

Doctrinal Summary

- We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, and holy.
- We believe in the Scriptures as the Word of God, every letter being inspired in the original writings and preserved throughout history. We believe the Bible to be inerrant, infallible, eternal, ever relevant, and is our sole authority for life and the practice of our faith. We believe that the Bible is complete and that there is no revelation from God beyond the given Scriptures.
- We believe all things were created perfect by God. We believe that all living things were created fully formed, and that from Adam and Eve came all of humanity.
- We believe that through Adam's disobedience sin entered the world and affected all of creation. We believe that Adam's sin has been passed on to all people, that sin is in us from conception, and that suffering and death happen as a result of sin. We believe that sin separates us from God and, if not dealt with, will continue to separate us from God for eternity.
- We believe in the miraculous conception and birth of the Lord Jesus Christ through the womb of an ordinary virgin. We believe that He is fully God and fully man, and that, being without sin, was the perfect substitute to bear away our sin.
- We believe that the only remedy for sin is through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ alone. We believe that His death paid the price due on our sin, and that His resurrection was actual and bodily.
- We believe that salvation is through repentance from sin and toward God, and through faith in Christ alone, without any contribution made by works on our part. It is a free gift of grace, freely offered and freely received, and that upon receiving salvation the sinner is justified in the sight of God.
- We believe that all believers are called to be holy, living soberly, righteously, and godly in this present evil world.
- We believe that all believers are called to make public confession of their faith through the baptism of believers by immersion.
- We believe that all believers are called to regularly remember the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Lord's Table "till He come".
- We believe that human beings begin at conception but from then exist eternally. We believe that after death the soul exists immortal in either Heaven or Hell. We believe that the eternal destiny of the soul is determined at death and remains unchangeable ever after.
- We believe in the existence and personality of the devil as the enemy of God and of all that God loves. We believe in his final doom due to the victory of Christ at Calvary.
- We believe in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the air for the saved at the Rapture, and His return to the earth in power and great glory at the Second Coming.

- We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.
- We believe in the eternal security of the believer and that, once saved, the believer can never be lost.
- We believe in the conscious and eternal punishment of those who die unrepentant and unbelieving.

As well as these fundamentals of the faith, our specific position on doctrinal issues may be summarised as follows:

- **The Scriptures** - verbal, plenary, inerrant, infallible inspiration; divine preservation; only using the KJV (AV).
- **God** - Trinity, three persons, yet one God - co-eternal, co-equal, co-sovereign, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, active.
- **The Lord Jesus Christ** - His personality, deity, incarnation, and purity.
- **The Holy Spirit** - His personality, deity, power, and ministry in teaching, empowering, distributing gifts, promoting worship, enabling prayer, and sealing the saints.
- **Beginnings** - Creation by God, out of nothing, by His Word, in six literal days, approximately 4000 years before Christ; all living things created according to their kind; human beings created as distinct from the rest of creation in the image of God; marriage as a creation institution between one man only and one woman only (as defined by biological gender at conception and birth).
- **Human Nature** - Polluted by the fall in Eden; sin inherited by every human by nature from conception; every human having a sin nature that contaminates everything they do; the necessity of new life from God; the responsibility on each individual to respond to the call of the gospel in repentance and faith, and accept God's gift of salvation offered freely to all through Christ.
- **Sexual Identity** - Only male and female, created distinct, different, and complementary, having different traits and roles as part of God's order; defined by genetic and biological identity at conception and birth, and unchanged in essence by any human intervention. Responsibility for leadership and teaching of the local church lies solely with the men; responsibility for training children lies primarily with mothers, with their husbands providing loving spiritual leadership in the home; women also honour the Lord when they cover their heads when the church gathers for prayer and/or preaching.
- **Marriage** - The lifelong union between one man only and one woman only, dissoluble only by death; divorce is not approved by God; remarriage by one who is divorced is prohibited by God as long as the previous spouse is still alive; the "cause of fornication" as an exemption was given to the Jews and not to the church, and is distinct from adultery; any remarriage while a previous spouse remains alive is a violation of God's institution of marriage.
- **The Atonement** - Jesus Christ alone became the sinner's substitute before God, and died as the propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the whole world; redemption and

atonement was purchased and made available to all human beings, but only becomes effective in those who accept it by grace through repentance and faith.

