

Doctrinal Statement

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My Personal Testimony

God has providentially and graciously allowed me to be raised in a Christian home with parents who sought to teach and train me by the Word of God. The knowledge of God and His saving Grace was taught to me as far back as I can remember. In my very early years, I became afraid of my desperate condition before the One, True God. I prayed and asked Jesus to save me from my sin. Like many others who get saved at a young age, I struggled with discerning whether I truly understood, prayed the right prayer, or was sincere in what I said. Burdened with a load of care, I poured my heart out to God about my struggles with assurance and my own lack of faith. The Lord revealed to me that neither my prayer nor my own understanding was what had saved me, but the precious, perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ on my behalf. I praise the Lord for revealing to me my need of a Savior and giving me the faith to believe in Jesus as my substitute to pay for my sin. My faith rests in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. I was baptized by immersion to identify with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection.

Through my teenage years, God allowed me to be involved in ministry through our local church. It was during these times that the Lord began to give me a perspective of ministry that would eventually grow into a calling.

I received a Bachelor's degree in Music from Bob Jones University in 2004. During my years in school, the Lord provided the opportunity for me to go on several one-week mission trips and a 3 ½ month European mission's trip. It was on these trips that the Lord began shaping my heart with regard to ministry and particular in ministering with young people. After many additional opportunities of ministry within the local church, God confirmed His calling to me by giving me an intense desire to pursue the direction of that calling. God has further established His calling for me by paving the way for further ministry and by equipping me for that calling. I view the intense desire (1 Tim 3:1), the spiritual equipping the Lord has provided for me (Eph 4:11-12, 1 Tim 3:2-7) and the ability that God has given me (1 Peter 4:11) as confirmation of my calling to be a Pastor.

I. Bibliology-Scripture

a. Revelation

I believe that God has revealed Himself to all mankind in two different ways.

i. General Revelation

I believe God has revealed Himself by His creation (Psalm 19), by a visual perception of His Power and Godhead (Romans 1:19-20), and by His governing care over His Creation. (Acts 14:15-17)
God's general revelation of Himself leaves all men without excuse for their sin (Romans 1:20), yet is insufficient for salvation.

ii. Special

I believe that God has revealed Himself in a special way through the life and words of His Son Jesus Christ. (Heb 1:1-2, 1 Thes 2:13)
God's special revelation is available in the Bible so that all may know Him personally.

b. Inspiration

I believe that God has specifically recorded His Word in the sixty-six books of the Bible by the process of inspiration. Holy Men of God were "moved" by the Holy Spirit to pen exactly what God intended for us to know. (2 Peter 1:20-21) I believe in the verbal (i.e. thoughts and the very words are inspired), plenary (i.e. complete inspiration), inerrant and infallible, authoritative and sufficient inspiration of the Word of God. (Psa 119:160, Mat 4:4, 1 Thes 2:13, 2 Tim 3:16-17)

c. Inerrancy

I believe that because the Scripture is given to us by God there is absolutely no mistake or error in the original inscripturation. (Psa 119:160, Pro 30: 5a, Joh 17:17)

d. Interpretation

I believe that God intends His Word to be understood and therefore obeyed. (Joshua 1:8, Ps. 119:11) It is therefore important that the reader comes to God's Word with a submissive spirit and a heart of obedience. (James 1:22-25, Ps 86:11)

I believe that God's method of revealing His Word to man has been progressive over the dispensations of time. (Gal. 4:4) By this dispensational approach, I see a distinct difference between the Church and the Nation of Israel. (Rom 11:26-28) I believe in the literal interpretation of Scripture, unless the context proves otherwise.

e. Canonicity

I believe that each of the sixty-six books within the Bible have been authenticated and inspired by God Himself and therefore are scripture. (2 Tim 3:16) Canonicity was the process where different councils simply recognized what God had already acknowledged as scripture. The Old Testament's canonicity was evidenced as true by Jesus Himself. (Mat 5:17; Luke 24:44) In the New Testament, the apostles acknowledged their writings as from God. (Col 4:16; 1 Thes 4:15, 2 Pet 3:15-16) I reject the canonicity of the apocryphal books based on the contradictions against inspired scripture (*i.e. praying for the dead, paying money for salvation, teachings indicating that sin acceptable in certain circumstances*), no evidence claiming or acknowledging to be inspired and the rejection of the early church fathers. I believe the canon of God's Word is unified and has no factual contradictions. Since we have the completed Word of God, I believe that the canon is closed. (Rev 22:18-19)

f. Preservation

I believe in the divine preservation of God's Word. (Is 40:8, Ps 119:160) Although the Bible doesn't address how God's Word has been or will be preserved in any specific language, we are able to historically observe how God's Word has been preserved through the ages by the availability of copies from the original inscripturation.

