

Doctrinal Statement



THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and the New Testaments, to be verbally inspired by God in the original writings, and are, therefore, inerrant, infallible and complete. Thus, they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Corinthians 2:13)

THE GODHEAD

We believe in one Triune God existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, and having the same perfections and attributes. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father as the Source of Salvation, as the One who sent the Son into the world, and as the Author of the Divine plan for the universe. In a non-spiritual sense He is the Father of all by virtue of the Creator-creature relationship, but in a spiritual sense He is the Father of all who believe in Christ. He is the Initiator of redemption; He seeks worship from His children, and is their Disciplinarian unto righteousness. (Acts 17:29; Galatians 3:26; John 6:44; 4:23; Hebrews 12:9)

CREATION

We believe that, for His own glory, God personally created the existing universe with all its basic systems and kinds of organisms in the six literal days of the creation week. (Genesis 1:1, 31; 2:1-3; Exodus 20:11; 31:17; Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16)

GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe that He is True God, thus eternal in His existence, and true man, but without sin of any kind. We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a propitiatory and substitutionary sacrifice, and that our redemption is made sure by His resurrection from the dead in the identical, though glorified, body in which He was crucified. (Luke 1:26-28; John 1:14; 14:6-11; Romans 3:24-25; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as His Priest for His people, He ministers on their behalf as Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2)

We believe in the personal, premillennial and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and in His kingdom reign upon the earth. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 20:6)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer; that He baptizes them into the Body of Christ at the moment of conversion and seals them until the day of redemption. His ministry in believers is to cause them to glorify Jesus. We believe that the Holy Spirit sovereignly bestows spiritual gifts upon the children of God at conversion for service in the Body of Christ. We believe the gifts of languages and healing are no longer normative. Likewise, the historical roles of apostle and prophet have ceased.

(Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:20, 4:8-13, 5:18-20; John 16:14; 2 Corinthians 12:11-12; Acts 10:44-47; Isaiah 28:11ff, 1 Corinthians 14:20-22)

MAN

We believe that all humans are individually created in the image of God, their personhood established at conception. Adam and Eve were created sinless, but subsequently fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. Having inherited this sin nature, we believe that humans are sinners by birth, by nature, by choice and by practice, and thus come under condemnation of God. (Genesis 1:25-27; 3:1-19; Romans 3:10-16; 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-3,12; Jeremiah 1:4-5; Luke 1:39-44; Psalm 51:5; 139:13-16; Exodus 21:22-25; Leviticus 19:14; Romans 5:3-4; James 1:2-4; Philippians 1:20-26; 2 Timothy 4:6-8)

We believe in the sanctity of marriage as God-ordained, a special union between a man and a woman (genetically defined) within which sexual relations are honored and affirmed by God. We believe that all sexual unions and activities, outside of marriage as defined above, are in violation of God's design and revealed will. (Genesis 2:22-25; Proverbs 5:15-23; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is a gift of God, and that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Spirit of God, thereby receiving eternal life and thus becoming children of God. We believe that saving faith is manifested in works pleasing to God. (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 2:11-14; 3:5)

We believe that all true believers once saved shall be kept saved forever. (Romans 8:1, 38-39; John 10:27-30; Philippians 1:6)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church is a spiritual organism made up of all born again believers regardless of their denominational or organizational affiliation. We believe that the local church is the visible manifestation of this spiritual organism. We believe in the equal standing of male and female before Christ with unique God-given roles in the local church and in marriage. We believe that the office of elder/pastor, as under-shepherds of the Chief shepherd, is to be filled by men who meet the qualifications listed in Scripture. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Galatians 3:26-29; 1 Timothy 2:11-15; Ephesians 5:22-33; Titus 2:3-5; 1 Peter 5:1-4, 1 Timothy 3:1-7)

THE RESURRECTION AND FINAL STATE

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. We believe in the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting, conscious punishment of the unsaved. (Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:4-6, 10-15; 22:3-5, 11)