

# Statement of Faith (1975)

The Sesquicentennial Statement based upon the 1925 Statement of Faith

**We believe** in one supreme God—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
co-equal and co-eternal: and in  
the miraculous conception,  
the virgin birth,  
the vicarious sacrifice,  
the bodily resurrection,  
the triumphant ascension, and  
the second coming of our Lord.

**We believe** in the gift and work of the Holy Spirit;  
the divinely inspired Word of God as our only and all-sufficient rule of faith  
and practice;  
and in the free moral agency of man.

**We believe** God created man;  
man has fallen;  
and his only possible redemption is through the atonement of Christ.

**We believe** in the forgiveness of sins;  
rebirth by the Word and Spirit  
and justification by faith.

**We believe** baptism, feetwashing, and the Lord's Supper to be ordinances of the  
church.

**We believe** in the holiness of the Lord's Day;  
and God's appointment of civil governments.

**We believe** in the resurrection of the dead;  
the final judgment;  
and life everlasting.

# Statement of Faith (1925)

## The Centennial Statement based on Winebrenner's 27 Points (1844)

(From: S. G. Yahn, History of the Churches of God, [Harrisburg: 1926], pp. 112-119.)

- We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired word of God;  
that the inspiration of its writers enabled them to record truth without error;  
and that it is our only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.
- We believe in one supreme God  
—the Father, Son and Holy Ghost—and that they are co-equal and co-eternal.
- We believe in the miraculous conception,  
the virgin birth,  
the vicarious sacrifice,  
the bodily resurrection,  
the triumphant ascension  
and the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- We believe in his deity  
—that he was, and is, God the Son as well as the Son of God.
- We believe in the gift and work of the Holy Spirit.
- We believe that God made man by an original specific act of creation...[scriptures cited].
- We believe in the fall of man,  
and that his only possible redemption is through the atonement of Christ.
- We believe that man is justified by faith in Christ,  
and not by works of the law, or by works of his own righteousness.
- We believe in the free moral agency of man,  
as opposed to his unconditional election or reprobation, i.e.,  
that a man must accept Jesus as his Savior,  
and of his own free will continue in the goodness of God to be numbered with the elect.
- We believe that only those who  
have been born again by the word and Spirit,  
and who continue to manifest repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ,  
and to live virtuous and obedient lives will be saved.
- We believe that sanctification of the *person* (personality)  
is instantaneous and simultaneous with regeneration;  
that the sanctification of the *nature*, is a gradual growth in grace and truth.
- We believe in Baptism, Feet-washing and the Lord's Supper as church ordinances.
- We believe in Christian unity,  
in the Lord's Day as a time of rest and worship,  
and that civil governments are ordained of God.
- We believe in the immortality of the soul  
(that when a believer departs from the body he is consciously at home with the Lord).
- We believe in the resurrection of the dead,  
in a judgment following the resurrection,  
and in everlasting rewards and punishments.

Yahn's comment on the 1925 statement: *It will be noticed that the foregoing statements are substantially the same from a doctrinal viewpoint, thus showing that our people have held fast to the faith of the fathers without wavering. A few of the paragraphs in Winebrenner's statement—from 14 to 20 inclusive—pertain to church methods and public questions, and are not included in the statement of 1925, which is strictly doctrinal. On the other hand, the latter statement emphasizes the scriptural account of man's creation and the doctrines of Christ's miraculous conception, his virgin birth and his deity, because these were the doctrines against which modernism was making its special attack.*

# Statement of Faith (1844)

## John Winebrenner's Twenty-Seven Point Statement of Faith

John Winebrenner, *History of the Churches of God, All Religious Denominations*, [Harrisburg: 1848], pp. 170-180.); First published in *An Original History of the Religious Denominations*, I. Daniel Rupp [Philadelphia, 1844].

1. She [The Church of God] believes the Bible, or the canonical books of the Old and New Testament to be the word of God, a revelation from God to man, and the only authoritative rule of faith and practice.
2. She believes in one Supreme God, consisting of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that these three are co-equal and co-eternal.
3. She believes in the fall and depravity of man; that is to say, that man by nature is destitute of the favor and image of God.
4. She believes in the redemption of man through the atonement, or vicarious sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
5. She believes in the gift and office-work of the Holy Spirit; that is, in the enlightening, regenerating, and sanctifying influence and power of the Spirit.
6. She believes in the free, moral agency of man; that he has moral ability, because commanded, to repent and believe, in order to be saved; and that the doctrine of unconditional election and reprobation, has no foundation in the oracles of God.
7. She believes that man is justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the law, or by works of his own righteousness.
8. She believes in the necessity of regeneration or the new birth; or, in the change of man's moral nature, after the image of God, by the influence and power of the word and spirit of God, through faith in Christ Jesus.
9. She believes in three positive ordinances of perpetual standing in the church, viz., *Baptism*, *Feet-washing*, and the *Lord's Supper*.
10. She believes two things essential to the validity of baptism, viz., *faith* and *immersion*; that faith should always precede immersion; and that where either is wanting, there can be no scriptural baptism.
11. She believes that the ordinance of *feet-washing*, that is, the literal washing of the saint's feet, according to the words and example of Christ, is obligatory upon all Christians, and ought to be observed by all the churches of God.
12. She believes that the *Lord's Supper* should be often administered, and, to be consistent, to Christians only, in a sitting posture, and always in the evening.
13. She believes in the institution of the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath, as a day of rest and religious worship.

14. She believes that the reading and preaching of God's word, the singing of psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, and the offering up of prayers, are ordained of God, and ought to be regularly and devoutly observed by all the people and churches of God.
15. She believes in the propriety and utility of holding fast-days, experience meetings, anxious meetings, camp meetings, and other special meetings of united and protracted efforts for the edification of the church and the conversion of sinners.
16. She believes that the gospel ministry, Sabbath schools, education, the religious press, the Bible, missionary, temperance, and all other benevolent causes, ought to be heartily and liberally supported.
17. She believes that the church ought to relieve and take care of her own poor saints, superannuated ministers, widows and orphans.
18. She believes that the manufacture, traffic, and use of ardent spirits, as a beverage or common drink, is injurious and immoral, and ought to be abandoned.
19. She believes the system or institution of involuntary slavery to be impolitic or unchristian.
20. She believes that all civil wars are unholy and sinful, and in which the saints of the Most High ought never to participate.
21. She believes that civil governments are ordained of God for the general good; that Christians ought to be subject to the same in all things, except what is manifestly unscriptural; and that appeals to the law, out of the church, for justice, and the adjustments of civil rights, are not inconsistent with the principles and duties of the Christian religion.
22. She believes in the necessity of a virtuous and holy life, and that Christ will save those only who obey him.
23. She believes in the visibility, unity, sanctity, universality, and perpetuity of the church of God.
24. She believes in the personal coming reign of Jesus Christ.
25. She believes in the resurrection of the dead, "both of the just and the unjust;" that the resurrection of the just will precede the resurrection of the unjust; that the first will take place at the beginning, and the second at the end of the millennium.
26. She believes in the creation of new heavens and a new earth.
27. She believes in the immortality of the soul; in a universal and eternal judgment; and in future everlasting rewards and punishments.