

Doctrinal Statement

Presented by

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1. The Holy Scriptures

I believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. I believe the King James Bible is the divinely preserved Word of God for English speaking people. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21; Deut. 4:2; Ps. 12:6-7; Matt. 24:35; John 12:48)

2. The True God

I believe that there is only one living and true God, infinite in every excellence (Holy, Righteous, Just, Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent, Love); and that in the unity of the Godhead there are three personal distinctions - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - yet one in substance and equal in every divine perfection. (Ex. 20:2-3; I Cor. 8:6; I John 4:8,16; 5:7; Rev. 19:6; Ps. 47:5; Heb. 4:13)

I believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is divine as no other man can be. He exists from all eternity co-equal with the Father and the Spirit. He never ceased being GOD for one instant and His humiliation did not consist in laying aside His deity. As man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. (Heb. 1:8; Col. 1:16; Phil. 2:6; Phil. 2:6, 10, 11; John 1:1-2, 5:18, 17:21-22, 20:28; I John 5:20; Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:26-38; Is. 42:8; John 17:5)

I believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same substance and nature. He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, bears witness to the truth, and is the Agent of the New Birth. He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies and helps the believer. The Holy Spirit indwells every true, born again, Child of God. (II Cor. 13:14; John 14:16-17; Acts 5:3-4; Rom. 8:14-27)

Baptism of the Holy Spirit - Relationship and Standing - I believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is once and for all at the time of salvation. This Baptism is the identification of the believer into the body of Christ. (I Cor. 12:13)

Filling of the Holy Spirit - Fellowship and state - I believe that all saved are sealed or indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but not all are filled with the Spirit. As we walk according to the will of God we are filled with the Spirit. (Eph. 5:18)

Gifts of the Holy Spirit - Temporary and permanent - I believe nine gifts were in the church until the New Testament was completed. (I Cor. 12:8-11; 13:8-13) I believe that the gift of tongues, the special gift of healing and sign miracles, were temporary and are not useful for this age.

I believe that the modern day speaking in tongues, divine healing and the Charismatic movement are in no way related to the filling of the Spirit.

3. The Devil or Satan

I believe in the distinct personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, author of all powers of darkness and sin, and is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Matt. 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10)

4. The Creation

I believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, "each after its' own kind" by direct act, in six literal twenty-four hour days, and not by the process of evolution. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11; John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16)

5. The Fall of Man

I believe that man, in the person of one first Adam, was created in innocence but by voluntary transgression fell into sin thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death. So now all mankind is born in sin and shapen in iniquity and become willful sinners with the first expression of personal choice, and so are without excuse before God. (Gen. 3; Rom. 5:10-19)

I believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Gen. 1:26-27; 5:3; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

6. The Redemption from Sin

I believe that the only escape from condemnation of sin is through the redemption wrought by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He voluntarily took upon Him a human body and nature, yet without sin, and by His suffering, death, and resurrection made full satisfaction to the justice of God for the sin of man, being the divine substitute for man in meeting the demands of His law. The blessings of this salvation are given on the grounds of Grace to all who believe and confess that it is immediate duty of all to accept these offers of mercy. (John 1:1-3, 14; 3:1-7; Heb. 10:4-14, 2:9; Acts 16:20-33; Rom. 5:8; I Peter 2:24)

7. Salvation by Grace through Faith

I believe that faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus is the only condition of salvation from sin and this salvation from sin and this salvation is wholly by grace; that no works, however good, make that salvation more secure. (Acts 16:31; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 10:9-13)

I believe that all who accept Christ as their personal Savior are born from above and are eternally secure in Christ. (John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:38-39; Phil. 1:6)

I believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

8. The Church

I believe that the Church is a New Testament institution; unknown to the Old Testament prophets; established by Jesus Christ, who is its sole head; revealed through the holy Apostles; empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit, Christ's "body" for service and His "bride" for glory. It began when Jesus called the disciples to follow Him, it was empowered by the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, and it will be consummated by the coming of Christ at the Rapture. (Matt. 18:17; Acts 1:8; 2:1-13, 41-47; 15:14; Rom. 16:25-26; I Cor. 12:2-28; 15:51-54; Eph. 1:22-23; 3:21; 5:23-33; I Thess. 4:13-18)

