

Article 3

DOCTRINAL POSITION (Statement of Faith)

SECTION 1 - The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13).

SECTION 2 - The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--Co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

SECTION 3 - The Person and Work of Christ

a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35).

b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him is assured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24,25; 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Tim. 4:10; Heb. 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; and 2 Pet. 2:1).

c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9,10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).

SECTION 4 - The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14).

b. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20,27; Ephesians 5:18).

SECTION 5 - The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-3,12).

SECTION 6 - Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

SECTION 7 - The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

a. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1,38,39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).

b. We believe that 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 (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

SECTION 8 - The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

SECTION 9 - Separation

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

SECTION 10 - Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

SECTION 11 - The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

a. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and, that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).

b. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; 1 John 5:14-15).

SECTION 12 - The Church

a. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25,27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).

b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

SECTION 13 - Ordinances

We believe that two ordinances are significant above any other that Christians are commanded to observe, namely, water baptism and the Lord's Supper. While recognizing that Water Baptism has no saving merit it is our conviction that after one is saved, Baptism is the next step in order to portray to the world the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. It is our conviction that the scriptural method of Water Baptism is immersion. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death till He comes. We further believe that Water Baptism by immersion is observed but once, and is a sign of identification, and testimony to newness of life, but the Lord's Supper is commemorative and is to be observed often as a memorial of the Body and the Shed Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper shall be open to all born again believers (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:9-13; Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-33).

SECTION 14 - The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

SECTION 15 - Dispensationalism

We believe in the dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as "Hyper Dispensationalism," such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord's Table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the church in this age (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

SECTION 16 - The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; John 14:1-3).

SECTION 17 - The Eternal State

a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5,6,12,13).

b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

c. We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

SUB-SECTIONS

1. Tithing and Giving

We believe that every Christian is a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him and every Christian is obligated to support his local church financially. For this purpose we believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving to support the local church. We believe that the local church is a steward of the tithes given by its members for using the tithes to support its pastor(s), to operate its own ministry and pay its own expenses, to relieve those in need, to support evangelism and missions. We believe that love offerings should be sacrificially and cheerfully given above and beyond the tithe according to the Lord's provision and the prompting of the Holy Spirit. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of tithes and offerings once the gift has been given. (Genesis 14:20, Proverbs 3:9-10, Malachi 3:7-10, Matthew 22:23, Acts 4:34-37, I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-7, Galatians 6:6, Ephesians 4:28, I Timothy 5:17-18, James 2:14-18, I John 3:17)

2. Women in Ministry

We believe that men and women are of equal worth in the eyes of the Lord Jesus and both men and women have unique and designated roles in the home and in the church. In the home, men are to be the head even as Christ is the Head of the Church. In the church, men are to be the leaders as the body of Scripture indicates. We believe that women may serve in a variety of ministry capacities but may not serve in the offices of Pastor, Deacon and Church leader. We believe that women are not to teach men or to usurp authority over them. (Proverbs 31, Galatians 3:28, Romans 16:1-24, Philippians 4:1-3, I Timothy 2:9-15;3, I Corinthians 14:31-40, I Peter 3:1-6, Ephesians 5:21-33)

3. Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions (The Home, The Church, and The State). We believe that these institutions are equal and sovereign in their, respective, Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. Each institution has its unique and specific area of responsibility and jurisdiction. No institution has the right to infringe upon the jurisdiction of the others. We believe that every person is subject to these authorities however, every person is ultimately answerable to God, including the authorities themselves and every person is to be governed by the universal, non-optional, unchangeable principles of God's Word. (Matthew 22:21, Romans 13:1-7, Ephesians 5:21-33, Hebrews 13:7,17, I Peter 2:13-17, I Timothy 2:1-4)

4. Creation

We believe that God created the universe and all that is in it in six literal, twenty-four hour days. We reject the Evolution Theory, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, the Theistic Evolution Theory, and any other theory that is in conflict with the Genesis account of creation. (Genesis 1:2, Exodus 20:11, Psalms 8; 19; 139, Isaiah 40; 43; 54, John 1:1-3, Colossians 1:15-17, Hebrews 1:1-3)

5. Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any forms of these perversions of God's gift of sex or gender are sinful: Homosexuality, Fornication, Transvestism, Lesbianism, Adultery, Gender Alteration, Bisexuality, Pornography, Pedophilia, Bestiality, Cohabitation, Incest Pre-marital sex, Animal sex. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24-25; 19:5-13, Genesis 26:6-11, Leviticus 18:1-30, Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:24-35, Proverbs 7:5-27; 9:13-18, Matthew 5:27-28, Romans 1:26-29; 7;2, I Cor. 5:1-5; 6:9-20; 7:10, Galatians 5:16-25, Ephesians 5:22-23, I Thessalonians 4:1-8, Hebrews 13:4)

6. Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God instituted marriage and ordained it to last until one of the spouses die. We believe divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery, except on the grounds of fornication. We believe that divorced or divorced and remarried persons: May hold positions of service in the church and be used for God. (Genesis 2:24-25, Deuteronomy 22:28-29, Malachi 2:14-17, Matthew 5:31-32; 19:1-12, Mark 10:1-2, Luke 16:18, Romans 7:1-3 1 Corinthians 7:1-40)

7. Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living, human being. We believe that abortion is the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life; it is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Exodus 20:13; 21:22-25, Job 3:16, Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16, Isaiah 44:24; 49:1-5, Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18, Luke 1:15,44)

7. Alcohol and Drugs

We believe the use of intoxicating and/or mind-altering substances is forbidden in Scripture. We believe these legitimate exceptions exist: medications containing alcohol that are prescribed and dosed by a physician and medications or drugs that are prescribed and dosed by a physician. We believe the use of alcohol and/or

illegal non-prescription substances for social or recreation purposes are sinful and violate commands of Scripture. (Genesis 9:21, Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-35; 31:1-9, Isaiah 5:11, 22,23; 28:7-8, Habakkuk 2:15, I Corinthians 6:9-12, Ephesians 5:18, I Timothy 3:3,8, 5:23) We also believe the word “wine” used in the Bible in different places is not a wine as known today. Jesus did not make a wine which contains alcohol nor Paul advice Timothy to take similar.

8. Lawsuits

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian’s insurance company, providing the claim is made without malice or slander. (1 Corinthians 6:1-8 Ephesians 4:31-32)

9. Music

We believe that Church music, by design, should bring glory to God. He is the audience not man. It glorifies the Lord by worshipping Him for His attributes, character, and nature, thanking Him for His common goodness and grace, praising Him for His revelation of Himself to mankind through His written Word and His Son, Jesus Christ, who provided salvation for all who believe. We believe that church music, by design, should edify men by lifting the heart toward the Lord, by enlightening the mind about the Lord, by convicting the soul of sin against the Lord and by motivating the will to obey and serve the Lord. We believe that there is a kind of music, with or without words, that is honoring to God and that there is a kind of music that is dishonoring to God. We accept sacred or biblical hymn book, Gospel music as music that honors God. We reject Christian rap, rock, jazz, blues, Pop, Country, Folk, and Classical. We reject contemporary Christian songs also. (I Samuel 16:14-23, Psalms 33:3; 40:1-3; 69:12, Psalms 100; 126; 137:4, Isaiah 35:10; 42:10, Ephesians 5:18-20, Colossians 3:15-17, James 5:13) Our music will not based on what appeals to man but “What is acceptable to Him” (Ephesians 5:10).

10. Authority of the Statement

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.

We do not believe any teachings in the Church without at least one Bible verse support. Teachings from any written books by Christians should have at least one Bible verse support. We do not believe in any man’s Philosophies, Rationalism, Ecumenical Movement, Liberalism, Modernism, Revivalism, and Creeds and Councils.

Note: *In subscribing to these articles of faith we by no means set aside or undervalue any of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, but we deem the knowledge, belief and acceptance of the truth as set forth in our Doctrinal Statement to be essential to sound faith and faithful practice.*