II. Theology-God

I believe that there is One True God and He is the God of the Bible. (Ex 3:14, Deut 6:4, Jer 10:10, John 17:3) He is an eternal Spirit (John 4:24) existing in three distinct persons, yet equal in the divine Godhead. (Matt 3:16-17, Matt 28:19, John 1:1, 2 Cor 13:14) What we know about the character of God is revealed to us through His inspired Word, the Bible.

a. Attributes

- Eternal

God exists forever and is not limited to our past, present, and future. (Ps 90:2; Gen 21:33)

- Independent

He is independent of his Creation. (Is 40:13-14)

- Holy

He is separate from all that is common or unclean. He is without sin/perfect/not corrupt. He is absolutely pure in His entirety. (Lev 11:44; Josh 24:19; Ps 99:3, 5 + 9)

- Immutable

He doesn't change. *Praise His Name!!* He is perfectly consistent. None of God's perfections/attributes change. (Mal 3:6; James 1:17)

- Infinite

He is not restricted by bounds, limits, or time. (1 Kings 8:27; Acts 17:24-28)

- Love

God is love (1 John 4:8) and seeks the utmost good for His creation. (John 3:16) That love demands affection as well as correction. (Rev 3:19)

- Omnipotent

God is all powerful. God's power is evident in Creation, sustaining all things, and most of all in raising Jesus Christ from the dead. For a Christian, God's power gives security through the power of the gospel, hope of eternal resurrection, and guidance to live a righteous life. (Genesis 17:1; Ex 6:3; 1 Cor 6:14; 2 Cor 6:18; 1 Pet 1:3-5; 2 Pet 1:3-4)

- Omnipresent

God is ever present. God can be known in every facet, walk, or circumstance of life. No one can escape His presence. This is a warning for unbelievers and a great comfort to believers. God is always able to be known. (Ps 139:7-12)

- Omniscient

God knows everything. Nothing can surprise or confuse God. He is perfect in His knowledge of things past and present. God gives guidance and warning based on His complete knowledge. Believers can take comfort because God knows what is ultimately good for us. (Ps 147:4-5; Ps 139:15-16)

- Righteous

God is perfect in His justice. There is nothing in God's character that violates any moral or law. (Ps 11:7; Ps 19:9; Dan 9:7; Acts 17:31)

- Simplicity

God is not a composite being. God is a spirit and doesn't have a body like humans. He is a Spirit and we must worship Him in spirit. (John 4:24)

- Sovereign

God is Chief/Supreme/Principal in position and power. He has a plan and has the ability to absolutely carry it out for the praise of His glory. (Ps 135:6; Eph 1:11; 14)

- Truth

God is the "One and only" all truth. God cannot lie, therefore bringing great strength and hope that He will keep His promises. (John 17:3; Titus 1:2; Rom 3:4; 2 Tim 2:13)

- Unity

God is the only perfect, undivided God. He is not divided against Himself. (Eph 4:6; 1 Cor 8:6; 1 Tim 2:5)

b. Works

i. Creation

I believe that in the creation of the world, God spoke all things into existence. (Gen 1-2) Nothing existed prior to his Creation. (John 1:3) God created everything from nothing (Heb 11:3) except during the creation of man and woman. (Gen 2:7+22) God created all things in six literal, consecutive, “24 hour” days (Gen 1-The “evening” and the “morning” were a particular “day”) and then He rested on the seventh day to display completion of His work. (Gen 2:1-3)

ii. Divine Preservation

I believe that God divinely preserves His creation (Neh 9:6), upholds all things by the power of His Word (Heb 1:3) and by Him all things consist. (Col 1:17)

