

DOCTRINAL BELIEFS

SECTION 1-OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that all Scripture (the 66 book canon) is given by inspiration of God, by which we mean that God superintended human authors so that using their individual human personalities they composed and recorded without error His message to man in the words of the original autographs. Therefore, all scripture is true and trustworthy and is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation. (11 Timothy 3:16; 11 Peter 1:21; John 10:35; Matthew 5:17)

SECTION 2-OF GOD

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are one God deserving precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience. There is one and only one true and living God. (Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Matthew 28:19, John 4:24, John 10:30, 11Corinthians 13:14)

SECTION 3-OF CHRIST

We believe that the eternal Son of God, the second person of the Godhead, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died in a substitutionary death, rose bodily from the grave and after appearing to over 500 witnesses, ascended into heaven, thus to continue as both undiminished deity and perfect humanity united in one person forever. (John 1:1, 14, 18, Hebrews 1:2-9, 1John 5:20, 1Timothy 2:5)

SECTION 4-OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is God, a divine, eternal Person, having intellect, and emotions. (Acts 5:3-4, Matthew 28:19, 11Corinthians 13:14, Hebrews 1:14, John 15:26, 16:13-14, 1Corinthians 12:11, Ephesians 4:30, 1Corinthians 2:11)

We believe the present ministry of the Holy Spirit is restraining sin in the world, convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He also, in the present age, regenerates believers in Christ, baptizes them into the church, the body of Christ, indwells them permanently, seals them into the day of redemption, and bestows spiritual gifts upon each one. (John 15:26-27, 16:7-15, John 3:8, 1Corinthians 12:13, John 14:16, Ephesians 4:30, 1Corinthians 12:4-11, Romans 8:9, 1Corinthians 6:19)

SECTION 5-OF MAN

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, apart from any evolutionary process. He created them male and female thus gender is part of the goodness of God's creation. In Adam all mankind fell into sin with the result that all men are sinners, hopelessly sinful in themselves, apart from the grace of God. (Genesis 1:12, 26-30, 9:6, Romans 3:23, 5:12, Ephesians 2:1)

SECTION 6-OF SALVATION

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God brought to men by His grace and received by faith alone in Christ, who died for our sins and rose again. Salvation is offered freely by God apart from any sacraments, good works or human merit. (John 3:16, Acts 4:12, 13:38-39, 16:31, 1 Corinthians 15:1-4, Romans 4:4-5, 5:1, Ephesians 2:8-9)

SECTION 7-OF SANTIFICATION

We believe that every believer is promised positional, progressive and ultimate eternal sanctification. (John 17:14-17, 1Corinthians 6:11, Ephesians 5:26, 1Thessalonians 4:3-4, Hebrews 10:10, 14, 1John 3:2)

SECTION 8-OF ASSURANCE

We believe that all that are born of the Holy Spirit through faith in Christ have assurance of salvation and are eternally secure in Christ. (John 6:37, 10:27-29, 17:12, Romans 5:1, Ephesians 4:30, 11Timothy 1:12, 1John 5:13)

SECTION 9-OF THE CHURCH

It's Composition: We believe the church is composed of all believers of all races, colors, and nations; is the body and bride of Christ; is formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit and exists in two aspects, universal and local. The universal church is an elect company of believers, baptized by the Holy Spirit into one body; its mission is to bear witness of its Head, Jesus Christ, preaching the gospel among all nations; it will be caught up to meet the Lord, after which He will return to set up His Kingdom. The local church is a group of believers voluntarily joined together to worship God with praise and thanksgiving, to glorify Jesus Christ through an aggressive effort to disciple others by the preaching of the gospel, and the exercise of spiritual gifts. (1Corinthians 12:12-26)

It's Practices: We believe that the spiritual practices of baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and the bread and the cup for all believers in Christ. (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:24-30, Acts 13:1, 1Corinthians 4:13, 27, Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 22:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 8:12, 36-38, 10:46, 1Corinthians 11:23-26, John 13:1-17)

SECTION 10-OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe that Christians are called to a holy life of service and testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit, which service includes the propagation of the Gospel message to the whole world. There is promised reward in heaven for faithfulness in such service. (1Peter 1:15-16, Acts 1:8, 1Cornithians 3:12-17, John 14:1-3)

SECTION 11-OF THE ANGELS

We believe that angels were originally created holy creatures, but now exist as unfallen and fallen, including Satan.(Colossians 1:16, Job 38:6-7, Psalm 148:2-4, Jude 6, Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:9, Ephesians 6:11-12, 1Timothy 2:6, 5:21)

SECTION 12-OF THE SECOND COMING

We believe in the imminent return of the Lord for His Church; the tribulation; the second coming of Christ to the earth after the tribulation; the establishment of the reign of Christ on earth for one thousand years; the eternal state of punishment for the unsaved and the eternal state of blessing for the saved. (Titus 2:13, 1Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:4-10, John 14:1-3, Revelation 3:10, Matthew 24:21, 29030, 25:31-46, Revelation 20:1-6, 11:15, Matthew 25:46)

SECTION 13-OF MARRIAGE AND THE FAMILY

Marriage has been established by God. The Holy Bible and this church defines "marriage" as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman in which such union is a lifetime commitment. God has provided man and woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people.

