

## **Statement of beliefs**

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3.1 The fundamental beliefs of the association are

- (a) **God.** There is only one God, who exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son and Spirit, in perfect unity. He is the almighty and loving Creator, Saviour and Judge who sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will for his own glory.
- (b) **The Bible.** The Bible, as originally given, is the God-breathed and infallible word of God. This precious, life-giving word is sufficient for our knowledge of God and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.
- (c) **Humanity.** All people, men and women, are created in God's image and are called to love God with all their being. However since the fall, all people are guilty of rebellion against God and human nature is thoroughly corrupted by sin. This makes everyone subject to God's righteous anger and condemnation.
- (d) **Jesus Christ.** God demonstrated his love toward us by sending his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is both fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. He died on the cross, rose from the dead, and in his resurrected body ascended into heaven where he is exalted as ruler over all.
- (e) **Salvation.** Salvation is entirely the gracious gift of God and cannot be earned or deserved. It is accomplished through the atoning death, once for all time, of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between God and sinners. By Christ's death, God's anger is turned aside, we are redeemed from sin and death, and we are declared to be righteous in God's sight. This salvation is declared in the gospel and received by turning to God from sin and trusting in Jesus Christ.
- (f) **The Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven by the Father and the Son. He enables people to turn to God, the Father and to trust in Jesus Christ, the Lord. God's Spirit dwells in all those he has regenerated, producing in them likeness to Christ in attitudes, actions and speech.
- (g) **The people of God.** The Lord Jesus Christ builds the church, his people, through the proclamation and teaching of his word. All who have been saved through the work of Christ are members of his church and united with one another. God has equipped his people with gifts to be used for mutual edification in the church and for the proclamation of the gospel to the world.
- (h) **The future.** The Lord Jesus Christ will return from heaven. He will welcome his people into life of eternal joy in fellowship with God, and he will execute God's condemnation on all who have not received him. From that day there will be no more sin, suffering or death among God's people and God will be glorified forever.