



Statement of Faith

FOREWORD

Christian Aboriginal Fellowship of Canada is firmly anchored in the mainstream of historical Christianity. It believes that the Bible is its all-sufficient source of faith and practice, and subscribes to the historic beliefs of the universal church. In accordance with historical, evangelical Christianity, it emphasizes Christ's redeeming work of salvation and the fact that He is our coming King. It also presents Christ as the Healer and Deliverer, and believes in the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit, as well as the completeness and totality of the spiritual gifts that were manifested by the immutable Christ and that are available to every believer.

GOD

We believe in one God who exists eternally as three Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. All three Persons have the same nature and attributes and are worthy of the same worship, confidence and obedience.¹

God exists eternally as the Creator of heaven and earth. He loves those He has created and invites us to live in communion with Him and with one another.

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God.² We believe that Scripture, which consists of the sixty-six books contained in the Old and New Testaments is the Word of God in its original form.³ Scripture retains its inspiration and thus authority from God alone; it is infallible and the only standard for the church's faith and life.⁴

Believers receive the spiritual ability to understand the Scriptures⁵, but God does not grant new revelations that are contrary or additional to inspired biblical truth.⁶

¹ Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

² 2 Timothy 3:16-17

³ 2 Peter 1:20-21

⁴ Psalm 119:160; Matthew 5:17-18

⁵ 1 Corinthians 2:12-14

⁶ Proverbs 30:5-6

MAN

Man and woman were created, out of love, in the image and likeness of God.⁷ Humans, though created pure and innocent, sinned by a voluntary transgression.⁸ Man can only be saved through the atoning work of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁹ We believe in the dignity of life and the human body, of marriage and family, of education and work, as it is proclaimed and protected by God's commandments.

JESUS-CHRIST

Our Lord Jesus-Christ, the eternal and only begotten Son of the Father, is truly God and truly man.¹⁰ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,¹¹ and through His sinless life, miracles and teaching, provided full revelation of the Father.¹²

He died on the cross, the Just for the unjust as a substitutionary sacrifice, thus providing salvation for the human race.¹³ He rose from the dead.¹⁴ He now sits at the Father's right hand.¹⁵ He will return to establish His kingdom in righteousness and peace.¹⁶

SALVATION

Salvation has been provided for all men through Christ's sacrifice on the cross.¹⁷ This sacrifice is the only perfect redemption. This atoning work has been proven by His resurrection from the dead.¹⁸ Those who repent and believe in Christ are born again, regenerated by the Holy Spirit,¹⁹ freely justified,²⁰ and receive eternal life.²¹

⁷ Genesis 1:26, 2:7

⁸ Romans 5:12; James 1:14-15

⁹ John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6

¹⁰ John 1:1; John 1:14; John 10:30; John 17; Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 1:8

¹¹ Luke 1:26-35

¹² John 12:49; Acts 2:22; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 7:26

¹³ Romans 5:6; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 3:18

¹⁴ Matthew 28:6; 1 Corinthians 15:4, 1 Corinthians 15:20

¹⁵ Acts 1:9-11; Acts 2:33; Hebrews 8:1

¹⁶ Matthew 25:31

¹⁷ Isaiah 53:3-6; John 12:32-33; 1 Peter 2:24

¹⁸ Acts 2:36; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:14; 1 Corinthians 15:17; 1 Corinthians 15:20; Hebrews 10:12; 1 John 2:2

¹⁹ John 3:3; John 3:5; John 3:7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18; 1 Peter 1:23

²⁰ Romans 3:24; Romans 4:3-5; Romans 5:1-2

²¹ Acts 20:21; 1 Peter 1:23; 1 Peter 1:25

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is also God, performing actions and possessing all attributes of the Deity.²² He has personal characteristics; believers may relate to Him personally.²³

THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

1. ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Assurance of salvation is a privilege extended to all who have been born again of the Spirit by faith in Christ.²⁴ It results in love, gratitude and obedience to God.

2. SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification is, in experience, both instantaneous²⁵ and progressive.²⁶ It is manifested by consecration to God and separation from evil.²⁷ Every believer is encouraged to seek sanctification, using Jesus-Christ as their model.

3. THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that any believer can experience the power and fullness of the Holy Spirit.²⁸ It is thus that the believer comes to know Christ more intimately,²⁹ bears fruit and experiences the gifts of the Holy Spirit, grows spiritually and becomes an effective witness for Christ.³⁰ Believers should diligently seek the fullness of the Holy Spirit as outlined in Scripture.³¹

4. GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The gifts of the Spirit are supernatural abilities given by God through the exercising of which believers can effectively minister in the church and to the lost. ³²Exercising of gifts is encouraged and practiced.³³

²² Acts 5:3-4

²³ John 16:13-14

²⁴ John 10:27-29; Romans 8:35-39

²⁵ John 17:17; John 17:19; Hebrews 10:10; Hebrews 10:14

²⁶ 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Timothy 2:19-22; 1 Peter 1:14-16