c. Persons

i. God the Father

God the Father abides in heaven (Matt 6:9; 16:17) and is the Father of His Son, and my Savior, Jesus Christ. (1Pet 1:3) He sent His Son to die for all mankind. (John 3:16) He is also the Father of all who are redeemed. (John 1:12) He is a Father to individuals and offers those children grace and peace, (Eph 1:2; 1 Thess 1:1; 2 John 3) good gifts (Matt 7:11; Luke 11:13; James 1:17) and a Divine commandment that was made known through the prophets, Jesus Christ, and the Scripture. (Heb 1:1-3) He hears and answers prayer. (Matt 6:6, 8) He has all knowledge of future events. (Matt 24:36)

ii. God the Son

Jesus Christ is the divine, eternal, only begotten Son of God (John 1:14; 3:16; 1 John 4:9) who created all things. (Col 1:16) In Him exists all the fullness of God both in attributes and works. (Is 9:6; Matt 1:23; John 1:1; Col 2:9; Heb 1:8) He came to earth in bodily form and yet retained the fullness of His Deity. (John 1:14) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. (Matt 1:18, 23) While on earth, Jesus was tempted as we are tempted, yet lived a perfect, sinless life. (Heb 4:15) God's great love to the whole world was displayed by sending Jesus to be crucified as a worthy substitute. (Isa 53; Rom 5:8; 1 John 2:2) He arose (John 2:19-21) triumphantly from the dead (Matt 28:6; Acts 2:23; 1 Cor 15:3+4) and is now reigning at the right hand of the Father. (Acts 7:55-56; Col 3:1; Heb 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22) He is Prophet, Priest, and King. He is my Prophet in revealing the only way to God and in knowing God. (John 1:18; 14:6; Matt 11:27; Heb 1) He is my High Priest in offering Himself as a sacrifice for my sin (Heb 7: 25-27; 9:11-15) and in interceding on my behalf before the Father. (Heb 7:25-27; 1 John 2:1-2) As my King, he is demanding complete surrender of my whole being to His Will. (Matt 19:16-26; Col 3:1-2) He is reigning with absolute authority as King (Matt 28:18; Eph 1:20-22) and will reign until all are subject to Him. (1 Cor 15:25-28) He is preparing a place in heaven for all who believe and He will come again. (John 14:2-4; Act 1:11) In the imminent future, Jesus Christ will return in body to rapture His Church (1 Thess 4:16-17; Acts 1:11), judge the world (Acts 17: 31; 2 Thess 1:7-9) and reign eternally. (Rev 11:15; 19:11-16)

iii. God the Holy Spirit

God the Holy Spirit has personal traits (ie-*Comforts*-John 14:16, *Teaches*-26; *Testifies*-15:26; *Guides/Speaks*-16:13-14; *Can be lied to or tempted*-Acts 5:1-11, *Speaks*-Acts 10:19-20, Acts 13:2; *Can be grieved*-Eph 4:30) and is fully God, equal to the Father and Son. (Matt 28:19; Act 5:3-4; 2 Cor 13:14) He is described with divine attributes such as being eternal (Heb 9:14), omniscient (1 Cor 2:10-11), and omnipresent. (Psalm 139:7-10) He was present at the creation of the world (Gen 1:2), birth of the church (Acts 2:2-4), and in the writings of the scriptures. (2 Peter 1:21) He convicts men of sin, righteousness and the coming judgment. (John 16:8) He baptizes or places (Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5; 11:16; 1 Cor 12:13) believers into the body of Christ. He indwells every believer. (Romans 8:9-11; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19; Gal 4:6; 2 Tim 1:14; 1 John 4:13) He reveals to believers the mind of God. (1 Cor 2:9-16; Heb 10:15-17) He is given by the Father as another Helper of the same kind as Jesus. (John 14:16) He intercedes for believers with groanings that cannot be heard. (Rom 8:26-27) He distributes spiritual gifts to each believer as He wills (1 Cor 12:11) to be used within the local church. (Rom 12:4-6a; Eph 4:7-13; 1 Cor 12:4-12; 1 Pet 4:10) I believe that the “sensation” gifts of the Holy Spirit (tongues-1 Cor 12:10/healing-1 Cor 12:9/ability to know persons intents-Acts 5:1-12) were “scaffolding” in building the early church (Act 2:1-13; Heb 2:3-4) and are no longer given or needed because of the sufficiency of Scripture. (2Tim 3:16-17) He will always teach and guide believers into truth. (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-14; 1 Cor 2:12; 1 John 2:27) He enables and equips for specific ministries. (Ex 31:3; 35:31; Jdg 6:34; Lk 4:18; Acts 10:38; 1 Cor 2:4) He sanctifies believers for His use. (1Pet 1:2; 2 Cor 3:18) He seals (a divine stamp or confirmation) believers for the day of redemption. (2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30)

