

TRUTHS UPON WHICH WE STAND

(A Brief Doctrinal Statement)

I. THE SCRIPTURES

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, are preserved of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience.

II Timothy 3: 16 - 17; Matthew 4: 4, Matthew 24: 35; Psalm 19: 7 - 11

II. GOD

There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things. He has in and of Himself all perfections, and is infinite in them all. To Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

Deuteronomy 6: 4; Genesis 1: 1; Colossians 1: 16 – 17; Psalm 148: 13

III. THE TRINITY

God is revealed to us as one God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.

I John 5: 7; Matthew 28: 19; John 1: 1 – 4; II Corinthians 13: 14

IV. PROVIDENCE

God from eternity, decrees and permits all things that come to pass, and continually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events. Yet in doing so, He is in no way the author or approver of sin nor does He destroy the moral choice and responsibility of intelligent creatures. In His ordinary providence God makes use of means, yet is free to work extraordinarily, without, above, and against all means at His pleasure.

Isaiah 46: 10; Ephesians 1: 11; James 1: 13; Psalm 135: 6

V. ELECTION

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life—not because of foreseen merit or foreseen faith in them -- but of His mere mercy in Christ. Because of His choice they are called, justified, sanctified and glorified.

Ephesians 1: 4, 5, 11; Romans 8: 30; II Timothy 1: 9; I Thessalonians 5: 9

VI. THE FALL OF MAN

God created man in His own image and free from sin. Through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness. As a result, all who are born since then inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.

Ecclesiastes 7: 29; Genesis 1: 26; Romans 5: 12; Romans 3: 10 - 19

VII. THE MEDIATOR

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the only mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled God's Law and then suffered and died upon the cross of Calvary for the salvation of those the Father gave Him. He was buried, rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He is God's appointed Mediator, Prophet, Priest, and King and the only Sovereign of the Universe.

I Timothy 2: 5; John 1: 1, 14; Philippians 2: 5 – 11; Hebrews 7: 25

VIII. REGENERATION

Regeneration is a change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who quickens those who are dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. Regeneration is a work of God's free and special grace alone.

Ephesians 2: 1; Ezekiel 36: 26 – 27; Deuteronomy 30: 6; Psalm 110: 3

IX. REPENTANCE

Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person being, by the Holy Spirit, made aware of the evil of his sin, humbles himself, with godly sorrow, hating it, and turning from it, purposes and endeavors to walk before God so as to please Him in all things.

Acts 11: 18; Psalm 51: 4; Ezekiel 36: 31; II Corinthians 7: 10 - 11

X. FAITH

Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatever is revealed in His Word concerning Jesus Christ. It receives and trusts Jesus Christ alone for justification and eternal life. Saving faith is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness.

Ephesians 2: 8; Romans 10: 14, 17; Galatians 2: 20; I John 3: 1 - 3

XI. JUSTIFICATION

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of all sin of those who repent and believe in Jesus Christ. When they trust Him, receiving His righteousness, they are declared justified. Justification is accomplished, not for anything from within the sinner or anything done by them; but solely on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Jesus Christ.

Romans 3: 24, Romans 5: 1; Philippians 3: 9; Romans 8: 33

XII. SANTIFICATION

God's Spirit dwelling in true believers sanctifies them. This sanctification is both positional (our standing in Jesus Christ before God) and progressive (our state upon this earth). Progressive sanctification is worked in us through the supply of Divine strength. All Christians seek to obtain it by pursuing a holy life in loving obedience to all Christ's commands.

I Thessalonians 5: 23; John 17: 17; Colossians 1: 28; II Corinthians 7: 1

XIII. PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

Those whom God has accepted in the Jesus Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from His grace, but shall persevere to the end. Though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on their church, and chastening upon themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

I Peter 1: 3 – 5; Matthew 24: 13; Psalm 37: 23 – 24; Hebrews 12: 5 - 11

XIV. THE CHURCH

A New Testament Church is an assembly of regenerate persons, baptized upon a profession of faith in Christ; united in covenant for worship, instruction, the observance of Christian ordinances, and for such service as the gospel requires. Each church recognizes and accepts Jesus Christ as their only Head, His Word as their only

and sufficient rule of faith and practice in all matters of conscience and religion, and bishops (also referred to as elders or pastors) and deacons as their only Scriptural officers.

Acts 2: 41 – 42; Ephesians 2: 19 – 22; Ephesians 4: 11 – 12; I Timothy 3: 15

XV. BAPTISM

Baptism is a local church ordinance authorized by the Lord Jesus. It is the obligation of every believer to be immersed in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as a sign of their fellowship with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving themselves up to God to walk in newness of life. Baptism is to be administered by one properly appointed by the church. It is prerequisite to church membership and fellowship, and to participation in the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 28: 19; Romans 6: 4; Acts 2: 41

XVI. THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a local church ordinance authorized by Jesus Christ, administered with the elements of bread and wine, and observed by His churches until the end of the world. It is not a sacrifice but a memorial of His death to confirm the faith of Christians, to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him, and of their church fellowship.

I Corinthians 11: 23 – 26; I Corinthians 10: 16 - 17

XVII. THE LORD'S DAY

The first day of the week, the Lord's Day, is the day that New Testament Christians observe as a Sabbath unto God. This day is blessed by God and made for His people to cease from ordinary labors, business, entertainment and distractions of the other six days in the week and to devote themselves to worship, spiritual devotion and ministry, and works of mercy. While there are changes in detail from the Old Testament to the New Testament, the spirit of the day remains the same - to find joy and satisfaction in the Lord of the Sabbath.

Exodus 20: 8 – 11; Matthew 12: 8, 12; Mark 2: 27; Acts 20: 7

XVIII. LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE

God alone is Lord of the conscience. He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are contrary to his word, or not contained in it. Yet, Christians are to be in subjection to civil magistrates in all lawful things commanded by them because they are ordained of God.

Romans 14: 4; Acts 4: 19; I Corinthians 7: 23; Romans 13: 7

XIX. THE RESURRECTION

The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked, to be reserved until the judgment. At the last day, the bodies of all, both just and unjust, will be raised.

Genesis 3: 19; Ecclesiastes 12: 7; II Corinthians 5: 1, 6 - 8; I Corinthians 15: 51 - 54

XX. THE JUDGMENT

God hath appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when everyone shall receive according to his deeds: the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.

Acts 17: 31; John 5: 22 - 29; II Corinthians 5: 10; II Thessalonians 1: 7 – 10