

Personal Doctrinal Statement

Concerning the Scriptures

I believe the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is fully inspired and without error in the original writings. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man, and therefore, are the final authority for faith and life. It is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Concerning God

I believe that there is only one true and living God, eternally existing in three persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – who are equal in being, nature, power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Deut. 6:4; 1 Peter 1:2)

Concerning Jesus Christ

I believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He lived a sinless life, and died as a substitute for sinners. Today, He is alive and seated at the right hand of His Father acting as a mediator and advocate with the Father on behalf of those who believe in Him. (John 1:1-3; Phil. 2:5-11; 1 John 2:1-2)

Concerning the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

I believe that the Holy Spirit is convicting the world of its sin and guilt. He regenerates sinners, and progressively transforms them as genuine believers more and more into the image of Jesus. The Holy Spirit also empowers believers for Christian witness and service and gives gifts for the building up of the body of Christ, the church. (John 16:7-11; 1 Cor. 12:1-11)

Concerning Mankind

I believe that man was created in the image of God, that he voluntarily sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death. As a result, all human beings are separated from God by their sin. Mankind is by nature completely void of the holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil and are, as a result, under just condemnation to eternal ruin and hopeless apart from the salvation found in Christ alone. (Gen. 1:26-27; Romans 5:12-21; Eph. 2:1-4)

Concerning Salvation

I believe that salvation is a free gift that comes only by God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. Anyone who turns from their sin and trusts in Jesus Christ and His death on their behalf receives forgiveness of sins and the gift of eternal life. (Rom. 10:9-13; Eph. 2:4-9)

Concerning the Return of Christ

I believe in the personal, physical and premillennial return of Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic mission. (1 Cor. 15:51-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18)

Concerning the Church

I believe that a church is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by faith in and fellowship of the Gospel. The Church observes the ordinances of Christ, is governed by His laws, and is called to exercise the gifts and privileges invested in the Church by His Word. I believe that its only scriptural officers are Elders or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus. (Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 3:6-10; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9)

Concerning the Ordinances

I recognize baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of obedience for the church in this age. Participation in both is dependent upon an individual's testimony of faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. (Acts 2:38,41; 1 Cor. 11:17-34)