²⁷ 2 Corinthians 6:14; 2 Corinthians 7:1

²⁸ Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5; Ephesians 5:18

²⁹ John 16:13-15

³⁰ Galatians 5

³¹ 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Corinthians 13; 1 Corinthians 14

³² 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

³³ 1 Corinthians 12:28-30; James 5:14

5. DIVINE HEALING

We believe in divine healing according to Scripture, through prayer, anointing with oil and laying on of hands. It is made possible through Christ's atoning work³⁴ and is the hope of all believers. Prayer for those who are ill is encouraged and practiced.³⁵

6. THE LOCAL CHURCH

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who gather to operate as part of the universal Church.³⁶ The local church is ordained by God and provides a context in which believers worship God together,³⁷ pray to Him, receive instruction and encouragement, are accountable to one another, seek communion with one another and are equipped to evangelize the world.³⁸

7. ORDINANCES

(a) The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a symbol, commemoration and proclamation of the suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Believers are to participate in the ordinance of communion until Christ's return.³⁹

(b) Water Baptism

Water baptism signifies that the believer identifies with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. It is practiced by immersion.⁴⁰

8. MINISTRIES

We believe in the ministries that Christ established in His church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers,⁴¹ and we believe in the numerous ministerial gifts found in the New Testament.⁴²

9. SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN WORK

We believe that in accordance with the model set forth by Christ and His apostles in the early church,⁴³ the local church, along with every believer individually, is called to help the poor and underprivileged.

³⁴ Matthew 8:16-17

³⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:28-30; James 5:14

³⁶ Acts 14:23; 1 Corinthians 16:19

³⁷ John 4:23; Acts 20:7

³⁸ Acts 1:8; Acts 11:19-24; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Peter 5:2

³⁹ Matthew 26:26-28; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

⁴⁰ Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 2:41; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5

⁴¹ Ephesians 4:11

⁴² Ephesians 4:11-12

⁴³ Matthew 25:31; Galatians 2:10; James 2:15-20; James 1:27

THE END OF TIME

1. THE PRESENT STATE OF THE DEAD

We believe that at death the souls of believers pass immediately into the presence of Christ,⁴⁴ and these remain in constant bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body.⁴⁵ The souls of unbelievers remain after death conscious of condemnation⁴⁶ until the final bodily resurrection and judgment of the unjust.⁴⁷

2. THE RAPTURE

The rapture, the blessed hope of the church, is the imminent coming of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself His own, both the living who shall be transformed, and the dead in Christ who shall be resurrected.⁴⁸ This event takes place before the wrath of God is poured out during the tribulation. Believers then will appear before the judgment seat of Christ to be judged according to faithfulness in Christian service.⁴⁹

3. THE TRIBULATION

The tribulation will be a time of judgment on the whole earth.⁵⁰ During this period the Antichrist will emerge to offer false hope to the nations.⁵¹

4. THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

The return of Christ to earth in power and great glory will conclude the great tribulation with the victory at Armageddon,⁵² the defeat of Antichrist and the binding of Satan.⁵³ Christ will introduce the millennial age,⁵⁴ restore Israel to her own land, lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God.⁵⁵

⁴⁴ 2. Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21; Philippians 1:23-24

⁴⁵ Romans 8:22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44; 2 Corinthians 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:4

⁴⁶ Luke 16:22-31; John 3:36

⁴⁷ Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Rev 20:11-15

⁴⁸ 1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13

⁴⁹ Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10

⁵⁰ Matthew 24:15; Matthew 24:21-22; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

⁵¹ 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; Revelation 13:11-18

⁵² Matthew 24:27; Matthew 24:30; Luke 17:24; Luke 17:26-30

⁵³ Revelation 16:12-16; Revelation 17:8; Revelation 17:12-14; Revelation 19:11-20

⁵⁴ Psalm 2:6-12; Daniel 2:44-45; Luke 22:29-30; Revelation 3:21; Revelation 20:6

⁵⁵ Isaiah 1:24-27; Isaiah 2:1-4; Zechariah 14:3-4; Zechariah 14:9; Romans 8:19-23; Revelation 22:3

5. THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

There will be a final judgment in which the unbelieving dead will be raised and judged at the great white throne, according to their works.⁵⁶ The beast and false prophet, the devil and his angels, and whoever is not found in the Book of Life, shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to annihilation but to everlasting punishment, which is the second death.⁵⁷

6. THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE RIGHTEOUS

The righteous will share the glory of God in the new heaven and the new earth for eternity.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ Daniel 7:9-10; John 12:48; Romans 2:2; Romans 2:6; Romans 2:11; Romans 2:16; Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 20:11-15

⁵⁷ Matthew 25:41; Jude 6; Revelation 20:10; Revelation 15; Revelation 21:8

⁵⁸ Matthew 13:43; John 17:24; 2 Peter 3:13; Hebrews 11:10; Revelation 21:1-2; Revelation 21:10; Revelation 21:22-23