

ELDER STATEMENT OF FAITH

CREEDAL

The elders of Citylight Church affirm the ancient creeds of the Christian church, including the Apostles Creed, the Athanasian Creed, and the Nicene Creed.

REFORMED

The elders of Citylight Church enthusiastically embrace the sovereignty of God's grace in saving sinners!

We affirm that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world, not on the basis of foreseen faith but unconditionally, according to his sovereign good pleasure and will.

We believe that through the work of the Holy Spirit, God will draw the elect to faith in his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, graciously and effectually overcoming their stubborn resistance to the gospel so that they will most assuredly and willingly believe.

We also believe that these, the elect of God whom he gave to the Son, will persevere in belief and godly behavior and be kept secure in their salvation by grace through faith.

We believe that God's sovereignty in this salvation neither diminishes the responsibility of people to believe in Christ nor marginalizes the necessity and power of prayer and evangelism, but rather reinforces and establishes them as the ordained means by which God accomplishes his ordained ends.

We believe the ultimate end of God's sovereignty over salvation and judgment is the praise of His glory alone.

COMPLEMENTARIAN

We are deeply committed to the spiritual & moral equality of male & female and to men as responsible servant-leaders in both home and church.

Both men and women are together created in the divine image and are therefore equal before God as persons, possessing the same moral dignity and value, and have equal access to God through faith in Christ. Men and women are together the recipients of spiritual gifts designed to empower them for ministry in the local church and beyond. Therefore, women are to be encouraged, equipped, and empowered to utilize their gifting in ministry, in service to the body of Christ, and through teaching in ways that are consistent with the Word of God.

Both husbands and wives are responsible to God for spiritual nurture and vitality in the home, and God has given to the man primary responsibility to lead his wife and family in accordance with the servant-leadership and sacrificial love characterized by Jesus Christ. This principle of male headship should not be confused with, nor give any hint of, domineering control. Rather, it is to be the loving, tender and nurturing care of a godly man who is himself under the kind and gentle authority of Jesus Christ.

The Elders/Pastors of each local church have been granted authority under the headship of Jesus Christ to provide oversight and to teach/preach the Word of God in corporate assembly for the building up of the body. The office of Elder/Pastor is restricted to men. We reject the idea that a person's value is correlated to their role, and therefore in restricting the office of Elder/Pastor to men, we are in no way diminishing the equal value of women and men before God.

CONTINUATIONIST

The elders of Citylight Church believe that all the spiritual gifts that functioned for the building up of the New Testament church continue to be given by the Spirit to the church today.

We believe that all spiritual gifts function for the building up of the Body of Christ. The spiritual gifts are central resources for the pursuit of love and the common good. Therefore, we reject an open but cautious approach to so-called revelatory or miraculous spiritual gifts. Rather, we earnestly desire the spiritual gifts for upbuilding, encouragement, and consolation. Any legitimate contemporary exercises of such gifts do not contradict scripture, nor do they add requirements for salvation, what people are to believe concerning God, or new commands from God binding on all of God's people. Therefore, we will test all contemporary reports of revelation by the standard of scripture.

We believe the Holy Spirit sovereignly provides spiritual gifts according to his will. Therefore, we earnestly desire spiritual gifts, but we do not seek to manipulate God into providing them.

CREDO-BAPTIST

The elders of Citylight Church believe that baptism is a sign of a Christian's union with Christ in his death, burial, resurrection through faith. Therefore, we baptize only those who provide a credible profession of faith, fully immerse in water those being baptized, and call on any who have not been baptized after their profession of faith to be baptized. In addition, we seek to maintain a regenerate church membership.