I believe that the Body of Christ is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant of Faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in it by His Word. Its officers are Pastors and deacons. It has absolute right of self-government directed by the Holy Spirit and it is answerable only to Christ; and that in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline and benevolence the will of the local church is final. (Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 1:2; 6:4-5; 7:17; 11:16; Eph. 4:8, 11-13; I Tim. 3:1-15)

9. Separation

I believe that all saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God. (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; II Cor. 6:14; 7:1; II Tim. 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; I Thess. 5:22)

10. The Ordinances

I believe that there are only two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water and is properly called "Believer's Baptism." It sets forth in a beautiful and solemn way our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior, with the effects of that faith in our lives as it produces death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. The Lord's Supper is the commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes and our continual fellowship with Him and should be preceded by Baptism and always by careful examination. Personally persuaded that close communion is in accord with I Corinthians 11:23-34, specifically verse 28. I would submit to the stand of a local church practicing closed communion and solemnly warn and stand against open communion. I do not believe it is in order to police the Lord's table. (Acts 8:30-39; 2:41-42; 18:18; Rom. 6:3-5; I Cor. 11:23-32; Matt. 28:18-20)

11. The Righteous and Wicked

I believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. That only such as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, is truly righteous in God's esteem. While all who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse. This distinction holds among men both during life and after death, in the everlasting conscious suffering for the lost. I believe hell to be a literal place of incessant suffering for unbelievers, the devil and his angels. (Malachi 3:18; Rom. 6:17-23; Matt. 25:34-41; Luke 6:25; John 8:21; Rev. 20:15; 21:8; Mk. 9:43-48)

12. The Second Coming

I believe in the bodily, personal, imminent, pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ. That He will come in the air to catch away His church, followed by the Judgment Seat of Christ. That He will come with His church at the close of the tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His Kingdom on earth.

(I Thess. 4:13-18; II Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 19:11-21)

13. The Resurrection

I believe in the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead on the third day after His death on the cross. (I Cor. 15:3-4)

I believe that the resurrection of the bodies of the dead. Believers who sleep in Jesus will be raised at the coming of Christ for His church and caught up with transformed living saints to meet the Lord in the air. The wicked dead will be raised at the close of the millennial kingdom and stand in their bodies at the Great White Throne Judgment to receive their doom. (John 5:21-30; I Thess. 4:16; Rev. 7:9-17; 20:11-15)

14. Dispensationalism

I believe that the dispensations are not ways of salvation, (this has always been “by grace through faith”), but are stewardships by which God administers His purpose on earth through man under varying responsibilities. Changes in dispensational dealings depend on changed situations in which man is found in relation to God due to man’s failures and God’s judgments. Though several dispensations cover the entire history of mankind, only three (Mosaic Law, Grace and Millennial Kingdom) are distinct and are not to be intermingled or confused. (Gen. 2:7-15; 3:23; 8:20; 12:1; Ex. 19:8-20; John 1:17; Eph. 1:10)

15. Civil Government

I believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the Church; 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14)

16. Human Sexuality

I believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. I believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God’s gift of sex. (Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

17. Abortion

I believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. I reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well being of the mother is acceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-58; Luke 1:44)

18. Divorce and Remarriage

I believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may, and should serve in the local church and be greatly used of God in Christian Service. (Malachi 2:14-17; Matt. 5:31-33; 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6; II Cor. 5:17-18; John 4:17-18)

19. Missions

I 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 on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:17-18; John 4:17-18)

20. Giving

I believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. I believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. I believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made, unless otherwise designated to a specific area of the ministry. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; I Tim. 5:17-18; I John 3:17)

21. Fellowship

I will not fellowship with any church or fellowship, which is part of an apostate, liberal, charismatic, neo-evangelical or ecumenical movement. (Acts 2:42; I Cor. 10:20-21; 11:1; Eph. 5:11)