A civil government's sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by this church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of "marriage" found herein.

God ordained the family as the foundational unit of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another in marriage, as defined above, by blood or adoption. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both were created in His image and each should submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ.

Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents should teach their children spiritual and moral values and lead them through their consistent example and loving discipline to make choices based on biblical truths.

Children from the moment of conception are a gift and a blessing from the Lord. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

(Genesis 1:26-28, 2:15-25, 3:1-20, Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Joshua 24:15, 1Samuel 1:26-28, Psalm 78:1-8, 127, 128, 139:13-16, Proverbs 1:8, 5:15-20, Matthew 5:31-32, Mark 10:1-12, 1Corinthians

7:1-16, Ephesians 5:21-23, 6:1-4, Colossians 3:18-21, 1Timothy 5:8,14, 11Timothy 1:3-5, Titus 2:3-5, Hebrews 13:4, 1Peter 3:1-7)

SECTION 14-OF HUMAN SEXUALITY

Legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside marriage, including but not limited to adultery, premarital sex, homosexuality, and pedophilia are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the Church. Further lascivious conduct, transgender behavior, and the creation and/or distribution and/or viewing of pornography, are incompatible with the biblical witness. (Romans 1:22-32, Colossians 3:5, 1Thessalonians 4:3)

SECTION 15-OF CHURCH AND STATE

We affirm God's laws were given to help people love God and to provide for the foundation of society as a whole. Christians were called by Jesus to give God and the government all that is due. To God this means to worship God in its fullest and most complete sense and keeping the will of Christ as the foremost in our own lives. To government it means to obey leaders and authorities with the understanding that only when the means and methods of society are rooted in the regeneration of the individual through the grace and salvation of Jesus Christ can the improvement of society and establishment of righteousness among men take place. Thus Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, vice, the practice of all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. Thus, Christians should work to provide for the needy, care for those who are abused, aged, or helpless, visit those who are sick or in prison, and speak on behalf of the unborn and support the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural birth. Every believer should seek to bring industry and business, government, and society into alignment with the principles of truth, righteousness, and love. We should work with all men of good will in any good cause and act in love without compromising the truth of Jesus Christ. (Exodus 20:3-17, Leviticus 6:2-5, Deuteronomy 10:12, 12:17, Psalm 101:5, Micah 6:8, Zechariah 8:16, Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48, 22:36-40, 25:35, Mark 1:29-34, 2:3-5, 10:21, Luke 4:18-21, 10:27-37, 20:25, John 15:12, 17:15, Romans 12-14, 1Corinthians 5:9-10, 6:1-7, 7:20-24, 10:23-11:1, Galatians 3:26-28, Ephesians 6:5-9, Colossians 3:12-17, 1Thessalonians 3:12, Philemon, James 1:27, 2:8)

SECTION 16-OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

We support the separation of church and state provided that (a) the state should protect the full freedom of the church in pursuit of spiritual things, and no one ecclesiastical group or religion or denomination is favored by the state above the others, and (b) the state does not restrict religious expression, particularly the mention of the name of Jesus, in public places. It is the duty of every Christian to render obedience to the government in all things not contrary to Scripture. The body of Christ must not rely on civil government or money to carry on its work. The state has no right to impose penalties or restrictions on religious opinion or impose taxes on or for the support of any religion. We acknowledge the importance of a free state wherein all men are provided unhindered access to sphere of spiritual matters without interference by any civil power. (Genesis 1:27, 2:7, Matthew 6:6-7, 24, 16:26, John 8:36, Romans 6:1-2, 13:1-7, Galatians 5:1,13, Philippians 3:20, 1Timothy 2:1-2, James 4:12, 1Peter 2:12-17, 3:11-17, 4:12-19)

SECTION 17-AFFIRMATION OF DOCTRINE

Every pastor, minister, elder, deacon, deaconess, employee, volunteer, and member shall affirm their agreement with the Doctrinal Statement above and shall conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent therewith.