III. Anthropology-Man

a. Man Created

God created man and woman in His own image. (Gen 1:27; 5:1+2) God formed man from the dust of the ground, breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and man became a living being. (Gen 2:7) God made woman (Eve) from the rib of Adam. (Gen 2:22) God created man and woman on the sixth day of creation. (Gen 1:27, 31) I therefore hold true that the theory of evolution in any form, including theistic evolution, the day-age theory, or the gap-theory, is false. God created (Gen 1:1+2) the earth and everything that is on the earth (Ps 146:5-6), including mankind, in six literal days. Man is a created, living being made up of both the material (body) and the immaterial. (spirit-1Thess 5:23, soul-Psalm 42, heart-Rom 10:10-11, mind-Mark 12:30, will-Rom 7:15-20, conscience-Rom 2:15 and flesh-Gal 5:16-17)

b. Man's Purpose

I believe it is man's sole purpose to glorify God in all that we do, think and say. (Eph 1:12, 1 Cor 10:31)

c. Man's Fall

I believe that God created man and woman sinless at creation but with the capacity to choose good or evil. Adam and Eve chose to partake of the forbidden fruit even though God had given them the knowledge of the consequences. (Gen 2:16-17) The results of the fall were immediate (Gen 3:7) and sadly passed along through the entire human race. (Rom 5:12) Through Adam's fall, we all became partakers of that fall. (Rom 5:19) Through Adam's fall, all of mankind received a sin nature with a propensity to sin. (Eph 2:3) Because of our sin nature, we are all subject to physical and spiritual death. (Gen 2:17; Rom 5:12-21; 6:23; 1 Cor 15:21-22) Consequently, mankind is utterly depraved and unable to merit favor with God. (Is 64:6; Rom 4:4-6; Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6)

IV. Hamartiology-Sin

a. Nature

I believe that sin is a failure to conform to God's required law by either omission (James 4:17) or commission. (1 John 3:4) All unrighteousness is sin. (1 John 5:17) Sin is doing evil in God's sight. (Ps 51:4) Sin is "missing the mark" or "falling short" of God's glory. (Rom 3:23) All have sinned in this way and come up short of God's Glory. (Rom 3:10; 3:23)

b. Origin

Sin has been around since the "father of lies", the devil (John 8:44; 1 John 3:8), desired to exalt himself above God. (Isa 14:12-15) Satan tempted Adam and Eve to forsake God's commandment and they willingly partook in sin. (Gen 3:6) Through Adam, sin entered into the world and was passed to all of mankind. (Rom 5: 12) There is no one exempt from sin. (Is 64: 6, Rom 3:10; 3:23)

c. Penalty

Since our sin is an offense against the One and Only, Holy God, the wages of our sin is death. (Rom 6:23) Those who choose to reject Christ will be eternally separated from God in the Lake of Fire. (Rev 20:11-15)

d. Personal Sin

I believe that each person sins personally against God and is totally corrupted by sin. (Ecc 7:20; Rom 3:10-18, 23; 1 John 1:8-10) Although all sin is eternally condemned and punished by a Holy God, I believe that the Bible states that some sins are worse than others. Sin of Ignorance vs. Defiant Sin. (Num 15:27-31) Judas vs. Pilate's sin. (John 19:11) Some sins will receive greater condemnation. (Matt 11:20-24) Though some sins are defined as greater and will receive a greater punishment, the Bible states that all sin is condemned, whether great or small in our own eyes, and will bring upon eternal damnation. (Rom 6:23)

The Bible speaks of a particular unpardonable sin. (Matt 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-30; Luk 12:10) I believe this sin was particular to the Scribes

and Pharisees who had a knowledge and understanding of the works of Jesus and then willfully and defiantly attributed the truth of Jesus and works of the Holy Spirit to the devil. I believe God declared judgment on these people because of their blasphemy and unwillingness to acknowledge Christ's works as from God; therefore they will not be pardoned.

