

Doctrinal Statement

Following are my statements of belief regarding Christian Doctrine. The following pertains to theological beliefs that are critical.

I believe in the authority of Scripture, that the original text of the 66 books of both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible are the inspired, infallible and inerrant Word of God. It is the ultimate source for our knowledge of God and should be our reference point for daily guidance in all aspects of our lives.

I believe in the existence of one God in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This triune God, who existed before the universe, created the universe by speaking it into existence. He is self-existent, eternal, unchanging, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, righteous, loving but over all, He is holy.

I believe in the Creation of the universe as related in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. By that account, we find that the purpose of God's creation of the universe was solely for His pleasure. The account of Adam and Eve is true, occurring exactly as detailed in the book of Genesis, as well as the accounts of the Flood, the Tower of Babel and the Patriarchs. It is in the account of Creation that we see that in six days, God created the universe out of nothing by speaking it into existence. As the Creator of the universe, He has the Lordship over it and all that is within it, including man and angels. Since He is outside the Creation, he is separate from it and thus He is Holy.

I believe that man is both physical and spiritual, a being originally created in God's image. Because of Adam's sin, we lost our fellowship with God, our original righteousness and now have a fallen nature, causing us all to be sinful. This sin has resulted in all of the pain and suffering that the world has known, including death, and continues to plague the world with suffering and malice.

Solely by God's grace, Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, was sent to save us from our sin. I believe that Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died for our sins and was physically raised from the dead. He is now in Heaven at the right hand of the Father and will one day return to judge the world and deliver His people. The only way that humanity can escape destructive judgment and everlasting damnation is through faith and trust in Jesus the Son.

I believe that Evil exists in the world, not attributable to God but against God's desire. Due to His sovereign decision to allow man and angels to have intelligence and free will, both have a responsibility for the evil that exists in the world. Satan is an angel, formerly the highest of all angels, who exists and freely decided to oppose God. He is a liar, a murderer, our accuser and our enemy. He works through the world to tempt us in our sinful flesh to work against the will of God.

I believe in the Providence and Sovereignty of God, meaning I believe that God has the right and ability to control all that happens and nothing happens that God does not allow to happen. In the end, all things will work out to the conclusion that He has determined and has set in motion since the creation.

I acknowledge the Church as God's institution with Jesus as her Head. The Universal Church is made up of all believers in Jesus Christ, and exists for worship, for fellowship, for spiritual growth, and for evangelizing the world. It is through the Church that we are baptized and that we share in communion.

I believe that marriage was created by God, and pertains to the covenantal joining of one man and one woman in an exclusive union, as defined by God in the Bible. I believe God intends intimacy to occur only within a scripturally defined marriage and that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in apart from marriage.