



Doctrinal Statement

The Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. We believe that all 66 books of the Old Testament and New Testament Scripture are inspired by God, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and are inerrant in their original writings. We believe the Bible is God's infallible, complete and sufficient revelation, centering around the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. As such, it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct and is sufficient for life and godliness. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3, 19-21; Mark 13:31; John 8:31,32; 20:31; Acts 20:32; Mark 12:26, 13:11; Luke 24:27,44; John 5:39; Acts 1:16, 18:28, 28:23; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 2:13, 10:11).

The Godhead

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons--the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections and are worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience. Although equal in nature and being, each person of the Godhead executes distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Genesis 1:1, 26-27; John 1:1-3,14; 4:24; Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Ephesians 4:4-7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29; Acts 5:3-4; Hebrews 1; Revelation 1:4-6).

God the Father

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ alone. (Luke 10:21-22; Matthew 23:9; John 3:16, 6:27; Romans 1:7,19-20; 1 Timothy 1:1-2; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 1:6)

Jesus Christ

We believe in the full and eternal deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that he is God's only begotten Son; the manifestation of God in human flesh, fully God and fully man. We believe he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary and that he lived a sinless life. We believe that the Bible faithfully and accurately records the events of his life: his miracles, teaching, death, resurrection and ascension into heaven. (Matthew 1:18-25; 20:28; Luke 1:26-38, 2:40; John 1:1-2,14,18; 3:16; 20:28,30-31; Romans 9:5; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21-24; Acts 1:11; 1 Timothy 3:16; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 4:15).

The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead who, according to the will of the Father and the Son, convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment, and regenerates, sanctifies, and empowers all who believe in Jesus Christ to the honor and glory of the Father and the Son. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, starting at the moment of salvation, and that his ministry is to guide, instruct, fill, comfort and empower the believer for godly living. We believe the Holy Spirit provides spiritual gifts to every Christian by which they are enabled to perform the will of God in effective service for the common good and the building up of the Body of Christ. We also believe that Christians should prefer those gifts which edify the Body of Christ and promote harmony among believers. (John 3:6; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Romans 8:5-11; 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:19, 12:1-13, 14:1-25; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 2:22; 4:30; 5:18).

Angels, Fallen and Unfallen

We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless, spiritual beings, known as angels; that Satan, the highest in rank, sinned in pride and was cast out of heaven, along with a great company of angels who joined him in his rebellion; that he currently exercises limited influence over the earth as the "Prince of Lies"; and that he will be cast into the Lake of Fire for eternal punishment. We believe that an even greater number of angels were confirmed in their holy estate and

are presently before the throne of God, from where they are sent forth as ministering spirits to those who are heirs of salvation through faith in Christ. (Ezekiel 28:11-19; 1 Timothy 3:6; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Luke 2:13, 4:1-13, 22:31; Genesis 3:4-5; John 8:44; Hebrews 1:4-14; Isaiah 6:2-3,6; Revelation 5:11-12, 20:10).

Creation

We believe God created the universe and all that is in it in six twenty-four hour days and that before he created the universe, nothing except God existed. We believe that God created and sustains the universe and all that is in it according to His good pleasure in order to reveal His glory, divine nature, eternal power, infinite wisdom and supreme authority. (Genesis 1; Exodus 31:17; Psalm 19:1-2, 33:6-9; Jeremiah 10:12; Acts 17:24; Colossians 1:16; Isaiah 43:7; Romans 1:20; Revelation 4:11).

Man

We believe that man (mankind) was originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, but through his willful disobedience, fell from his sinless and happy state, thus incurring physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God. We believe that as a consequence of Adam's original sin, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are essentially and unchangeably wicked apart from divine grace. All people are sinners not only by inheritance, but also by their own choice and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Being spiritually dead in trespasses and sin, man is absolutely incapable of saving himself by his own works. (Gen 1:26-31, 2:15-25, 3:1-24; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Jeremiah 17:9; James 1:14-15; Romans 1:18-32, 3:10-20,23, 5:19, 8:1-2,6-8; Proverbs 28:13; 1 John 1:9, 3:8; John 1:12-13, 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1-3,8-9; Psalm 14:1-3, 51:5-7).