The Bible also speaks of "a sin unto death." (1 John 5:16) I believe that the "sin unto death" is referring to a believer sinning to the point where the judgment from God is physical death. I believe a similar illustration is found in the Corinthian believers who took the Lord's Table in an unworthy manner and therefore brought judgment from the Lord that caused sickness and even, in some, death. (1 Cor 11:29-30)

V. Soteriology-Salvation

a. Substitutionary Atonement

I believe the Bible teaches that salvation for sinners is provided through the substitutionary sacrifice by our Lord Jesus Christ. (Matt 20:28; Mark 10:45; Rom 3:25-26, 6:23; Col 1:20-22) This act was accomplished when God sent His only Son into the world to die on the cross, to shed His blood and to be the payment for sin. (John 3:16-18, 6:51; Rom 5:8, 18) He died for the whole world, so that all have the opportunity to be saved. (John 3:16; Act 10:43; Rom 10:13; 1 Tim 2:4; 1 John 2:2) Salvation through Jesus Christ is the only way to be reconciled to God. (John 14:6; Rom 5:8-11; Col 1:19-22; 1 Tim 2:4-6; Heb 9:11-12)

b. Regeneration

I believe that regeneration is the work of Holy Spirit upon salvation in giving spiritual life to a spiritually dead person. (John 3:5; Eph 2:5-6; Titus 3:5) Regeneration is when a spiritually dead person is made alive in Christ. (Eph 2:1, 5; Col 2:13-14) The meaning of regeneration is that of being spiritually "born-again" and without this working of the Spirit no one will enter heaven. (John 3:3-5; 1Pet 1:23) Those who believe are "born-again" and are adopted into God's family. (John 1:12-13; Rom 8:15-17)

c. Justification

I believe that justification happens upon salvation and is the legal act of God pardoning a believer's sin and declaring them righteous on the basis of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ. (Rom 3:20-26, 5:1; 2 Cor 5:21)

d. Sanctification

I believe that sanctification is the act of God when He "sets apart" a person for His specific use. (Lev 20:26-Israel; 1Pet 1:2-Believers) Upon salvation, the believer is "positionally" set apart from sin for God's divine use. (1 Cor 1:2, 6:11; 1 Pet 1:2) Throughout a believer's life, God is "progressively" sanctifying them in growth towards the Image of Christ. (2 Cor 3:18; Eph 2:10; 1Pet 2:2; 2Pet 3:18)

e. Glorification

I believe that glorification is when a believer receives a new glorified body at the coming of Christ. (Rom 8:30; 1 Cor 15:51-54; Php 3:20-21) This glorified body will be perfect and free from the nature of sin just like Christ's resurrected body. (Php 3:21; 1 Joh 3:2)

f. Applications

i. Conversion

I believe the conversion of a sinner is a sovereign act of God (Act 3:26; Eph 1:4) and will include both the essential elements of repentance and faith. (Mar 1:15; Acts 20:21) Repentance is an acknowledgment of our heinous sinful condition before God and will result in a whole change of life and attitude toward God. (Mat 3:8; Acts 26:20; 2 Cor 7:9-10) Faith is a gift from God (Eph 2:8-9) and includes knowledge (1 Cor 15:1-4; Jam 2:19), belief (Joh 3:15-18; John 8:24; Rom 10:9) and dependence upon the saving work of Jesus Christ. (John 1:12; Rom 10:13; Heb 7:25) In conversion, before true repentance can happen, faith must come first and is a divine work that comes from hearing God's Word. (Rom 10:17)

ii. Eternal Security

I believe that God's Word declares that all believers are eternally, forever saved. (John 3:16; 6:40, 47; Phil 1:6; 1 John 5:11-13) God is able to guard the believer's eternally security (2 Tim 1:12; 1 Peter 1:5) and will not allow anything to separate a believer from their union with Christ. (John 10:27-29; Rom 8:38-39)

