

Common Sense Isn't Statement of Faith (Beliefs)



- We believe that God is life. Therefore those who have God in them are alive; those who do not are spiritually dead even though their physical body functions for a while.
 - *John 3:46* "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life,"
 - *John 5:24* "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."
- God created the physical universe for humans to inhabit and is the source and sustenance of all life.
 - *Gen 1:1* "In the beginning God created the heavens and the Earth."
- Man chose to turn away from God's provision and became the center of his own existence. Since mankind turned away from the life, purpose, and provision God provided he must struggle to supply these for himself but holds no power to bestow life spiritually; thus he cannot escape the choice he made and requires God to restore eternal life to him before his physical existence ends.
 - *Gen 3:6* "When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye and also desirable for gaining wisdom she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate it."
- The ONLY act required to receive life is to believe in Jesus, who loved us so much that he took on human form to live the life that man could not, suffered the consequences of man's choice, and experienced the death we have chosen so that we could once again choose the life that God originally created us to live. It was faith (belief) through which humans were saved even prior to Jesus' arrival on earth.
 - *John 3:16* "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."
- In living a life unseparated from God Jesus became the one and only Christ (messiah). There is no other path of access to God the Father.
 - *Luke 1:69* "He has raised up a horn of salvation for us..."
 - *John 10:9* "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved." (Jesus speaking)
 - *Acts 4:12* "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
- This belief does not refer to a factual conclusion such as $2+2=4$, but an experiential belief such as being burned or stung by a bee - which causes a change in your thoughts, decisions, and actions.
 - *James 2:17* "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."
 - *2 Corinthians 5:17* "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"
 - *Colossians 3:5* "Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry."
- God is love and we are to love God above all things. It is only by allowing His love to empower us can we love all people and treat them with respect regardless of what their station or lifestyle is, what they believe, how they treat others (us), and see them as fellow children of God.
 - *1 John 4:7-8* "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."
- God is triune, meaning there are three separate aspects of Him - each unique while nonetheless being all one at the same time. The three 'persons' are commonly referred to as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We do not claim to understand this, only to experience it and believe that it is so.
 - *Matthew 28:19* "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..." (Jesus speaking)
 - *2 Corinthians 13:14* "May the grace of the LORD Jesus (the) Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."
 - *1 Peter 1:2* "who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus (the) Christ and sprinkling by His blood."

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- All people make mistakes and choices we refer to as 'sin'. The power of the Christ living in us overcomes these choices so that, while we may be out of fellowship for a time, we remain alive. However, there is a difference in making a momentary mistake and choosing a lifestyle that is based on actions the Bible calls sinful: Idolatry; slander of God; ignoring the Sabbath; dishonoring your parents; murder; adultery; theft; slander of other people; covetousness; lust; envy; sexual immorality; impurity; evil desires; greed. We do not believe that God lives in those who choose such a lifestyle, or that a person in whom God lives can continuously choose such a lifestyle.
 - *1 John 3:9-10 "No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God. This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; neither is anyone who does not love his brother."*
- All people are God's children and therefore our brothers and sisters. All are worthy and deserving of our love regardless of what choices they make or what lifestyle they live. This does not imply acceptance of behavior or choices; it does imply acceptance of the person even when we disagree.
 - *1 John 3:11,14,16,18 "This is the message you heard from the beginning: we should love one another. ... We know that we have passed from death to life because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death. ... This is how we know what love is: Jesus (the) Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers. ... Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth."*
- The ten commandments are God's instructions for how a human being should live and are not gone or invalid simply because our current society has rejected them in favor of personal convenience.
 - Exodus 20:1-17 the Ten Commandments (paraphrased by Mr. Nelms)
 1. *God is the only god, and should be more important than anything else in your life.*
 2. *Don't make or worship idols (anything physical).*
 3. *Don't shame God, either by using any of his names badly, or by calling yourself one of His family and living in a way that brings shame on God, hurts His family, or causes anyone to want to stay away from God.*
 4. *One day out of seven is for God, called the Sabbath. Whatever you do to earn a living – don't do it on that day in honor of your Creator. Dedicate the entire day to remembering who God is (and who you are and are not) and talking/listening to Him.*
 5. *Honor your Father and Mother.*
 6. *Don't murder (which means to kill for your own selfish reasons).*
 7. *It is the birthright of every person to explore and learn of the joys expressing the love they have for their life-long mate in a physical way, and to expect the same from their mate. Don't steal that right from anyone including yourself. (adultery)*
 8. *If it isn't yours, it isn't yours. You don't need to know anything else. Don't take it!*
 9. *Tell the truth about people and don't give false impressions about them.*
 10. *Be happy with what you have; don't look at other people's things and wish they were yours.*
- God does not condemn anyone to hell as punishment – the decision of where you will spend your eternity is entirely up to you. At the end of time God will honor the choice you made during your physical life. Those who chose to live with God on earth will live eternity with God; those who chose to exist here without God will spend eternity without God or any of the fruits of His presence: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (Gal 5:22-23)
 - *Revelation 21:3 "the dwelling place of God is with man. He will live with them and they will be his people...He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more neither will there be crying or pain for the former things have passed away."*
 - *Revelation 21:8 "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars – their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur."*