



Doctrinal Statement

I. The Triune God:

We believe there is only one God, who has always existed and will always exist in three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three Persons are co-eternal in being and nature and are co-equal in power, having the same attributes and perfections. They know, love and glorify one another. This one true and living God alone is worthy to receive all glory and adoration.

II. The Scriptures:

We believe that the sixty-six books that make up the Old and New Testaments alone constitute the word of God. The Bible is verbally inspired by God, inerrant and infallible in its original writings. It alone is authoritative on all matters pertaining to life and faith.

III. Creation and Humanity:

We believe that God created all things. He created man—male and female—in His own image, with equal worth and dignity, as the crown of creation, that man might have fellowship with Him.

IV. The Fall:

The first man, Adam, rebelled against God and fell to Satan's temptation. All creation was affected by Adam's fall, and he and all his descendants became alienated from God and corrupted in every aspect of their being. The Bible calls this act of rebellion and disobedience "sin." As a result of Adam's sin all of his descendants are sinners, condemned to death and unable to remedy their condition. The only hope for mankind is the undeserved kindness and mercy of God, who alone can rescue them and restore their relationship with Him.

V. The Plan of God to Rescue Mankind:

We believe that before the world was created, God determined in grace to save guilty sinners from among every tribe and tongue and people and nation, through the person and work of the Son, Jesus Christ.

- He was the Messiah whom God had promised to the nation of Israel.
- In His incarnation, the Son who was fully God also became fully man, being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin named Mary.
- He lived a perfect, sinless life, fulfilling the law of God. In doing so, He satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf.
- He was unjustly put to death by crucifixion. His death on the cross paid the price for sin, bore the wrath of God and satisfied God's righteous demand. By bearing the full penalty for the sins of all who would believe in Him, Jesus reconciled sinful men to God.
- On the third day following His crucifixion, Jesus physically rose from the dead. In doing so, He was vindicated by His Father, broke the power of death, defeated Satan and brought everlasting life to all His people.
- Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven where, seated at the right hand of God the Father, He reigns forever as Lord.

This plan of God is the "good news" – the gospel. By God's grace, through faith in the death and resurrection of Christ, men are restored to right relationship with God. This faith consists of repenting of sin and believing the gospel. Salvation is God's gracious gift and cannot be earned. It is found in no one or in nothing else. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man.

At the heart of all sound doctrine is the cross of Jesus Christ. Redeemed sinners have the infinite privilege of glorifying God because of what He has accomplished. Although people are made right with God the moment they place their faith in Christ, the gospel is not something that is believed once and then ignored. It is something that is believed and lived out on an ongoing basis. Therefore, we want all that takes place in our hearts and in our church to proceed from and be related to the work of Christ on the cross.

VI. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit:

We believe it is the Holy Spirit who makes it possible for people to respond to the gospel. He brings spiritual life to those who have been spiritually dead, awakening them to repentance and faith. At the same time, He begins to live in the believer, guiding, instructing, empowering, and producing Christ-like characteristics in his life. He sovereignly and graciously gives spiritual gifts to believers, enabling them to serve one another.

VII. The Kingdom of God:

We believe that all who have been saved by God are forever secure in their new status as citizens of the Kingdom of God, which is already present but has not yet been fully realized. Their allegiance is to Him as their King, Lord and Master. They desire to trust, obey and glorify their King. Living as light in a dark world, believers should not withdraw into seclusion from the world. Nor should they become indistinguishable from it. Rather, Christians are to love their neighbors as ourselves, doing good to all, especially to those who belong to the household of God. These good works (loving and serving others) provide indispensable evidence that a person's heart has been truly changed by God and that Christ is his King.

VIII. The Church:

We believe that all who have been saved by God become His adopted children. As a result, all believers are members of His family and are united together with one another. Believers are instructed by God's word to meet with other believers regularly for corporate worship, prayer, for the preaching of God's word and for the practices of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a public declaration of one's faith in Christ and desire for association with the family of God, while the Lord's Supper is an ongoing reminder of our relationship with God and with each other. Both baptism and the Lord's Supper are meant to signify and remind us of the finished work of Christ on the cross and of His resurrection.

IX. The Restoration of All Things:

We believe that Jesus Christ will return to earth at the end of this age – personally, gloriously and bodily. At that time, He will judge the just and the unjust. Those who refused to repent and believe the gospel will experience eternal, conscious punishment in hell. Those who have repented of their sins and trusted in Christ alone for salvation will experience eternal blessedness and joy in His presence in heaven. In that final state, all things that were corrupted by the fall will be renewed and restored. There will be a new heaven and a new earth, and all things will be put under Jesus Christ who will hand over all things to God the Father.