

## Reality Church Ventura Statement of Faith

We believe there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30).

We believe that God created human beings in his own image. We believe God endows all human life with inherent dignity at every stage of life and from every ethnic background. Both male and female, equally made in the image of God, enjoy access to God by faith in Christ. A man and woman, when joined in marriage, serve as a type of the union between Jesus and his church (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7, 18-25; Ephesians 5:21-33).

We believe in the deity of Christ (John 10:33), his virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:34-35), his sinless life (Hebrews 4:15, 7:26), his miracles (John 2:11), his vicarious and atoning death (1 Corinthians 15:3; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 2:9), his bodily resurrection from the dead (John 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:4), his ascension to the right hand of the Father (Mark 16:19), and his yet-future personal return to earth in power and glory (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11-13, Revelation 19:14-16).

We believe in the necessity of regeneration by the Holy Spirit for salvation because of the sinfulness of the human nature (Ephesians 2:1-4). Justification depends on the single ground of faith in Christ: only by God's grace through faith is someone saved (John 3:16-19; John 5:24; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5).

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, who gifts his people to accomplish Christ's purposes in the world and who manifests his presence to the world through Christ's church (Romans 8:13-14; Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 & 14; Ephesians 4:30, 5:18).

We believe the Bible is the inspired, authoritative, sufficient word of God, without error in all that it affirms (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21).

We believe in the spiritual unity of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28).

We believe the church to be people of God, existing to worship him, make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:18-20), form loving community (John 13:35), and to serve the world in deeds of love and service (Galatians 6:10).

We believe that baptism is a sacrament signifying a person's belonging to Christ and the church. The efficacy of baptism resides in the activity of God, who, through the sign of water, cleanses his people from their sin and unites them in one body, the church (Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3-4).

We believe the Lord's Supper is a sacrament for the church to continually remember Christ's death (Luke 22:19-21), feed on Christ by faith (John 6:48), and await with eager anticipation the establishment of his kingdom (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). The Lord's Supper should be regularly celebrated in a local church as a sign of their reliance on Christ and their unity in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 11:33).

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We believe that Christians are examples of the love of God in this world. It is this love that Christians should possess and without which they have no right to call themselves Christians (1 John 4:16-17).

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: those who are Christ's unto the resurrection of life, and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29).

We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ to fulfil the purposes of God, who will raise all people to judgment, bring eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost, and establish a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 20).