



## Doctrinal position

### The Doctrine of Scripture

We believe that all, both verbal and plenary, of scripture is inspired by God. Meaning that God has inspired the very words of scripture and the whole of scripture as it relates to any and every subject (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*). This inspiration was a working of the Holy Spirit enabling the Bible writers to write what God wanted written in the manner which he wanted it written with the very words he wanted to use (*2 Peter 1:19-20, Romans 16:25-26a, 2 Samuel 23:2, 2 Peter 3:15-16*). God worked through each of the Bible writer's personality, preserving individual style and uniqueness. The Scriptures include both the Old Testament (39 books in all) and the New Testament (27 books in all). Scripture is infallible in its original manuscripts and this inspired inherency has been preserved by God in those translations we have today that stay faithful to the original manuscripts (*1 Peter 1:25, Matthew 5:18, Deuteronomy 4:1-2*). Scripture is reliable, relevant and our complete and final authority on all aspects of faith, doctrine and practice (*John 5:39, Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 4:12*). We believe and practice the literal, grammatical and historical interpretation of scripture (*John 14:26*).

### The Doctrine of God

I believe there is only one true God, who exists in three co-equal and co-eternal persons (*Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6, 8*). These Persons are God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ) and God the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 28:19-20, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Luke 1:35, 3:21-22; Mark 1:10-11, 1 Peter 1:1-2, Romans 1:7, Acts 5:3-4*). Each one possesses the same divine nature, perfection (holiness, righteousness, love, justice) and attributes (omnipresence, omnipotence, omniscience, immutability). God is sovereign and He alone is the creator, sustainer, ruler and judge over the entire universe (*Hebrews 1:1-2, James 1:17*).

### The Doctrine of Man

I believe that man was created sinless in the image of God, in intellect, personality, will, spirituality, conscience and holiness (*Genesis 1:26-27*). I believe that when man made the choice to disobey God, he brought on himself and all of creation physical and eternal death (*1 Timothy 2:14*). Man is now born into sin from their very conception and has inherited a sin nature (*Psalm 51:5, Romans 5:12*). They are thus utterly depraved sinners having no desire in themselves for holiness (*Romans 8: 5-8*,

*Romans 3: 10-18*). They are blind to all truth, desiring sin, and having no ability in themselves to change their lost condition (*2 Corinthians 4:4, Romans 1:18-32, Romans 3:23, 6:23*). Because of this condition, they will face both physical and spiritual death (eternal separation from God) (*Genesis 2:17, 19, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1-21*). I believe that after conversion man is given a new nature. The control, the bondage and condemnation of the old sinful nature is all taken away and we are seen holy in God's eyes (*Romans 6:1-14, Colossians 1:21-22*). The believer receives a New Nature and the power of the Holy Spirit indwells each believer to live victoriously over sin (*Romans 8:9-11*).

## **The Doctrine of Salvation**

Salvation is the delivering of man from sin's controlling power and penalty. Before the creation of time God provided a way to save the world from their sin and chose those who would be saved (*Ephesians 1:4*). I believe this deliverance could only be accomplished and was only accomplished through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ when he paid for the sins of the world and satisfying the wrath of God (*Isaiah 53: 4-6, 12, Matthew 1:21, John 14:6, Romans 5:8, Romans 6:23, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Galatians 1:4, Galatians 3:13, 1 John 2:1-2*). He did this by shedding his blood, breaking his body in our place and three days' later overcoming sin and death by rising from the dead (*Matthew 20:28, 26:28 Hebrews 9:22, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 John 1:7*). Salvation is a free gift and is not earned through any form of works. Salvation is given by grace and received through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ (*Romans 3:20, 28, 4:6, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 3:24, Romans 5:1, 9*). I believe each person who is called by God is justified freely. Their sins are imputed to Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ righteousness is imputed to them. Therefore, each believer because of justification is positionally just and righteous in God's eyes (*Galatians 3:10-11, Romans 3:24, 4:5, 5:1,9*). Everyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ will be saved and can never lose their salvation (*John 10: 28-29, Romans 8:38-39, Romans 10:9-11, Ephesians 1:13-14*).

## **The Doctrine of the Church**

The universal, invisible, eternal church includes all believers. This church is not spoken of often in scripture and will not reach its full significance until the future. The local, visible, temporal church spoken of most often in Scripture is a group of called out baptized believers who have voluntarily united together (became members) and meet regularly in a local place (a church) (*Acts 1:15, 2:41, 4:4, Acts 6:3, 1 Corinthians 5:13*). They are committed to grounding their doctrines and practice in the Scriptures. They do this through gathering for consistent teaching, fellowship, prayer and service (*Acts 2:38-42*). Each of these members were responsible to support (*1 Corinthians 16:1-2*), attend (*Acts 2:42, Hebrews 10:25*), work (*Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 5:42*) and serve (*1 John 3:17*). The local church is governed by Pastors who fit the qualities in (*1 Timothy 3:2-7, Titus 1:6-9, Acts 20:28*). The local church also has the appointed position of Deacons. These are positions of servants in the church. Each deacon must meet the

requirement laid out in (Acts 6:3, 1Timothy 3:8-12). These servants see to the physical ministries and needs of the church in order to free the pastors up for the ministries of teaching the scriptures and prayer (Acts 6:1-4). There are two Ordinances that are given to the church to practice, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Both of these Ordinances are visible signs which set forth the central truths of the gospel. Baptism (submersing in water) is a testimony of our identifying with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Matthew 28:19, Acts 2:38, 41, 10:48, 16:33). Baptism is commanded by Jesus for those who have already placed their faith in Jesus Christ finished work on the cross (Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:38). It is a sign of what has already taken place at conversion (Romans 6:1-4) The Lord's Supper is also a testimony as well as a memorial of the broken Body and spilled blood of Christ on the cross (Matthew 26:26-30, Mark 14: 23-25, Luke 22:17-20, 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:20-26, Acts 2:42, 20:7) It is also, commanded by Jesus Christ to do in remembrance of Him. The local church is God's ordained institution for accomplishing His purposes in this world (Matthew 16:18).

## **The Doctrine of Family**

We believe the family is a divine institution created by God (*Genesis 1:28*). Marriage, also created by God, is the uniting of one man and one woman into a covenant commitment together for life (*Genesis 1:28, 2:18-25, Proverbs 5:15-19*). This relationship is a place where one can have companionship. It is a moral channel for sexual expression and is a means for procreation. This bond is also meant to portray and reveal the marriage between Christ and the church (*Ephesians 5:22-25*). God hates divorce and leaves very little room for it (*Malachi 2:16*). Divorce is only allowed under two circumstances - adultery and abandonment of an unbelieving spouse (*Matthew 19:9, 1 Corinthians 7:15-24*). However, even when one can justify a divorce, it is the least desirable course of action in God's eyes. Reconciliation is the most desirable course of action and should be pursued to its fullest measure (*1 Corinthians 7:39, Romans 7:2-3*). Children are a blessing from God. Parents are supposed to train them up in the ways of scripture and exemplifying Christ in their example (*Ephesians 6:4, Deuteronomy 6:4-9, Joshua 24:15, Psalm 78:1-8*). Children are told to obey and honor their parents (*Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:1-2*).