

What We Believe – Our Doctrinal Statement

A. The Bible

We believe that all the Bible is inspired of God and that holy men of God “were moved by the Holy Spirit” to write the very words of Scripture. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the sacred writings – historical, poetical, doctrinal, and prophetic – as appeared in the original manuscripts. We believe that the whole Bible in the original manuscripts is therefore without error. We believe that the Bible constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice [Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21]

B. The Trinity

We believe that Godhead eternally exists in three equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each completely and fully God. These three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same worship, confidence, and obedience [Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-19 John 1:1, 14; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14].

C. God the Father

We believe that the Father is fully God, and His fatherhood is eternal and personal. He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and of all those who believe on His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior [Genesis 1:1; Matthew 6:9; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 4:6].

D. God the Son

We believe Jesus Christ is the only Son of God, equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is fully God and fully man, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless human life, and offered Himself as the perfect, complete sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. We believe our redemption and salvation are guaranteed by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted to the right hand of God where, as High Priest to His people, He fulfills the ministry of intercession and advocacy, and He will return to earth to reign as King of Kings. [Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-2, 14; 3:16-18; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:20; 2

Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:20; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:3; 3:1; 4:14-15; 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2].

E. God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is equal in deity and person with the Father and the Son. He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He also regenerates those who receive Christ as Savior, baptizes them into the Church, the Body of Christ, indwells them permanently, seals them unto the day of redemption, bestows spiritual gifts on each one, and fills those yielded to Him. We believe God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body just as He desired and to each one is given a manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the common good of the body of Christ. These gifts are determined according to the will of God and are used for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry to the building up of the body of Christ. [John 14:16-17; 16:7-11; I Corinthians 12:4-11; 13; 14:16-17; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; I Thessalonians 5:19; Hebrews 2:4; I John 1; 2:1-3).

F. Angels, Holy and Fallen

We believe angels are spiritual beings who were created as sinless personalities and that they occupy different orders and ranks. They presently exist in both Holy and fallen (unholy) states. Holy angels are not to be worshiped, but instead were created to serve and worship God and are involved with mankind as protectors, observers, and fellow worshipers. Fallen angels include Satan and his angels. We believe that Satan is the originator of sin, and that, under the permission of God, he, through subtlety, led our first parents into sin and now rules as “the god of this world.” We believe that Satan was judged and defeated at the cross, and that ultimately he will be cast into the Lake of Fire [Genesis 3:1-19; Hebrews 1:13-14; 2:14; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 7:12; 20:10].”

G. Man and Sin

We believe that man was originally created in innocence in the image and likeness of God, but that through Adam’s sin the race fell, and as a consequence of his sin, lost his spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and that he became subject to the power of the devil. We also believe that this spiritual death, or total depravity of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire human race so that mankind is universally sinful by nature and by choice. Further, he is void of spiritual life and incapable of saving himself [Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-24; Romans 1:18-3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3].

H. Salvation

We believe salvation is a sovereign gift of God and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin. We believe man is justified by grace through faith apart from works. Therefore, we believe that the new birth of the believer comes through faith alone in Christ alone. We believe that all true believers elect of God, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever [John 3:16; 5:24; 10:27-30; Acts 13:38-39; Romans 6:23; 8:1, 29-30, 38-39; Ephesians 1:4-14; 2:8-10].

I. Sanctification

We believe sanctification, which is a setting apart unto God, is positional, progressive and ultimate. Positionally, it is already complete since the believer is in Christ and is set apart unto God as Christ is set apart unto God. Since the Christian retains his sinful nature, however, there is need for progressive sanctification whereby he grows in grace, maturing in faith, by the power of the Spirit. Ultimately, the child of God will be set apart from sin in his practices [as he is now in his position in Christ] when he is taken to be with Christ and shall be like Him [John 17:17; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 10:10, 14].

J. The Church

We believe the Church is the Body of Christ, is a spiritual organism, made up of all born-again persons of this present age. We believe that the Church began at Pentecost and that a believer is placed into the Church by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Church is distinct from Israel. We believe the local church is an assembly of professed believers in Jesus Christ who are voluntarily joined together in one place for the purposes of worship, study of the Word of God, observance of the ordinances, Christian fellowship, equipping for and carrying out ministry, specifically serving others and sharing the good news of the gospel [Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11-13; 1 Corinthians 10:32; 12:13]

K. The Ordinances

We believe Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper, both of which are to be observed by believers until He returns. We believe that by water baptism a believer is publicly identified with His Savior and that infants of believing parents may be dedicated to the Lord but

should not be baptized until they can personally articulate their faith and the purpose of baptism. We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, the elements being symbols of His body and blood. We believe every Christian has a right to partake of the elements of the Lord's Supper but that participation must always be preceded by solemn self-examination [Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26].

L. Marriage

We believe in the divinely ordained and sacred Institution of marriage between one man and one woman. We believe this relationship is a mysterious reflection of the relationship of Christ and the church and is therefore characterized by an unconditional, self-sacrificing love and devotion. We believe God designed the marriage relationship to thrive under the spiritual leadership of the husband and the loving respect of the wife. Despite the differing roles, both husband and wife have been created in the image of God and are of equal value in His sight. We believe the marriage relationship should be established and fruitful based on a mutual submission to Christ. [Gen 2:24; Col 3:18-19; Eph 5:22-33]

M. Family

We believe that children are a gift of the Lord and therefore, it is the parents' primary responsibility to raise them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We believe the church family also shares in this responsibility and should partner with parents to raise up the next generation of Christian disciples. [Deut 6:6-9; Ps 127:3; Prov 22:6; Eph 6:4]

N. The End Times

We believe in the personal, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for the Church. This event commonly referred to as the blessed hope or the rapture of the Church. This event will be followed by great tribulation on the earth for seven years and will culminate in the return of Christ to the earth to set up His millennial kingdom and reign for a period of 1,000 years [Daniel 9:27; Zechariah 14:4-11; Philippians 3:20; Matthew 24:15-31; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:1-6].

O. The Eternal State

We believe the souls of believers in Jesus Christ do, at death, immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming for the Church, when soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory. We believe the souls

of unbelievers remain after death in constant misery in Hades until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of millennium when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord [Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15].