The Sanctity of Life

We believe that all human life is created and sustained by God and is therefore of inestimable worth and significance in all its dimensions, including the unborn, the aged, the widowed, the mentally handicapped, the unattractive, the physically challenged and every other condition in which humanness is expressed from conception to the grave. We believe that every human being bears the image of God, marred by sin as it is, and therefore, the sacredness of our lives, and the dignity it demands, is based on something beyond our characteristics or abilities — it is rooted in the essence of God Himself. (Genesis 1:26-27, 5:1-2, 9:6; Psalm 8:4-5, 22:9-10, 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; James 3:9).

Human Sexuality

We believe that God commands that intimate sexual activity only be engaged in within the confines of marriage; that as a physical expression of marital love, sex is a good and gracious gift of God; and that any form of fornication, adultery, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 7:2-3; 1 Corinthians 5:1, 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

The Ministry of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. We believe that he was buried and on the third day rose from the dead. We believe his resurrection is a historical fact that was witnessed and attested to by hundreds of people before he ascended into heaven to begin his present ministry of intercession as Great High Priest and Advocate. (John 1:29, 20:1-39; Romans 3:24-26; 6:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:2-4; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 7:25, 9:11-28, 10:5-14; 1 Peter 3:18).

Salvation

We believe that, owing to universal death through sin, no one can enter into the kingdom of God unless born again; that spiritual regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to salvation; that only those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are justified; that salvation is by God's grace alone, through personal faith in Jesus Christ alone; and that only those thus saved are children of God. We believe, also, that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin and a curse for us, dying in our place; and that no feeling, no good resolution, no sincere efforts, no submission to the rules and regulations of any religion can result in salvation. (John 3:6-7,16, 14:6; Luke 24:46-47; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5; Romans 5:1-2, 8:30; Matthew 28:19; Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 2:12-15).

Completion in Christ

We believe that when a person is saved, he passes immediately out of condemnation and receives eternal life, being freely justified and accepted by the Father, linked to Christ and one with him forever. Though the saved one may have occasion to grow in the realization of his blessings and to know a fuller measure of divine power through the yielding of his life more fully to God, he is, as soon as he is saved, in possession of every spiritual blessing and absolutely complete in Christ. (John 5:24; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1; 1 Corinthians 3:21-23; Ephesians 1:3-14; Colossians 2:10; 1 John 4:17, 5:11-12)

Eternal Security

We believe that, because of the eternal purposes of God, because salvation is by God's grace alone, because of the present and unending intercession and advocacy of Christ in heaven, because of the regenerating, abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all who are saved, those once saved shall be kept saved forever. (John 5:24, 10:28, 17:11; Romans 8:28-39; Ephesians 1:11-14; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:13; Jude 24)

The Church

We believe there is one church universal, composed of all those throughout the world who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, gathered together and devoted to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of the ordinances (baptism and communion), fellowship, service to the body, and outreach to the world in fulfillment of the command of Christ to make disciples of all nations. Under the oversight of Elders, those believers in the local church are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. (Acts 1:8, 2:42-47, 10:47-48, 13:1, 16:32-33, 18:7-8; Ephesians 1:20-23, 2:19-22, 4:1-6, 11-16, 5:25-32; Hebrews 10:23-25; Matthew 16:16-18, 28:18-20; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 11:23-26, 12:12-27; Luke 22:19-20)

Missions

We believe that God has given the church a great commission to proclaim the gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the nations, starting with our own, to preach the Gospel, baptize, and make disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 24:46-48; John 17:18, 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20)

The Last Things

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His eternal kingdom in a new Heaven and Earth. We believe that at death the spirits of those who have trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence and remain there in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body when Christ comes for his own. At that time those souls and bodies will be reunited and associated with Him forever in glory. The spirits of the unbelieving remain after death conscious of condemnation and in misery until the final judgment when soul and body shall be reunited and ultimately cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power. (1 Corinthians 4:5, 15:51-57; Revelation 20:11-15; Mark 14:62; John 5:29, 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Luke 16:19-26, 23:42-43; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10).