go into all the world as his witness, proclaiming the Gospel to all nations. The local church, the visible expression of the universal Church, is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together to worship God, to observe the practices of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, to pray, to be edified through the Word of God, to fellowship, to testify in word and deed to the good news of salvation both locally and globally, to work for justice, and to help the poor and marginalized.