VI. Ecclesiology-The Church

a. Defined

I believe the scripture speaks of the church in reference to an assembly of called-out believers in Jesus Christ. (Acts 2:44-47; Acts 11:22; Eph 5:25) The church is comprised of those in the "local" church (1 Cor 1:2; Heb 10:25) which is part of the "universal" church. (Eph 1:22-23; Col 1:18) This assembly of believers includes all believers, both Jew and Gentile, since the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor 12:13) The Church is the bride of Christ, (2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:22-32) purchased with Christ's Blood (Acts 20:28b; Eph 5:25) and is the body of Christ. (1 Cor 12:27; Eph 1:22-23, 4:12; Col 1:18) Jesus Christ is the Chief cornerstone (Eph 2:20; Act 4:11-12; 1 Cor 3:11) and the Head of the Church. (Col 1:18) The purpose of the church is to foremost bring glory to God, (1 Cor 10:31; Eph 3:21; 1Pet 4:11) to spread the Gospel (Mat 28:19-20; Act 1:8) and to edify other believers. (Rom 14:19; 1Thes 5:11; Heb 10:24-25)

b. Ordinances

I believe that Jesus Christ established and gave the church two ordinances to observe. Neither ordinance is a means of salvation or gaining grace from God, but each is an act of obedience to picture a spiritual reality.

i. Baptism

Water baptism is a believer's public identification with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom 6:3-6) and should be done in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Mat 28:19)
Water baptism should only be properly done after salvation and should be by immersion. (Act 8:36-39)

ii. Lord's Supper

I believe the Lord's Supper is a public reminder for believers of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Cor 11:24-25) The Lord's Supper was established by Christ before His crucifixion. (Mat 26:26-28)
Only true believers who are obeying and living their lives by careful examination from scripture may partake. (1 Cor 11:27-30)

c. Government

I believe that the local church must be governed under the authority of Christ by each local congregation and without any rule from an outside organization. (Mat 18:15-17; Act 4:32-35, 6:1-7) I believe there are two offices of human leadership within the local church and must meet the spiritual qualifications.

i. Pastors/Elders/Overseers (Act 14:23, 20:28; 1Pet 5:1-2)

I believe the office of the pastor is to oversee the work of the church and spiritually equip the assembled believers through the ministry of the Word and through prayer. (Eph 4:12; Act 6:4)

ii. Deacons (Act 6:1-6; 1 Tim 3:8-13)

I believe the office of the deacon is to care for the physical needs of the church.

I believe that both women and men are of equal importance to God and that God equally offers each the gift of salvation, yet I believe the scriptures teach that a woman may not teach or hold positions of authority over a man. (1 Tim 2:12-14)

VII. Angelology-Angels

a. Nature of Angels

I believe that all Angels were created by God's command (Psa 148:5; Joh 1:3; Col 1:16) and were originally created as sinless beings. (Gen 1:31; Mar 8:38; Jud 6) Angels can neither procreate, (Mat 22:30) nor die. (Luk 20:36) Angels are greater than humans in power and might, yet are inferior to God. (2 Peter 2:11) Human beings are made a little lower than the angels, (Heb 2:6-9) yet all believers in their future glorified bodies will judge angels. (1 Cor 6:3) The number of angels is too innumerable to count. (Heb 12:22; Rev 5:11) There are specific rankings of angels stated in scripture. Archangel-*high ranking angel* (Jud 9; 1 The 4:16; Rev 12:7); Chief Princes (Dan 10:13); Cherubim (Gen 3:24; Eze 28:14-17); Seraphim (Isaiah 6:1-6); Rulers/Powers/Principalities/Thrones/Dominions/Authorities (Rom 8:38; Eph 3:10, 6:12; Col 1:16; 1 Pet 3:22)

