

Statement of Doctrine

About the Bible

We believe the entire Bible – the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament – is the inspired word of God and that men were moved by the Holy Spirit of God to write the very words of Scripture. These Scriptures are utterly authoritative and without error in the original writings, complete in its revelation of God's will for salvation, sufficient for all that He requires us to believe and do, and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks. We confess that both our finite nature and our sinfulness inhibit the possibility of knowing God's truth completely, but we affirm that, enlightened by the Spirit, we can know God's revealed truth. The Word of God yields the true story of the whole world and equips Christian disciples for a fruitful life. Therefore, we hear, believe, and obey the Scriptures.

Ps. 1:1-3 // 2 Timothy 3:16-17 // 2 Peter 1:20-21

About the Trinity

We believe in one God who exists eternally in three distinct and equal persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is the infinitely perfect Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and is therefore worthy of all glory and praise. The triune God sovereignly rules over all things and providentially brings about his eternal good purposes to redeem people for himself and restore His fallen creation. Believers become sons of The Father in the Son through the Spirit.

Deut. 6:4 // Matt. 3:16-17 // Matt. 28:19 // 1 Pet. 1:2 // 2 Cor. 13:14

About Jesus

We believe that Jesus Christ is the second member of the Trinity (the eternally begotten Son of The Father) who became flesh to reveal God to humanity and become the Savior of the lost world. Fully divine and fully human, Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Virgin Mary through the work of the Holy Spirit and anointed as the Messiah of Israel. He lived a sinless life, was crucified and suffered under Pontius Pilate, descended to the dead, arose bodily on the third day and ascended to the right hand of God

where he now sits as the living Lord of the cosmos. In his life, death, and resurrection, he acted as our representative and substitute. In his death on the cross he atoned for our sin and reconciled to God all who believe. In his resurrection he was proved righteous by the Father, broke the power of death, and defeated Satan. In his ascension he has been forever exalted as The King. We believe that salvation is found in no one else.

John 1:14 // Matt. 1:18 // 2 Cor. 5:21 // Matt. 28:18 // Acts 1:9-11 // John 14:6-7

About the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is sent by the Son and the Father to glorify Christ and enlighten and advocate for believers as he dwells presently within them. The Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and gives life to those who are spiritually dead in sin. Through the Spirit, believers are renewed, sanctified, and adopted into God's family. By keeping in step with the Spirit and bearing the fruit of the Spirit, believers participate in the divine nature. Finally, the Spirit is the down payment of the future inheritance, and in this age dwells, guides, instructs, equips, revives and empowers believers for Christoform living and service.

Ezek. 36:25-27 // John 14:16-17, 26 // John 16:4-15 // Acts 10:44-45 // Gal. 5:22-26

About Humanity

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in His own image. Humans were created as royal priests to serve as God's agents and representatives to care for, manage, cultivate, and govern creation, living in intimate communion with God. Intrinsic to this image of God reality is the sanctity of human life. Human life, from the moment of conception, is sacred.

But sin entered the world through Adam and Eve when they put themselves (or anything created) on the throne of God. The consequence of sin is the distortion of the original Image, the forfeiture of the Image of God vocation, separation from God, and ultimately death. As a result, humans are alienated from God, and corrupted in all parts of being (e.g. physically, emotionally, mentally, relationally, spiritually). The sin of humanity also

disintegrates the whole of creation and subjects it to futility. Sin is not just something that affects individuals, but it becomes contained in the structures of society. Therefore, the foundational need of the world is for humanity to be restored to and reconciled with God in order to become the proper Images they were created to be.

Genesis 1:27-28 // Genesis 2:18-24 // Gen. 3:1-7, 23-24 // Rom. 5:12, 19 // Rom. 8:20-22

About Marriage and Singleness

Not all persons are called to be married; singleness is a vocation of dignity, value, and worth with its own ways to serve the kingdom of God and contribute to the life of the world. In many ways, singleness can be a preferable calling in God's Kingdom.

