

Doctrinal Statement

Biblical Counseling Ministries

The Scriptures

We believe that the Bible, as comprised of 66 books, is complete. We believe in the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Bible's original manuscripts; they are verbally inspired of God and were God-breathed to Spirit-controlled men. Therefore the Scriptures are truth inerrant and infallible. We believe that the Bible is the center of Christian unity and is the supreme standard and final authority in all matters of faith, daily living, and conduct (II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21; II Samuel 23:2). We believe that correct interpretation of Scripture is achieved through historical-grammatical hermeneutics.

The True God

We believe that there is only one living and true God, who is infinite and absolutely perfect, the Creator of all things, the supreme ruler of heaven and earth, transcendent over all, and worthy of worship and praise (Colossians 1:16; Isaiah 6:3; Revelation 5:12-14). We believe that in the unity of the one Godhead there exist three distinct Persons (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) who are equal in deity and perfection (Exodus 20:2; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7; I Timothy 1:17; Revelation 4:11).

The Deity of Christ

We believe in the absolute deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; that He was divine as no other man can be, that He existed from all eternity, and is coequal with the Father and the Spirit and without laying aside His deity was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, a virgin. We believe in His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood for our sins, His bodily resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal bodily return in power and glory (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-4,48; Philippians 2:6-8; Hebrews 4:15; Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20).

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, equal with the Father and Son and of the same substance and nature, that He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, bears witness to the truth, is the agent of the new birth and that He regenerates, seals, endues, guides, teaches, empowers for godly living and service, sanctifies, and indwells every true child of God (I John 5:7; John 14:16-17; 16:7-11; John 3:5-6; Ephesians 1:13-14).

The Creation

We believe that God created human beings in His image, the universe and angels as stated in the Bible. We believe that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal and historical account of the direct creative acts of God (Genesis 1:2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3).

The Devil or Satan

We believe in the distinct personality of Satan, that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator, that he became the unholy god of this age, author of the powers of darkness and sin, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Isaiah 14:12-15; Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10; Ephesians 2:2).

The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created sinless in the image of God, but Adam, by voluntary transgression, chose to sin, with a result that all human beings possess a sinful nature from conception. Furthermore, each individual willingly chooses to sin against the Creator, and is culpable for that sin. Sin is any action, philosophy, or attitude that is disobedient or contrary to the divine will, law, and/or character of God as revealed in Scripture. The essence of sin misses the mark of perfection because it elevates the created thing over the Creator. The result is total depravity, condemnation and death for all mankind. Man's relationship with God can be restored only through an individual's acceptance of salvation by God's grace through faith in Christ's atoning sacrifice and resurrection (Genesis 3; Psalm 139; Romans 3:10-23; 5:8-19).

Salvation by Grace

We believe that God has made provision for salvation through the incarnate and sacrificial death, burial and resurrection of His perfect Son, Jesus Christ. This payment for sin is a free gift, not of the works of man, and forgiveness is only obtained by a personal decision of faith in Christ and His finished work. Salvation is eternal; a believer cannot lose his or her salvation (John 3:16; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; 4:30; John 10:28-29; Titus 3:5-7).

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer from sin and unto God, which is accomplished as follows: (1) the person is first set apart unto salvation; (2) at the moment trust is placed in Christ as Savior, the person becomes a believer, meaning that he or she has a perfect position, or standing, before God, by His eternal act of justification, based upon redemption through the sacrificial atonement of Christ; (3) the believer is to be progressively growing in grace and into the likeness of Christ which is a continuing process whereby the believer is led by the Holy Spirit and applies the Word of God to his or her life; (4) finally, the believer looks forward to the return of Christ, when each believer shall be like Him, experiencing the full appropriation of the position that had been attained in Christ at the moment of salvation (I Peter 1:2; I Thessalonians 2:13; I Corinthians 1:2; 6:11; Ephesians 4:11-16; I John 3:2).

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the answer of an obedient and believing heart to demonstrate identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through Whom the believer died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church, and that it is a prerequisite to the privilege of church membership (Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12).

We believe that the Lord's Supper is for believers only, that it is in remembrance of the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ until His return and should always be preceded by careful self-examination (I Corinthians 11:23-32; Acts 2:42).

The Church

We believe that the church is a universal New Testament institution and is made manifest in the local church as an organized congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that His officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity, and the edification of believers. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or corporations; and that the one and only Superintendent in Christ is through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with one another in contending for the faith (which includes Biblical separation) and for the furtherance of the gospel and sanctification; and that all matters pertaining to membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence are final (Acts 2:41-47; 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:1-13; Matthew 8:15-17).

Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord and His Word (Romans 13:1-7).

The Coming of Christ

We believe in the bodily resurrection, immortality, and rapture of all believers at Christ's imminent coming, followed by the judgment of believers and unbelievers at separate times and at separate thrones of God (I Cor. 15:42-44; 51-54; I Cor. 5:11-15; Rev. 20). We believe in the eternal life and blessedness of all believers and the eternal existence and punishment of all unbelievers (Mal. 3:18; Matt. 25:34-41; Rev. 20:14-15).