

**EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF LIBERIA (ECOL)  
STATEMENT OF FAITH**

**DECEMBER 29, 2012**

- 1. THE SCRIPTURE**, the sixty-six books both Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, without errors in the works of the original writings, the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and practice (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; I Corinthians 2:13)
- 2. GOD**: There is one God, the Creator and preserver of all things, infinite in being and perfection. He exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are co-equal and co-eternal (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Hebrew 1:1-13; Colossians 1:15,19)
- 3. JESUS CHRIST**: He is very God, and very man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a perfect, sinless life. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins, according to the scriptures. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, where is now as our high priest and advocate at the right hand of the Majesty on High (Luke 2:3-35; Philippians 2:5-8; I CORINTHIANS 15: 1-4; Hebrew1:3,19; 1 John 2 :1-2).
- 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT**: The Holy Spirit is the third person of the God-head who regenerates(that is, give new life to anyone who dead in sins and trespasses, exercises saving faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:11; John 6:63a) indwells ( that is, resides in everyone who truly believes in Jesus Christ- John 14: 16,17; I Corinthians 6:19), baptizes( that is, places every true believer into a mystical union ( I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26,27; Romans 6:3,4), seals ( that is, by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer, the divine mark of ownership is eternally placed to indicate that the one indwells is God's own eternal possession ( Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30), and fills those who believe (that is, empowers those yielded to God in daily conduct and service ( II Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:18;Galatians 5:16,22-25; Colossians 3:17). The Holy Spirit's ministry is to glorify God in the life of the believer as the guides, instructs, empowers, and gives spiritual abilities for service (John 3:3-6; I Corinthians 6:19, 12:13; Ephesians 5:18).
- 5. Of the Creation:**

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1-2), including all life (Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3), "each after its own kind" (Genesis 1:24), by direct act, and not by the process of evolution (Psalm 33:6).
- 6. ANGELS** God originally created an innumerable company of sinless, spirit- beings, known as angels. They are messengers of God to help his people in all ages. One

angel, high in rank, however, sinned through pride. He is known as Satan. A great company of other active agents of Satan known as demons (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 29:11-19; I Timothy 3:6)

7. **MAN:** Man was created in the image and likeness of God, but in Adam all mankind fell into sin with the result that all men are sinners by nature and action. All men are depraved and without hope apart from the grace of God. (Genesis 1:25, 27, 2:17, 6:5; Romans 3: 10-19, John 3:6,16)
  
8. **SALVATION:** Salvation is received by faith alone in the God-man, Jesus Christ, apart from works (Eph. 2:8-9). Christ died as substitutionary sacrifice to redeem us from our sins if we believe in him. He shed blood and resurrection provides the only ground for justification and salvation. Only those who receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and are truly Christians, even children of God. There is no salvation for those who died outside of Christ (Acts 4:12; John 3:5; II Corinthians 5:21; John 1:12; Romans 5:8; John 2:18, 3:18).
  
9. **ASSURANCE AND ETERNAL SECURITY:** Everyone who truly believes in Jesus Christ's atoning work and has appropriated this benefit personally to life is assured of salvation both now and forever. Those so assured of salvation both now and forever .Those so assured are eternally kept saved due to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption( Colossians 2:2; I John 5:13; Hebrew 6:11, 10:22; John 5:14, 10:28; Romans 8:29; Hebrew 7:25; I John 2:1,2).
  
10. **SANCTIFICATION:** That is believers setting apart unto God is in three-fold; positional at the point of conversion; progressive , on a daily basis as we walk the Christian pilgrim way; and ultimate which is experienced in the hereafter when each believer enter into the presence of the Lord ( John 17:17; II Corinthians 3:18; 7:1; Ephesians 4:24; 5:25-27; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrew 10:10,14, 12:10; I John 2:15-17, 3:2)
  
11. **THE CHURCH:** The church embracing all true believers is the body and bride and of Christ, formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, (that is, the placing of individual believers in the body of Christ). The local Church is intended to be a local organized representation of the mystical body of Christ, and should be composed only of true believers (Ephesians 1:22-23; I Corinthians 12:13; Philippians 1:1, Ephesians 1: 20-23, 4:3-10,30; Colossians 3:14-15).
  
12. **ORDINANCES:** The ordinances of the Church are the Lord's Super and Water Baptism by immersion, which are to be observed by the Church during the

present age. They are designed to strengthen the believers spiritually and to be a public witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. They are not a means of salvation (M28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 8:36-38; 10:47-48; 16:32; 18:7-8; I Corinthians 11:23-26). Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming. Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

**13. CHRISTIAN AND SERVICE:** Man is saved unto good works (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 3:8) and faith without work is dead (James 2:17). Therefore, Christians are called to a holy life of service and testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit, which service includes the propagation of the gospel message to the whole world. The Holy Spirit bestow by his own sovereign will, diverse grace gifts upon all who believe in Christ for the enablement in service for God's glory. Christians will give account of , and receive reward for their faithful service at the judgment seat of Christ (Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 3:12-15; II Corinthians 5:9-10; Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11; I Peter 1:15-16).

**14. Evangelism and Missions:** It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-

15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

- 15. Family:** God has ordained the family as the 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. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

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. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. 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.

- 16. SPIRITUAL GIFTS:** These are bestowed freely and determined by the Holy Spirit on believers and not by the will or desire of man. These grace (unmerited favor) gifts are meant for the edification of the body of Christ and for service to the glory of God. In this age, God has given for the building up of the Church the following

grace gifts among others: faith administration, care, pastor/teacher, evangelist, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, (Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11). Some of the spiritual gifts listed in scripture, for example; tongues, healing, etc are sign gifts. However, an undue emphasis on possession of any of those sign gifts as a means or prerequisite for salvation or mark of spiritual superiority is unscriptural and is rejected ( John 6:3-16; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 14:40).

- 17. THE BLESSED HOPE:** The blessed hope of the Church is the personal, imminent and Pre-millennial second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the rapture of the believers, both the living and the dead. This hope must have a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believers. (John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-52, I Thessalonians 4:13-18 Titus 2:11-14; II Peter 3:11).
  
- 18. The TRIBULATION:** In the end times shall come a period of divine judgment upon the whole world, which day by day, continues to ripen for judgment( Matthew 24:15-21; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:1-17; 19:21).
  
- 19. THE RESURRECTION:** All the dead will eventually resurrect bodily at the end times, the believers into everlasting blessedness and joy with their Lord, the unbelievers into judgment and everlasting conscious punishment (John 11:25; -26; Luke 16:19-26; 23:42; I Corinthians 15:20-22; II Corinthians 5:8; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15).