b. Good Angels

I believe there are angels God created that remained faithful to God and are called "Holy Angels" (Mark 8:38) or "Elect Angels." (1 Tim 5:21) Their primary role is to worship, praise and serve God. (Ps 148:1-2; Isa 6:3; Rev 5:11-12) Some of these faithful angels have designated responsibilities. Gabriel was used to relay important messages from God. (Dan 8:16, 9:21-22; Luk 1:19, 26) Cherubim guard the holiness of God. (Gen 3:24; 1 Kin 6:23-29) Seraphim are involved in the praise and worship of God. (Isa 6:1-3) Some angels have executed and will execute God's judgment. (Mat 13:41-42; Act 12:23; 2Thes 1:7-8; Rev 8, 9, 16) Some faithful angels serve the believer by helping, (Heb 1:13-14) guarding, (Psa 91:11) rescuing, (Act 5:19, 12:7-8) guiding (Act 8:26) and encouraging. (Act 27:23-24)

c. Fallen Angels

I believe that satan is the chief prince in the rebellion against God. (Mat 12:28) God cast satan out of heaven (Luk 10:18) because of His sin (Eze 28: 13-15) of pride in trying to exalt himself above God. (Isa 14:12-15) Satan leads a host of fallen angels (2Pet 2:4; Jud 6) called devils-*demonic beings*. (Mat 12:24) These demons serve satan in His goal of opposing God (Mat 4:1-11) and God's people. (Eph 6:12; 1Pet 5:8) Demons have caused physical illness, (Matt 12:22; Mar 9:17-27; Luk 13:16) spread false doctrine (1 Tim 4:1) and possessed people. (Mat 4:24, 12:22; Mar 1:23-26) Although, demons are in opposition to the believer, (Eph 6:12; 1Pet 5:8) I believe that a believer in Jesus Christ cannot be possessed with a demon, because of their new birth in Christ (Heb 2:14-15; 1 John 5:18) and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Rom 8:8-9; 1Joh 4:4) Demons will have an influence in drawing the kings of this world into the battle of Armageddon. (Rev 16:13-14)

VIII. Escatology-Future Events

a. Pre-tribulation Rapture

I believe in the Lord's imminent return for His Church. (Mat 25:1-13; Luk 12:40; 1The 5:2) We as believers should be living in the reality of Christ's imminent return (Titus 2:13) and should be comforted in the knowledge of Him taking us to be with Him. (1The 4:14-18) I believe the rapture will happen in a moment. (1 Cor 15:51-52) At the rapture, the dead in Christ will rise first, then those who are alive and remain will be taken with them to meet the Lord in the air and we all will be ever with the Lord. (1 Cor 15:51-58; 1The 4:13-18) I believe in a pre-tribulation rapture of the church because of God's purpose of pouring His judgment on the unbelieving world during the tribulation, (Rev 6-19) God's promise to the Church of not experiencing the wrath of God, (1The 1:10; 5:9) the

removal of the “restrainer” (ie-Holy Spirit/Church) before the tribulation, (2Thes 2:5-7) and God’s promise to keep the Church from that hour of Temptation. (Rev 3:10)

I believe that sometime after the Rapture and yet before the Second Coming of Christ, those “raptured” saints will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, give account for every work and will receive rewards accordingly. (Rom 14:12; 1 Cor 3:11-15; 2 Cor 5:10)

b. Tribulation

I believe after the rapture of the Church there will be a seven year period of God’s severe judgment on the earth as has never been experienced. (Mat 24:21; Rev 6-19) I believe the beginning of the tribulation will be marked by the Antichrist signing a covenant with Israel. (Dan 9:27) In the midst of those seven years, the covenant will be broken and the Antichrist will exalt himself as god. (Mat 24:15; 2 Thes 2:3-4) The remaining 3 ½ years will consist of horrible suffering and torment that the world has never before experienced. (Mat 24:8-10; 1 Thes 5:2-4; Rev 6:13-17) Through all this suffering, the gospel will be preached (Mat 24:14; Rev 7; Rev 11:3-13) and many from every nation will be converted. (Rev 7:9-14; 17:6)

