

Jesus Fellowship Church ● Jesus Army

Jesus Fellowship Central Offices, Nether Heyford, Northampton NN7 3LB, UK

(01327) 344522 Fax: (01327) 344521 www.jesus.org.uk Email: info@jesus.org.uk

A Summary of the full Statement of Faith and Practice of the Jesus Fellowship Church

The Jesus Fellowship Church accepts the historic creeds of the Christian Church: the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed. Our full Statement of Faith and Practice covers 40 points which are summarised below:

1. We believe in one Almighty God, Father, Son and Spirit, Three Persons in One, co-equal and consubstantial, Creator and sustainer of all things.
God the Father is the First Person of the Trinity, the Author of all things created.
2. Jesus is both Lord and Christ, the eternal Son of God, begotten not created, incarnate by the Holy Spirit as Jesus of Nazareth, born of the virgin Mary. He is perfect God and perfect man. For us he was crucified, died, was buried and rose again to accomplish the redemption of His Church. We believe in His sinless life as a man, in His substitutionary atoning death upon the cross for the sins of men, in His descent into Hades, in His bodily resurrection from the dead, in His ascension into heaven, in His position of authority at God's right hand, in His authority as judge of all, in His present ministry as high priest on behalf of the redeemed, and in His future coming again to the earth in glory. He is the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world.
3. Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah-King foretold in Old Testament prophecy.
4. The Holy Spirit is fully God, of one substance with the Father and with the Son, yet a distinct Person. He personally indwells all true believers, and through the one Spirit we are baptised into the one Body of Christ.
5. Angels have been created by God, to serve him and minister on behalf of the saved ones. The devil, a fallen angelic being, is the deceiver of the world, the father of lies, and the tempter into evil, who has been overthrown through Christ in the cross.
6. Mankind was created by God, but has fallen away from God's presence and likeness, and so is doomed to suffer the torment of everlasting hell. Only through God's mercy can men and women be released from the captivity to his sinful flesh and enter into eternal life.
7. God's eternal purpose is to gain a people for His own possession and glory. God made covenant with Abraham as father of the chosen race of Israel. This is fulfilled in the new covenant through Jesus Christ, which unites both Jews and Gentiles in the true Israel, the church of the living God.
8. God works sovereignly in free grace to sinful men and women, giving them repentance, faith, and new birth to enter the Kingdom of God. Scripture reveals the need for baptism in water, identifying believers with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
9. Baptism in the Spirit (normally with the gift of tongues) is a vital work of God in the believer, bringing sanctification and power. Holy living however requires self-denial and many experiences of the Spirit's grace.
10. God's covenant people are not to love the world, nor the things in the world. As His temple they are to be a holy society that displays the fruits of righteousness and shows light to the world.
11. The regenerate should gather together in local church-communities, with love and service, with various gifts and graces flowing through each member.
12. God unites believers in the Body of Christ, the Church. This is seen in the local, universal, militant, and triumphant Church.
13. We accept Jesus' commands to renounce all other things to be His disciples. This does not mean that we become exclusive or reject the natural family. The goal of discipleship is holy maturity.
14. We believe that, where possible, it is right for believers to voluntarily share their possessions and income, having "all things in common" as in the first church-community in Jerusalem. Community membership is not however a condition for church membership.
15. As Jesus taught, it is not possible to serve God and mammon (wealth),. The church-community will therefore be seen to have a distinctive culture, different from society at large.
16. We recognise God's 'common grace' to all mankind, and that there is therefore goodness to be found in many human activities and inventions.
17. We respect and submit to governments and secular authority, while reserving our freedom of faith and worship.

18. Believers are to bear their own cross, suffering reproach and persecution for Christ's sake.
19. We believe that the gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of salvation to all who believe. This gospel shall be proclaimed through the living and militant witness of the church-community in the power of God, confirmed by signs and wonders. We practise ministry amongst the poor and disadvantaged.
20. God calls us to be holy, as He is holy. Where there is a consistent wilful rejection of this call to holiness then apostasy will result.
21. The Scriptures give authority for church disciplines of correction and, if necessary, exclusion, with the aim of restoring a fellow-member from sin.
22. The Bible (the Old and New Testaments in the Protestant canon) is the fully inspired word of God, and, interpreted by the Holy Spirit, is alone the warrant for our faith and practice.
23. We practise the sacraments of baptism of believers by immersion, and of holy communion in bread and wine.
24. We practise washing of feet to symbolise our service to one another in the love of Christ.
25. Those who have been validly baptised and show the fruits of holiness and love may voluntarily commit themselves to Covenant Membership of this church. We receive such into Covenant Membership by the right hand of fellowship.
26. We practise the anointing of the sick with oil together with laying on of hands, praying for healing of body and soul.
27. We practise laying on of hands for baptism in the Holy Spirit, for receiving of spiritual gifts, for healing, and for commissioning and conferment of grace.
28. Christ's church has power in his name to exorcise demonic spirits.
29. Infants of believing parents are to be presented to the Lord with thanksgiving and brought up in accordance with the practice of the church-community. The faith of the parents will sanctify the children, although this needs to be confirmed by their own personal new birth after they reach the age of accountability before God.
30. We acknowledge the ordinance of holy marriage between believers, in accordance with the teachings of Scripture, with the husband as the spiritual head.
31. It is the call and gifting of some to remain celibate to devote themselves to Christ.
32. The governing authority within the local Church is vested by Jesus in scripturally-qualified pastor-elders, subject to the authority of an Apostolic Group of mature men of God within the church-community, for the sake of the well-being of Christ's flock. In accordance with biblical teaching, all such pastor-plders and the Apostolic Group are men.
33. Deacons within the Church are appointed from those scripturally-qualified to serve in practical and administrative tasks.
34. The authority of the Apostolic Group, pastor-plders and deacons is to be respected by all members. Where one of these proves unworthy of office he is to be subject to the disciplines of the church-community.
35. Male and female are equal in new creation status, all being sons of God in Christ Jesus. In this present age however, they are to be different in role, appearance and dress.
36. There is no scriptural justification for keeping special days and seasons, though we recognise the significance of the first day of the week as the day of the Lord's resurrection.
37. We believe in personal prayer, in personal and corporate fasting, in personal confession of sin to God and before brethren.
38. Our mortal bodies, though subject to sickness, decay and death, are to be yielded to God. Physical life must be safeguarded from conception to natural death.
39. The bodies of all shall rise at the coming again of the Lord Jesus Christ, and all shall be judged according to the deeds done in the mortal body, those in Christ to eternal life and those outside of Him to everlasting death.
40. We believe that the truths contained within this statement of faith and practice are in accord with the revelation of scripture and are witnessed to by the Spirit of truth. We remain open to the Spirit's guidance in their practical application and to further revelation from the Scriptures.

For further details, see the Church's full Statement of Faith and Practice.