

Doctrinal Statement

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I. Scriptures

A. The Bible (all 66 books), in its original manuscripts, originated from God and communicates truth without error in all that it teaches (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

B. Our current Bible continues to be the authority for living in believers' lives (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

II. God

A. God exists eternally as one being (Deut. 6:4) in three equal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

B. He is the one and only sovereign, eternal, infinite, self-sufficient, all-powerful, all-knowing, wise, holy, good and loving being.

C. God created all things, sustains all things and all things exist for Him (Rom. 11:36; Col. 1:15-17; .

III. Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ exists eternally as God, became fully human (Phil. 2:6-7), lived a sinless life (2 Cor. 5:21), died a sacrificial death for the sins of humankind (Heb. 10:10; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Jn. 2:2), rose bodily from the dead (1 Cor. 15:1-8), and will visibly, physically return to establish the earthly millennial kingdom of God (Acts 1:11; Rev. 20:1-6).

IV. Man

A. Though created in the image of God without sin (Gen. 1:26), Adam and Eve (the first man and woman) willfully chose to go their independent way from God (Gen. 3), thus incurring the judgment of God on the earth and all subsequent human beings (Rom. 5:12).

B. Though all men and women continue to possess the image of God, which gives them inherent value, they also possess a corrupted nature, which inherently makes them guilty before the holy God and leads them to commit acts of rebellion against God (Rom. 7:14-25).

V. Salvation

A. Men and women do not possess any inherent ability to rescue themselves from their guilty, corrupted condition (Eph. 2:1-3). God initiated the offer of salvation through His eternal plan of sending the Son of God to pay the death penalty on behalf of those who would believe in Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins (Rom. 5:8; 6:23; 10:9).

B. God offers salvation freely without the contingency of human effort (Eph. 2:8-9). In order to experience salvation, men and women are to accept by faith Jesus Christ as the only means of forgiveness and eternal life (1Jn. 5:11-13).

VI. Holy Spirit

A. The Holy Spirit eternally exists as the 3rd member of the Trinity (Heb. 9:14; 2 Cor. 3:17). He proceeded from the Father for the purpose of glorifying the Son of God (Jn. 15:26; 16:14).

B. The Holy Spirit convicts unbelievers of their sin and the consequent judgment of God (Jn. 16:8-11). He imparts spiritual life (Jn. 3:5) to those who believe and continues to live in every believer (Rom. 8:9), empowering them to live the Christian life (Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5:18), identifying them with the body of Christ (the church) (1 Cor. 12:13), bestowing on each believer spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12:4-11).

VII. The Christian Life

A. God establishes a paternal relationship with each person who believes in Jesus Christ as the Son of God and forgiver of sin (Jn. 1:12).

B. In order to experience ongoing fellowship or a growing intimacy with our heavenly Father, children of God must continue to live in a trusting relationship with Him which is manifested in obedience to God's commands as outlined in the Scriptures (1 Jn. 1:5-7). God gives both the desire for obedience as well as the empowerment to obey. However, the responsibility for obedience lies with each believer (Phil. 2:12-13).

C. The practice of the spiritual disciplines (such as, regular exposure to the Scriptures, prayer, fellowship with other believers and sharing Christ with non-believers enhances the believers progress in spiritual maturity and fellowship with God.

D. Though possessing and being identified with a new spiritual nature each believer continues to experience the struggle with indwelling sin, sin in the world and temptations from the devil until death or the return of Christ (Rom. 6:12-13; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 6:12). Each believer continues the process of maturity and Christ-likeness until death or the return of Christ when Jesus Christ will fully transform the follower of Christ into His glorified image (1 Jn. 3:2; Phil. 3:21).

VIII. Baptism

A. Jesus Christ instructed that each of his followers be baptized as an outward testimony of being identified with Him and His people (Matt. 28:19).

B. Water baptism does not impart spiritual blessings or place a believer in the family of God.

IX. Church

A. The church exists as the body and bride of Christ. It consists of all believers in Jesus Christ and is God's primary means of fulfilling His Great Commission of making disciples of all peoples (1 Cor. 12:27; 1 Tim. 3:15)

B. The universal church consists of local churches which represent and proclaim the kingdom of God in a particular community.

C. The leadership of a local church consists of Jesus Christ as the supreme authority, elders who oversee the spiritual development of the members of the church, deacons who oversee the ongoing administration of the church (1 Tim. 3). Each believer in the church possesses spiritual gifts which are bestowed on him/her by the Holy Spirit for the benefit of the church (1 Cor. 12).

D. The ministry of the church succeeds as each individual contributes his/her gifting for the benefit of others (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Cor. 12).

X. End Times

A. Jesus Christ promised to return visibly and physically to earth to judge unbelievers and to establish a 1,000 year reign on earth (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11; Rev. 20:1-6).

B. Upon death every unbeliever faces God for eternal judgment without the opportunity for salvation (Heb. 9:27). Their subsequent eternal state of judgment exists in an eternal location called the lake of fire (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:15).

C. Upon death every believer in Jesus Christ, enters the glorified presence of God as a disembodied spirit (2 Cor. 5:1-7). The believer awaits the resurrection of his body until the return of Christ (1 Thes. 4:13-18). Believers will then possess a glorified, perfected body and enjoy the eternal presence of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:42, 50-54; Rev. 20:4).