



# **Southeast Missouri Community Church**

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Helping You Love God and Love Others

## **Statement of Faith**

*The Beliefs of Southeast Missouri Community Church  
40413 Hwy 25 North  
Malden, MO 63863*

The **Bible** is God's message to all men. It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit and is therefore complete and without error in the original manuscripts. It is for all people right where they are and is the final authority for mankind.

*2Timothy 3.16; 2Peter 1.21; Luke 24.27,44; Romans 15.4; 1Corinthians 10.11; Psalm 12.6; 119.105, 160; Proverbs 30.5*

**God** is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three distinct persons who are the same in essence but distinctive in function: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*Genesis 1.1,26; Matthew 28.19; 2Corinthians 13.14; 1Peter 1.2; Psalm 90.2*

**Jesus Christ** is the eternal Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He became fully man without ceasing to be fully God. Jesus lived a sinless life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all men by dying on a cross, thereby satisfying God's righteous judgment against sin. He arose from the dead on the third day to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to the right hand of the Father where He is the head of the church and intercedes on the behalf of believers. He will return to establish His kingdom and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords.

*John 1.1-3; Matthew 1.20-23; 1John 4.2; 1Corinthians 15.3-4; Hebrews 1.2-3; 4.14-16 Romans 1.3-4; 1Timothy 6.14-15; Isaiah 9.6*

**Holy Spirit** existed eternally and is equal with the Father and Son. He convicts all men of the world of their need for Jesus Christ. He regenerates those who believe in Jesus; baptizes them into the one true Church, which is the Body of Christ. He indwells each believer permanently, seals them unto the day of final redemption, bestows spiritual gifts, and fills (controls) those who are yielding to Him.

*John 14.16-17; 15.26; 16.7-15; Acts 1.8; Hebrews 9.14; Titus 3.5; 1Corinthians 2.12; 12.13 Ephesians 1.13; 4.30*

**Man** was created by God in His own image. With His likeness, we have free will to choose which course in life we will take, right or wrong. Sin and death entered mankind through the first man, Adam, and all men are now born with a corrupt nature. Man is not capable of regaining a relationship with God through his effort alone.

*Genesis 1.27; 2.17; 3.6; Romans 3.23; 5.12; Isaiah 53.6; 59.1-2; Psalm 8.3-6 Proverbs 20.9*

**Eternity** is the destination for all of mankind. Man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God or eternally in union with God. Eternally separated from God is Hell. Eternally in union with God is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are places of eternal existence.

At death, the believer's spirit immediately enters the presence of Christ and remains in conscious bliss until they are joined again with their bodies in resurrection, after which they shall be with the Lord forever.

*2Corinthians 5.8; Philippians 1.23; 1Corinthians 15.50-55; 1Thessalonians 4.16-17*

The unbeliever's spirit will enter into conscious misery until the final judgment when they shall be rejoined with their bodies and cast into the lake of fire for eternal punishment.

*Luke 16.19-28; 2Thessalonians 1.8-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20.11-15; 1John 5.12*

**Eternal Salvation** is by God's grace through faith alone in Jesus Christ. Salvation is a gift from God to man and could never be gained or made more secure through good works or self-improvement. Only the shed blood of Jesus Christ brings forgiveness of sin and on that basis alone can salvation be offered to all mankind. Eternal life begins the moment one comes to faith in Jesus Christ.

*Assurance* of salvation is based only on the promise of God's Word. No amount of self-effort by the Christian maintains his or her salvation. The believer is saved by God's grace and the believer is secured by God's grace. It is possible for a believer to fall into sin after receiving the gift of eternal life. In this life, there is no such height or strength of holiness from which it is impossible to fall. But by the grace of God, one who has fallen into sin, may by confession and repentance, find forgiveness and restored fellowship with God.

*John 3.16; 5.24; 6.47; 10.28-29; Acts 16.31; Revelation 22.17; Ephesians 2.8-9 Galatians 3.26; Romans 5.1; 6.23; 2Timothy 1.12; 1Peter 1.3-5; 1John 1.9; 2.1,24-25; 5.9-13*

**The Church** is the body of Christ, existing locally and universally, of which Jesus Christ is the head. The members of the church are those who have trusted by faith in Jesus Christ, thereby being placed in the body through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the church is to bring glory to God and to make Him known to the lost world. Every Christian is to be a dynamic part of a local church since this is God's primary context for spiritual development and community impact.

*Romans 12.4-5; 1Corinthians 12.12-27; Ephesians 1.22-23; Colossians 1.18*

**Ordinances** of the church, neither of which is essential to eternal salvation, are to be observed in obedience to the Lord by all believers until Christ's return. The two ordinances are: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism indicates the initiation of the believer's faith; the Lord's Supper denotes the continuation of the believer's faith.

Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience and is a first step of discipleship for the new believer.

*Matthew 3.13-17; 28.19; Acts 8.36-38; 16.30-33*

The Lord's Supper is also an act of obedience whereby believers, through the partaking of the bread and fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of Christ and anticipate His second coming.

*Luke 22.19-20; 1Corinthians 11.23-29*

**Spiritual Gifts** are chosen by God and distributed by the Holy Spirit to all believers for the purpose of building up the body of Christ and bringing glory to God. The gifts are to be expressed with love and must emphasize unity in the body.

*Romans 12.6-8; 1Corinthians 12.4,11,18,21-25; Ephesians 4.11-16*

**Stewardship** is the obligation of every Christian. God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual. All that we have and are, we owe to Him. Therefore, believers are to serve Him with their time, talents and material possessions and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. Believers should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately and generously for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

*Romans 12.1; Luke 6.38; 2Corinthians 9.6-11; 1Chronicles 29.10-16; Malachi 3.8-12*

**The Family** is the God ordained foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

*Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.*