



Doctrinal Statement (What We Believe)

The Scripture

We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God, and therefore, is truth without error. We believe that the Scripture is the authority for our lives and the supreme standard by which all human conduct shall be tested. We further believe that our faith and adherence to Scripture produces the fruit of a Christian life.

(II Timothy 3: 16, 17; II Peter 1: 19, 20, 21)

The Trinity

We believe that there is only one sovereign God, the Creator who reigns supreme over heaven and the earth. We believe in the unity of the Godhead, that there are three coeternal and coequal Persons (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) who are the same in substance but distinct in existence and in accomplishing the work of redemption.

(Exodus 20:2, 3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11)

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, having not been created but coexisting with God, but existing as the second Person of the Trinity. He came into this world as prophesied in the Scripture; the revelation of God to humanity - to redeem humanity of sin. He took upon himself human flesh and a sinless human nature through the supernatural conception by the Holy Spirit in a virgin, Mary. He was both fully God and fully man. He died for the sins of the world satisfying completely and representing the full satisfaction for sin. He had a bodily resurrection on the third day and, according to the Scripture, was glorified, and ascended into heaven where he is seated on the right hand of God as our righteous judge.

(Genesis 3: 15; Isaiah 7: 14, 9:6, 53; Micah 5:2; Luke 1:30-35, 24:34-39; John 1: 1-2, 20:20; Acts 2:22-36, Roman 3:25-26; Hebrews 1:3,2:17, 4:14-15, 7:25, 10:1-14)

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person equal with the Father and Son, having the same nature, and was active in creation. He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, and bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching, teaching and testimony. He is the agent in the new birth - seals, bestows gifts, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and empowers the believer for effective ministry.

(Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 28:19; John 14: 16, 17, 26; 16:18-11; Hebrews 9:14)

Satan

We believe in the reality of Satan; that he is the prince of the power of the air as the Scripture says, the ruler of the power of darkness who will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire of eternal punishment.

(Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 20:10)

Creation

We believe that the Genesis account of the creation story is the literal and historical account of the beginning of the human race, and therefore all humanity is descended from Adam and Eve, first parents of the human race.

(Genesis 1-2; John 1: 3; Colossians 1:16, 17).

The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence by God; but entered into transgression of his own volition and fell from his sinless state. As a result, all humanity entered into total depravity and became partakers of Adam's fallen nature. We are sinners by nature and by conduct and are under condemnation but for Christ.

(Genesis 3:1-6, 24; Romans 1:18-32, 3:10-19, 5:12, 19)

Grace

We believe that grace is the free and unmerited act through which God restores sinners to himself, bringing about the new birth in Jesus Christ. The sinner is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, which is the gift of God. It is based entirely upon God's sovereign will in ways beyond human understanding. The evidence of its fruit is repentance, faith and newness of life through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

(John 3:3; 3:6, 7; Acts 16: 30-33; Romans 6:23; II Corinthians 5: 17; Ephesians 2:1, 5; II Peter 1:4; I John 5:1)

Justification

We believe in the divine act whereby God makes humans, who are sinful and therefore worthy of condemnation, acceptable before a God who is holy and righteous. God declares us to be righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. Justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness. It is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness that we have done, but completely through faith in Christ.

(Isaiah 53: 11; Zechariah 13: 1; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1, 9:8:1; II Corinthians 5:18-21)

Repentance

We believe that repentance is a change of mind and heart concerning God brought on by Godly sorrow prompted by the Holy Spirit. It is an event that is tied to true faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

(Luke 13:1-3; 15:7, Romans 2:4)

Faith

We believe that faith consists of both what is believed about Jesus Christ as Son of God and Lord of our lives, and personal commitment to him who is trustworthy, reliable and able to save and trust for our salvation.

(Acts 16:31)

Salvation

We believe that salvation is God's activity on behalf of creation with particular regard to humanity in bringing all things to God's intended purpose. It involves God's deliverance of humans from the power and effects of sin and the Fall through the work of Jesus Christ so that creation (and humans in particular) can enjoy the fullness of life intended for what God has made.

(Acts 16-31)

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine act of God in which the believer is set apart unto God and is accomplished in three dimensions. First, the believer is made holy through Christ, thus placed in a position of holiness; second, the believer is called to a continual process of growth - cooperating with the indwelling Holy Spirit; third, the accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return, which is glorification.

(I Thessalonians 4:3, 4; Hebrews 3:1)

Adoption and Reconciliation

We believe that adoption is God's act of making otherwise estranged human beings a part of God's spiritual family by including them as inheritors of the riches of divine glory. It takes place through our receiving, in faith, the work of Jesus Christ the son being born of the spirit and receiving the spirit of adoption.

(Galatians 4:1-7; Ephesians 1:5, 13 14; John 3:5-6; Rom 8:15-16; I John 3:1, 2)

The Church

We believe that the church is a group of baptized believers, who by faith in the person and work of Christ as the complete revelation of God, have entered into a new relationship with God and with one another. The church has been given the task of proclaiming the present and future reign of God in the world through preaching and by the administration of the ordinances of Christ. We believe in the unity of all true believers and the exercising of spiritual gifts in the church, which is the body of Christ. It was established on the Day of Pentecost; under the power of the Holy Spirit being the source by which persons are added to the church. We hold that on matters of membership, polity, government, discipline and benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

(Acts 2:41; I Corinthians 11:2, 12:12, 13; Ephesians 3:1-6; I Timothy 3:1-7; Colossians 1:18)

Ordinances

We believe that biblical baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, under the authority of the local church, which points to the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through whom we died to sin and rose to a new life, and that baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of his death until He comes. The elements represent the body and blood in symbol only.

(Matthew 3:16; 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41; 8:36, 38, 39; Romans 6:3-6; Corinthians 11:23-28)

Civil Government

We believe that civil government is ordained by God for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, honored and obeyed, except in cases of conflict with Scripture and the will of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

(Exodus 18:21, 22; II Samuel 23:3; Acts 23:5; Romans 13:17)

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