

Doctrinal Statement

1) The Holy Scriptures:

We believe the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired word of God, authoritative, inerrant, and God-breathed (Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13; II Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; II Peter 1:20-21).

2) The Godhead:

We believe in one triune God, existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14).

3) Sovereignty:

We believe that God, existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is sovereign, and exercises supreme rule over all creation as a part of, and consistent with, the essence and attributes of deity (I Chronicles 29:11,12; Daniel 4:35; Psalm 24:1; I Timothy 6:15). Furthermore, the sovereignty of God allows for the existence of free will or volition in angels and mankind, with no respect of persons and without coercion of that free will (Isaiah 14:13-14; I Samuel 24:12).

4) The Person and Work of Jesus Christ:

We believe that God the Son became united with the sinless humanity of Jesus at His incarnation, through the virgin birth, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man; that He accomplished our redemption through His spiritual death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice; that our redemption is made sure to us by His literal physical resurrection from the dead (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24-25, 4:25; I Peter 1:3-5); that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God where as the high priest for His people, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor and advocate (Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1,2).

5) The Personality and Work of God the Holy Spirit:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead who convicts the world of sin, indwells all believers in the present age, baptizes them into the body of Christ, seals them until the day of redemption, and that it is the duty of every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12,14; Ephesians 1:13,14; 5:18).

6) The Personality of Satan:

We believe Satan to be the archenemy of God and all believers. We believe Lucifer, whom God created perfect and sinless, fell and subsequently took with him other angels now called demons. We believe, as of man's fall, Satan became

the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air who seeks through various stratagems to tempt and deceive mankind. However, his success in blinding the minds of people with false doctrine is dependent on their continued negative volition to the truth. finally, we believe that Satan will be defeated by Christ and forever consigned to the lake of fire (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Ephesians 2:2; Matthew 4:2-11, 25:41; II Corinthians 11:14; Revelation 12:4, 20:10).

7) The Fall of Man:

We believe that man was created by God in the image of God, but that the first man, Adam, fell, involving the entire human race in Adam's original sin; that Adam and his progeny inherited a sinful nature which is transmitted genetically. We further believe that the sin nature indwells all men from birth to death (Genesis 1:26,27; Romans 5:12, 6:12, 7:17; I John 1:7-10).

8) Dispensations:

We believe that human history is divided into four ages or dispensations, named respectively the Age of the Gentiles, the Age of Israel, the Church Age (current) and the Millennium. God's revelation and protocol for believers are revealed through these dispensations, culminating in the Millennium, the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth (Daniel 12:13; Colossians 1:25-26; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 6:5; Revelation 20:4-6).

9) Salvation:

We believe that salvation, in every dispensation, is the gift of God by grace, and is received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, apart from any other action of man. Everyone who receives Christ is a believer (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9).

10) The Eternal Security of the Believer:

We believe that all believers are kept secure forever and that neither man nor God can annul a believer's saving faith (John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8).

11) The Church:

We believe that the local church is an assembly of believers in a specific geographic locale. The church is the authorized environment for spiritual growth in the Church Age. Further, it is the responsibility of each believer to assemble under a pastor-teacher so that he can be equipped to carry out the work of the ministry of his local church (Acts 16:5; I Corinthians 4:17, 16:1,19, II Corinthians 8:1; Galatians 1:22; Ephesians 4:11-13; Colossians 3:16,17; Hebrews 10:25). Additionally, the universal church is a spiritual body made up of all believers of this age irrespective of their affiliation with Christian organizations (I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:16, 20-22, 5:22, 23, 30; Colossians 1:18, 24; I Peter 2:4-7; Revelation 21:9).

12) **Responsibilities of Believers:**

We believe that all believers should seek to live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Lord and Savior. It is the obligation of every believer to bear witness, by life, and by word, to the truths of the Holy Scriptures. It is the responsibility of all believers to remember the work of the Lord in prayer and to support it with their means as the Lord has prospered them (I Corinthians 16:2).

13) **Church Ordinances:**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of baptism by immersion, and the Lord's supper, both of which should be observed by all believers until his return (Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

14) **Spirituality and Maturity:**

We believe that spirituality is an absolute condition in the life of the believer in this dispensation, wherein he is filled or controlled by the holy spirit, walking in love and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that spirituality is distinct from carnality, and that a believer becomes carnal through any act of mental, verbal, or overt sin, and that spirituality, or fellowship with Christ, is restored solely by personal confession of the sin to God the Father (Romans 6:11-13; I Corinthians 11:30-31; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18, I John 1:3, 5, 9, 2:2). Maturity, on the other hand, is a relative state which a spirit filled believer attains as a result of learning and applying the Word of God over a period of time (Ephesians 4:11,12,15; James 1:2-4; II Peter 3:18).

15) **Spiritual Gifts:**

We believe the Holy Spirit, through grace, and apart from human merit, sovereignly bestows one or more spiritual gifts on every believer at salvation (Romans 12:4-8; I Corinthians 12:7-11; Hebrews 2:4). Some of the permanent spiritual gifts which exist today are pastor-teacher, evangelist, administrations, helps, exhortation, giving, and showing of mercy. The temporary gifts of apostle, prophecy, miracles, healing, tongues, interpretation of tongues, word of wisdom, and word of knowledge were done away with at the close of the Apostolic age (I Corinthians 13:8-11, 14:22; Ephesians 4:3-16). Any attempt to claim these gifts today is Satanic in origin, being a part of the great apostasy at the end of the age, which is called the "*working of the mystery of iniquity*". This iniquity operates by means of satanic power, signs and lying wonders toward constructing the world church and manifesting the man of sin. Although the gift of healing is no longer given to man, God continues to hear and answer the prayer of faith for the sick and afflicted in accordance with His own will (John 15:7; James 5:15; I John 6:14-15).

16) **Last things:**

We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, in the air, to receive to Himself the dead in Christ and believers who are alive at His coming, otherwise known as the Rapture or translation of the church (I Corinthians 15:51-57; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14). We believe that the rapture of the church will be followed by the fulfillment of Daniel's seventieth week, the last half of which is the time of Jacob's trouble, the Great Tribulation (Daniel 9:27; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:15-21; Revelation 6:1-17). We believe that the Great Tribulation will be climaxed by the pre-millennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth to set up his kingdom (Zechariah 14:4-11; I Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:6). We believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation immediately pass into His presence at death and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of their body at His coming, when soul and body reunited, shall be associated with Him forever in glory. The souls of all unbelievers remain in conscious misery after death until the final judgment before the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium when, soul and body reunited, they shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting torture, separated from the presence of the Lord (Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; I Corinthians 5:8 ; Philipians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15).