

RID: STATEMENT OF FAITH: WHAT WE BELIEVE

Study the entire Bible, obey all of God's Word, accept Jesus' atonement for sins.

What we believe & why....				We're sure of what we believe:		
	Beliefs:	Examples:	Scriptures:	Arguments:	Clarification:	Scripture:
BIBLE	The Bible is the ultimate authority on truth.	ex: the Bible supersedes worldly doctrines and ideals	"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:16-17 "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth." John 17:17	But, other doctrines, adages, and philosophies that can offer wisdom, too.	Yes, but is biblical wisdom is God-breathed and perfect, while worldly wisdom is man-made and fallible.	"Do not deceive yourselves. If any of you think you are wise by the standards of this age, you should become "fools" so that you may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness in God's sight. As it is written: "He catches the wise in their craftiness";" 1 Corinthians 3:18-19
GOD	God (YHWH/Yahweh/I am that, I am) is the one and only true God. God is our Heavenly Father and Creator. Jesus is God's son, the Living Word, and our Savior, the Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Guide.	ex: we are intelligently designed by God, who created and saved this world via the Word (Jesus), and sent us his Holy Spirit.	"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Genesis 1:27 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." John 1-3 "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14:26	But, all religions are really pointing to the same God....	Any thing that seems like a similarity between God (YHWH) and pagan gods, is summed up in that Satan wanted to seem like God in order to be worshiped and take the place of God. Just as the enemy tricked them in the garden, and just as the enemy tried to deceive Jesus in the wilderness, the enemy is still sewing lies to decide the world. Moreover, teachings in other religions contradict the laws, commandments and teachings found in the Bible.	"I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me," Isaiah 45:5 "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High. But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths of the pit." Isaiah 14:12-15 "Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'" Luke 4:8 "People worshiped the dragon because he had given authority to the beast, and they also worshiped the beast and asked, "Who is like the beast? Who can wage war against it?" Revelation 13:4 "This great dragon—the ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, the one deceiving the whole world—was thrown down to the earth with all his angels" Revelation 12:9
OLD & NEW TESTAMENT	It's vital to read the Bible in it's entirety — both the Old Testament & the New Testament are relevant and should be studied fully.	ex: Genesis, Leviticus, Isaiah, etc. Matthew, Acts, James, Revelation, etc.	"Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " Matthew 4:4 "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." Joshua 1:8 "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24	But, the Old Testament has the old covenant, which was done away with, so it's okay to focus mostly on the new covenant in the New Testament....	There is, indeed a new covenant, and understanding the old covenant in full helps you to understand and appreciate the new covenant in far greater depth.	"But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." 2 Timothy 3:14-17 "For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope." Romans 15:4 "But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do." James 1:25
THE LAWS & COMMANDMENTS	The Laws & Commandments still apply and should be obeyed. (See R9: Biblical Holy Days)	ex: The 10 Commandments, Sabbath, Passover, etc.	"Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 5:19 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished." Matthew 5:17-18	But, that's legalistic....	We don't obey to gain salvation—Jesus is our saving Messiah. We obey the laws and commands because we love God, because obedience helps us to remember God, walk with him more closely, and live as he called us to live. Moreover, legalistic is not in the Bible, but lawlessness is, and lawlessness ends in poorly.	"This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome" 1 John 5:3 "The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved." 2 Thessalonians 2:9 "Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws.'" Matthew 7:22-23
WISDOM	Wisdom is key for blessed prosperity & safety in all areas of life.	ex: wise with character, emotions, money, health, etc.	"Blessed are those who find wisdom, those who gain understanding." Proverbs 3:13 "Wisdom will save you from the ways of wicked men, from men whose words are perverse," Proverbs 2:12	But, I'm already saved...	Yes, but just because you could, doesn't mean you should.	"I have the right to do anything," you say—but not everything is beneficial. "I have the right to do anything"—but not everything is constructive." 1 Corinthians 10:23
LIFESTYLE	We are called to live lives that are set apart (different) from the rest of the world.	ex: Worldly Traditions, Holidays, Character, Interactions, Styles, etc.	"You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine." Deuteronomy 14:2 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers. Psalm 1:1-3	But, Paul became everything to everyone to be relatable, he wasn't overrighteous....	Paul also said believers shouldn't get caught up in human traditions, that we shouldn't copy the behaviors and customs of this world.	"See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ." Colossians 2:8 "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." Romans 12:2
MINISTRY	We are called to share Biblical truths to nations and tribes, as Jesus has the power to save all who diligently seek him.	ex: all tribes (races) via casual conversation, Bible Study, ministry, etc.	Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20 "Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them." Hebrews 7:25	But, the promises in the Bible are for Israel.	Yes, the Bible's promises are for Israel, and the Bible also speaks about foreigners who dwell with the Israelites being included, and about unnatural branches being grafted in. Either way, we are happy to teach all who will listen, it is ultimately God's decision.	"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," Matthew 28:19 "Then Jesus said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Matthew 15:24 "The same law applies both to the native-born and to the foreigner residing among you." Exodus 12:49 "But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you." Romans 11:17-18
OTHER TOPICS	We think it does not matter what we think—it matters what God's word says.	ex: topics like homosexuality, abortion, etc.	"Don't you realize that those who do wrong will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Don't fool yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, or who worship idols, or commit adultery, or are male prostitutes, or practice homosexuality, or are thieves, or greedy people, or drunkards, or are abusive, or cheat people—none of these will inherit the Kingdom of God." 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb." Psalm 139:13 "You shall not murder." Exodus 20:13 "Children are a gift from the Lord; they are a reward from him." Psalm 127:3	But that's between each person and God, people shouldn't judge....	Yes, the Bible does say the people should not judge each other, it also says that God will judge.	"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God." Hebrews 10:26-27 "He will give everlasting life to those who search for glory, honor, and immortality by persisting in doing what is good. But he will bring anger and fury on those who, in selfish pride, refuse to believe the truth and who follow what is wrong." Romans 2:7-8 (See whole chapter)