



PORTRAIT CHURCH DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

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Doctrine of the Bible

Though there are multiple authors of the Bible, there is one overarching author – God (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21). The Bible is the very word of God and is relevant to Christian living (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21; Isa 40:8). The Bible is true in all that it affirms because God is truth (John 17:17; Heb 6:18). Since God is the ultimate author, the Bible has authority over all matters of life (Joh 16:12-15; 1 Thess. 2:13). The Bible is fully sufficient to lead people to a saving faith in Jesus and for practical Godly conduct through the work of the Holy Spirit (Jos 1:8; Rom 1:16, 19- 20; 2 Tim 3:15-17; 1 Cor. 2:13-14). There is nothing that can be added or subtracted from scripture to make it more complete. Therefore, the canon of scripture comprised of 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament, is the closed canon of scripture (Rev. 22:18-19).

Doctrine of God (Trinitarianism)

It is the affirmation of both the Old and New Testaments that there is one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person is equal in nature, equal in glory, completely unified, yet distinct in relations (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:28-29; Gen. 1:1; Ps 90:2; John 14:7; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). God the Father eternally exists as love and out of this love he creates and sustains all things (1 John 4:8). Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully man (Jn. 20:28; Rom. 1:2-4; Phil. 2:6). He exists as the eternal Son, born of a virgin to be an atonement for the worlds sin, was buried, arose from the grave, ascended into heaven, and will return to earth (John 1:14; Col 1:15; Matt 1:22-23; John 3:16; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 1:4-6). In the interim, the Holy Spirit has been given to every believer as a guarantee of their future hope, and as a divine counselor, and teacher (Eph. 1:13; John 14:26).

Doctrine of Man

God as the author of creation, created people in his image (Gen. 1:27). The *Imago Dei* is distinct to human beings, no other creature including angels were bestowed this honor. Humans exist as both material and immaterial with a body, soul, mind, and will (Gen. 2:7; Ezek. 37:6; Ps. 139:13, 16). Additionally, having been distinctly made male and female, God's intent is for marriage to be explicitly between man and woman (Gen. 5:2; Matt. 19:4-6). God created humanity sinless, yet with free will giving them the capacity to sin. The first humans, Adam and Eve, sinned through disobeying the word of God, thus tainting the image (Gen. 3:14-19). The penalty of their sin was death (Rom. 6:23), and exile from the garden (Gen. 3:23). The sinful nature of Adam has been transmitted to all humanity (Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21).

Doctrine of Angels & Demons

God's creation includes spiritual beings in the form of angels and demons (1 Col. 1:16). Angels are heavenly beings created by God with the primary function of worshipping God, serving God, and proclaiming divine messages to God's people (Ps. 91:11; 103:20; Heb. 1:14; Rev. 4:8; 14:6). A third of the angels fell as they followed Satan,



and now directly oppose humanity (Isa. 14:12-14; Rev. 12:4; Eph. 6:12). Satan's mission is diametrically opposed to Jesus' mission. While Christ came to give life, Satan seeks to deceive, kill, and destroy (Jn. 8:44; 10:10).

Doctrine of Salvation

Mankind was created in the image of God to display his attributes throughout the world (Gen. 1:27). However, sin corrupted the image of man when Adam and Eve disobeyed God

(Gen. 3:1-6). It is affirmed in Scripture that all men have been corrupted by this original sin (Rom. 3:23). Since God is utterly holy, sin eternally separates mankind from God (Isa. 59:2; Rom. 5:8; 6:23; 1 Jn. 1:8). Yet, God out of love provided atonement through his Son Jesus (Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:12; 1 Cor. 15:21; Acts 4:12). Jesus alone is the source of salvation as he willingly took upon himself the sins of the world (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18). Now, anyone that places their belief and trust in Jesus will experience everlasting life (Jn. 3:16; 1 Jn. 1:9; Heb. 7:25). This is not on the merit of the individual, but on the merit of Christ's finished work on the cross. Simply put, salvation comes by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8-9; Col. 3:1). Finally, just as the Father raised Jesus back to life, we too will be raised on the last day and brought into eternal glory forever (1 Cor. 15:22-23; Rom. 8:30; Col. 3:4; Phil. 3:20-21).

Doctrine of the Church

The church was conceived not through human wisdom, but rather divine impartation by the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41). The mission of the church is to make disciples of all nations as commissioned by Jesus (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8). Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Eph. 1:20-23; Those that have been baptized into Christ, make up his body known as the church universal (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 12:5; Eph. 1:23; 4:5). As the head, Jesus appoints elders and deacons as the earthly leadership that governs the church (1 Tim. 3:1-12; Tit. 1:5). Church leaders are charged primarily to equip the believers (Eph. 4:12).

Doctrine of Sanctification

It is through Jesus, that all members are brought into unity through the sacramental covenants of baptism and communion (1 Cor. 11:26; 12:13; Eph. 4:5-6; Col. 3:12-16; Matt. 28:19; Lk. 22:19-20; Acts 10:47-48). While Christians are not expected to be perfect, the expectation is that they will be progressing in Christ's likeness (Phi. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:16; Rom. 12:1-2; Col. 3:12-14). One of the essential and primary ways Christians grow spiritually is through living in the community of the church (Heb. 10:25).

Doctrine of the Ordinances

There are only two essential ordinances – the ordinances of baptism and communion. Baptism does not save, but it is the expected proclamation of a person's faith (Acts 2:38). A person's baptism then serves as a public testimony of their new life through identification of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. (2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:4).



Communion was instituted by Christ himself (Mk. 14:22-25; Lk. 22:18-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25). Christ's command to break bread and drink wine works as a reminder of his death on the cross as well as to create unity among believers (1 Cor 10:17; 1 Cor 11:28-32).

Doctrine of Last Things (Eschatology)

Eschatology is rooted in hope as Christians await the future, return of Jesus Christ culminating in eternal union (Jn. 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:13). God's judgment will come upon earth during a period of tribulation (Dan. 9:24; Matt. 24:21-22; Mk. 13:19; Joel 2:31). However, God will rescue the saints from the day of his wrath by rapturing His church (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:40-42; 1 Thess. 5:9; Rev. 7:14). Upon Jesus second advent, all Christians that have died will be resurrected followed by the living. They will then be joined with their Savior for eternity (1 Thess. 4:13-14). Finally, Jesus will establish His kingdom on earth (Rev. 21).

