

OUR DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Word of God and Its Supremacy

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written word, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that it was uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that it was written without error in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks. (*2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*)

The Trinity

There is one true God, eternally existing in three persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-20; John 1:1-3; Acts 5:3-4*)

The Person of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is God, the Living Word, who became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. Hence, He is the perfect deity and true humanity united in one person forever. (*John 1:1; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-37; Colossians 2:9; Philippians 2:6-11*)

The Atoning Death of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for the sins of men by dying on the cross as their substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. (*1 John 3:5; 1 Peter 3:18; John 10:17-18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 4:10; Romans 3: 24-26*)

The Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He had lived and died. (*1 Corinthians 15:4, 14, 20; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:24-29*)

He ascended bodily into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father where He, the only mediator between God and man, continually makes intercession for His own.

(*Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7: 24-25; 1 John 2:1-2*)

Creation and the Sanctity of Life

The existence of the creation is not explainable apart from the laws of God as the sovereign creator and sustainer of the entire natural realm. Concepts such as theistic or threshold evolution do not adequately explain creation

The Bible is clear in its teaching on the sanctity of life. Life begins at conception. We abhor the destruction of innocent life through abortion on demand.

The Creation & Fall of Man

God created the first fully-formed man and woman in His image. God made only two sexes-male and female. (*Genesis 1:27*).

Man sinned by disobeying God; thus, he was alienated from his Creator. That historic fall brought all mankind under divine condemnation. (*Genesis 1:26-27; 2:15-17; 3:1-24; Romans 5:12-21; 1 Cor.15:21-22*)

Man's nature is corrupted, and he is thus totally unable to please God. Every man is in need of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit. (*Romans 3:9-20; Ephesians 2:1-7; Mark 7:20-23; John 3:1-21; Titus 3:5-7*)

Salvation by Faith

The salvation of man is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their

faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them in His sight. (*Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 3:21-26; 9:30-33; Galatians 3:11-14, 22-24*)

Assurance of Salvation

It is the privilege of all who are born again of the Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very moment they trust Christ as their Savior. This assurance is not based upon any kind of human merit, but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, who confirms in the believer the testimony of God in His written Word. (*1 Thessalonians 1:5; John 1:12-13; Romans 8:14-17*)

The Work of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to men. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life to them, continually indwells them from the moment of spiritual birth, and seals them until the day of redemption. His fullness, power, and control are appropriated in the believer's life by faith.

(*John 3:5-8; 16:7-15; Titus 3:5; Romans 8:2-4,9; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 1 Corinthians 6:19*)

Indwelling by the Holy Spirit

A person receives the Holy Spirit at the time he places his faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (*John 3:6-8; Romans 8:9*). At that time, the individual is baptized into the body of Christ (*1 Corinthians 12:13*) and is continually indwelt by the Holy Spirit (*Romans 8:9*). Though there is only one baptism of the Holy Spirit (which occurs at the time of regeneration), the filling of the Holy Spirit may recur many times.

Filling of the Holy Spirit

Every believer is called to so live in the power and control of the indwelling Spirit that he will not fulfill the lust of the flesh, but bear fruit to the glory of God (*Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:16-25*).

Filling of the Holy Spirit occurs when an individual realizes that he has taken control of an area of his life through deliberate sin, confesses that sin, yields to the control of the Holy Spirit, and by faith appropriates the power of the Holy Spirit into his life (*Galatians 3:1-14*). If this is done in sincerity, the individual can know that God has answered his prayer and filled him with His Spirit by faith (*1 John 5:14-15; Eph. 5:18*). Thus the key to the supernatural, victorious Christian life is found in consistently appropriating the filling of the Holy Spirit in one's daily life.

Such manifestations of the Holy Spirit as speaking in tongues, while occurring in the New Testament, cannot be said to be the norm for every Christian as proof of the filling of the Holy Spirit. We are filled solely on the basis of grace through faith.

Gifts of the Spirit

During the foundational era of the church (i.e., the time of Christ and the apostles) God gave special manifestations of supernatural and miraculous gifts (e.g. tongues, healings, miracles) as a sign or witness to the validity of their preaching of Christ as the only means of salvation (*2 Corinthians 12:12, Hebrews 2:3-4*). Beyond the foundational era, God in His sovereignty may grant any spiritual gift and work miraculously for the benefit of His Church at any time. (*1 Cor. 12:7,22-26; 14:5,12*).

The gifts of the Spirit are given to believers according to the will of God for the purpose of building up the church. While believers have different gifts, all Christians evidence the work of the Spirit by their love, patience, and self-control, desiring love above even the most miraculous of the gifts (*1 Corinthians 12:30-32, 13:1-3; Galatians 5:32*).

The Universal Church

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, His body, which is composed of all men, living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith. (*Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 1:22- 23; 5:23-32; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*)

The Local Church

God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in the ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures, and for mutual encouragement.

(*Hebrews 10:23-25; Acts 2:41-42; 20:7; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 4:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-4:2*)

Knowing and Doing the Will of God

Not everyone receives prophetic knowledge from God. However, God can speak and lead people today to obey biblical commands in specific ways. We are not to seek extra-biblical revelation such as impressions, promptings, and feelings. Doing so may lead to misinterpreting God's will, which in turn could result in spiritual and emotional harm to the believer. Christians should instead consistently pursue a life of wisdom by saturating their minds with the knowledge of Scripture in order to apply that knowledge to their decision-making in every area of life.

Death and Resurrection

At physical death, the believer enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting glory and blessing. (*2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23-24; 3:20-21; Luke 23:39-43; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:2*)

At physical death, the unbeliever enters immediately into eternal, conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his body to everlasting judgment and condemnation.

(*Luke 16:19-31; John 5:23-29; Revelation 20:10-15; Matthew 13:40-43*)

The Nature of Angels

God created angels as sinless spirit-beings, most of whom have remained in their original state of holiness and continue to worship and serve God. Some angels rebelled under the leadership of Lucifer, also known as the Devil or Satan, "the prince of the power of the air;" "the prince of this world;" "the god of this age" who "masquerades as an angel of light." He is a being of great cunning and power, but he can exert vast power only so far as God allows him to do so. He shall ultimately be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, and shall be tormented day and night forever together with his fallen angels. (*John 16:11; Ephesians 6:11-12; Revelation 12:9; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Job 1:12; Romans 16:20; Revelation 20: 2, 7-10*)

The Great Commission

The Lord Jesus Christ commanded all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to disciple men of every nation. The fulfillment of the Great Commission requires that all worldly and personal ambitions be subordinated to a total commitment to "Him who loved us and gave Himself for us." (*Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:7-8; Romans 12: 1-2; Galatians 2:19-20; Philippians 3:7-21*)

Jesus' Return to Earth

We believed that the Scriptures are to be interpreted according to dispensational distinctives, with the conviction that the return of the Lord for His Church will be premillennial, before the tribulation, and that the millennium is to be the last of the dispensations. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth -- personally, visibly and bodily-- to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. (*Acts 1:9-11; 3:19-21; Matthew 24:44; Revelation 19-22*)

Notes:

1. We accept those large areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all Christians. Because of the specialized calling of our ministry, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue that hinders the ministry to which God has called us.
2. Where "man" is used referring to the human race, it includes both genders.

I AGREE WITH EACH OF THE ABOVE DOCTRINAL STATEMENTS AND EXPLANATORY NOTES.

Print name and sign above it.

Date