Marriage is an institution of creation. Adam and Eve were made to complement one another, as male and female, in a "one flesh" union both with a unitive dimension (the ability to unite two bodies as one) and a procreative dimension (the vehicle through which children are brought into the world). Marriage is thus the foundation for family, the sacred building block of society that builds up humanity, and designed to reflect God to the world through a covenant of faithful love. Jesus affirms the "one flesh" union of male and female as the normative pattern for sex and marriage and highlights the sacred indissolubility of the bond.

Marriage is also an image of salvation, designed to display Christ and His Bride in faithful love, mutual service, and an unbreakable union that brings life to the world.

God intends sex to be practiced exclusively within marriage and prohibits any sexual activity outside of this one-man and one-woman covenant (such as pornography, adultery, pre-marital sex, same-sex sexual activity). As followers of Jesus, we give our bodies to God, pursuing sexual fidelity and chastity as an avenue of faithfulness.

1 Cor. 7:6-9 // Gen. 2:24-25 // Matt. 19:4-6 // Eph. 5:31-33

About the Gospel

We believe that the Gospel is the Good News (euangellion) of Jesus Christ, namely, that Jesus is the Saving King. It is multifaceted and made up of (at least) the following:

Christ-Centered – The Gospel is not proclaimed if Christ is not proclaimed, and Christ has not been proclaimed unless his life, death, resurrection, and ascension are central. “Christ lived, died for our sins, was raised, and is now reigning over all creation at the right hand of the Father.”

Biblical – The life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ are according to the Scriptures.

Saving – Christ’s life, death and resurrection atones for our sin and relationally reconciles us to God.

Sanctifying – The grace of God that meets us where we are is never satisfied to leave us as we are. Through the Spirit, our lives are transformed over time into the likeness of Christ.

Historical – These events we proclaim actually happened. If they did not, our faith is impotent, we are still in our sins, and we are to be pitied more than all others.

Apostolic – The message of the Gospel was entrusted to the Apostles, who were witnesses of these events.

Personal – Individuals are saved where the Gospel is received, believed and persevered.

Communal – God is saving a people, not just random individuals – it is necessary to belong to a Christ-centered community.

Political – Jesus is King (and no else is).

Cosmic – Jesus is comprehensively restoring all of creation.

Mk. 1:14-15// Rom. 1:1-5 // 1 Cor. 15: 1-8, 12-20 // Gal. 5:22-25

About the Church

We believe that the global church is the manifest presence of God in the world today. The church is the body of Christ, the covenant people of God, the apple of His eye, and graven on his hands – and God has committed Himself covenantally to this body. The universal church is manifested in each local church, and therefore the local church is the assembly of the living God.

The church is distinguished by the Gospel message, fierce loyalty and commitment to God, and love for God, one another, and the world. God's purpose was to create one new humanity, reconciling Jew and Gentile through the cross. The church serves as the presence of God's in-breaking kingdom, and as a sign of God's future new world when her members live for the service of one another and their neighbor rather than themselves. The church is the dwelling place of God's Spirit, and the continuing witness to God in the world.

Eph. 2:14-22 // Matt. 28:18-20 // John 13:12-17, 34-35

About the Second Coming

We believe in the full personal and bodily revealing of Jesus Christ, at which time he will exercise his role as final judge, and his kingdom will be finally and fully established.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the unjust – to judgment and eternal separation from God – and the just – to eternal blessedness in the presence of Christ in the New Heavens and New Earth. Every tear will be wiped away, evil and sin will be purged and banished forever, all brokenness will be healed, and all injustice will be rectified. On that day, the church – as bride –

will be presented faultless before God by the obedience, suffering and triumph of Christ.

Rev. 19:11-16 // Rev. 21:1-5 // Eph. 1:9-10 // 1 Cor. 15:12-28, 35-49