- **The Resurrection of Christ** - He was raised, not as a spirit only, but with an incorruptible, immortal, spiritual yet physical body on the third day; He ascended to the Father and is now our High Priest and Advocate in His bodily presence in glory; as God He also maintains His spirit nature.
- **Salvation** - At the moment of conversion, the sinner becomes a saint, passed from death unto life, eternally secure, unable to lose salvation, and becomes elect in Christ, something he or she never was before; at the same time, the new believer is sealed by the Holy Spirit, indwelt by God, and made a new creation, and is thus expected and enabled to live a holy life before God.
- **The Universal Church** - Composed of all who are truly saved from every people group on earth, and all such are part of the body of Christ, responsible to maintain the unity of the Spirit.
- **The Local Church** - The Scriptural expression of the Church through the local company of baptised believers, gathered under Christ's headship for worship, fellowship, instruction, and evangelism; ordinances of baptism & the Lord's Table; offices of Elder and Deacon; gifts of Evangelist and Pastor-Teacher; priesthood of all believers; separation of church and state (the state protecting the liberty of the church, the church acting as the conscience of the state); autonomy of the local church.
- **The Ordinances** - baptism of believers only, by immersion, upon their personal, voluntary, and public confession of faith in Christ; the Lord's Table as an act of remembrance using the bread and the cup as symbols only, and participated in only by those who are saved.
- **Spiritual Offices** - Elders & Deacons; elders as responsible for leading, overseeing, teaching, caring, and protecting the church from error; deacons as responsible for material administration, practical care, and relieving elders to provide spiritual leadership; these offices are not a hierarchy - a man is not promoted to eldership, but recognised as an elder, and it is not necessarily a prerequisite for elders to have first been deacons, though there is a practical advantage; men are also not promoted to the office of a deacon, seeing as the deacon is a servant to the local church, but rather they are recognised as having a servant's heart and a spiritual maturity that equips them for godly service.
- **Godly Living** - Separation from worldly and sinful practices; created unto good works.
- **Evangelism** - All believers subject to the Great Commission to preach the gospel to and make disciples of every person.
- **Church & State** - Separation of Church and State - the Church not to take responsibility for civil security and governance, but to act as the conscience of the State; the State not to impose on the free expression of the Church's faith, but to ensure a free and safe society for the Church to operate.
- **The Devil** - Reality, personality, final doom.

- **Eschatology (End Times)** - The imminent, personal, pre-tribulational, pre-millennial return of Christ to the air for His Church (the Rapture); the subsequent seven years of Tribulation and revelation of the Antichrist; the Second Coming of Christ to the earth with His Church; the Millennial Reign of Christ; Satan's final rebellion and defeat; the New Heavens and New Earth; the Eternal State. In accordance with Scripture, this understanding of future things recognises distinctions between Israel and the Church, and between the resurrections (of the just and the unjust) and the judgments (Judgment Seat of Christ, the Sheep & Goats Judgment, and the Great White Throne) that are to come.
- **Israel** - Distinct from the church, and the subject of God's prophetic earthly timeline, currently and temporarily set aside but not forgotten, and still the subject of God's covenants, which will be fulfilled in their entirety in God's time.
- **Eternal Security of the Believer** - Upon death, the saved pass immediately into the presence of God, remaining in conscious bliss until the resurrection when soul, body, and spirit will be reunited and will remain with Christ forever.
- **Eternal Punishment of the Lost** - Upon death, the lost pass immediately into Hell where they remain in conscious torment until the Great White Throne judgment, where, with soul and body reunited, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire to be punished with everlasting, unending destruction.