c. Christ’s Premillennial Second Coming

I believe that Christ’s Second Coming at the Battle of Armageddon (Rev 16:16-21) will mark the end of the Tribulation period. Christ will come with great power and authority with His Saints (Rev 19:11-14) and He will utterly conquer all those who make war with Him. (Rev 19:15-21) The beast and the false prophet will be cast into the lake of fire forever (Rev 19:20) and Satan will be bound and cast into the bottomless pit for one thousand years. (Rev 20:1-3)

d. Millennium

I believe when Christ returns to earth with His Saints at the Battle of Armageddon, this will begin His literal, earthly rule for one thousand years-“millennium”. (Dan 7:13+14; Rev 20:4) Christ will reign exclusively and perfectly in a kingdom of peace and justice. (Isa 11:2-5; Rev 20:4) Under the authority of Christ’s kingdom, there will be other subordinate rulers who will share in the duties of His government. *ie-David, (Jer 30:8-9; Eze 37:24-25) Twelve Apostles, (Mat 19:28) Saints (1 Cor 6:2; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 20:4-6) and other various rulers. (Isa 32:1; Luk 19:11-27)* At the end of the millennium, Satan will be released from the bottomless pit and will lead a final rebellion of unbelievers against Christ. His pathetic attempt to lead and conquer will be divinely interrupted with a great devouring, heavenly fire. (Rev 20:7-9) Satan will be cast into the lake of fire and tormented day and night forever and ever. (Rev 20:10)

e. Great White Throne Judgment

I believe that all of the unsaved one day will stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment and will be judged according to their works. (Rev 20:11-13) The books that God will open will condemn every unbeliever to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. (Rev 20:12-15)

f. Eternity

I believe that God will create a new heaven and a new earth that will be the dwelling place for Him and all believers. (Rev 21:1-3) There will be no tears, sorrow, death or pain in this perfect recreated heaven and earth. (Rev 21:4) It will be perfectly holy and nothing defiled or unclean will enter in. (Rev 21:27) There will be no more curse upon the earth. (Rev 22:3) The wonderful glory of eternity will be the presence of God’s face radiating light over everything, everywhere and everyone. (Rev 22:4-5)

IX. Other

a. Marriage-Man and Woman

I believe the Biblical standard for marriage is between one man and one woman. (Gen 2:18-25; Mar 10:7; Eph 5:31) I believe that marriage is a commitment between a husband and a wife and should picture Christ's unselfish, sacrificial love for the Church. (Eph 5:22-31) I hold true that any kind of perversion outside the Biblical standard to marriage, such as homosexuality, polygamy, extramarital affairs, pre-marital sexual relations, is considered sin and not acceptable according to God's perfect plan. (1 Cor 6:15-20)

b. Divorce and Remarriage

I believe that God's perfect plan for marriage is for a husband and wife to remain committed to each other (Gen 2:18-25; Rom 7:2-3) and work out problems biblically by preferring one another and desiring each other's good above themselves. (1 Pet 3:1-7, Eph 5:22-31; Col 3:18-19) I believe that God hates divorce and doesn't permit the initiating of a divorce. (Mal 2:16; Mat 19:4-9; Mar 10:2-9; 1 Cor 7:10-13; Eph 5:28-33) In the case of separation or divorce, I believe that a Christian is not permitted to remarry or marry a divorced individual. (Mat 19:9; Mar 10:11-12; Luk 16:18) I believe a person involved in a divorce or separation should seek to reconcile that relationship with their spouse. (1 Cor 7:10-11)

c. Infant Death

Although all are guilty of sin before birth, (Ps 51:5) I believe that God shows divine mercy to all infants who die. I believe that since infants don't have the capacity to accept God's divine revelation by faith, God will save them. (Deut 1:39) One of the only passages referring to infant death is when King David was comforted in the realization that He would go to meet his deceased son one day. (2 Sam 12:23)

d. Music

I believe that music is moral and must represent Biblical truth in sound and words. I believe that the world has varying degrees of music that are evil, fleshly and sensual and therefore the Christian should avoid music exhibiting any kind of worldly characteristic. (1Joh 2:15-17) Since a believer's entire life is to be a sacrifice and glory to God, it is important to listen to music that is acceptable to God. (Rom 12:1-2)

I believe the modern CCM movement is nothing more than worldly music with Christian words. I believe CCM is inappropriate for true Biblical worship, since it adds elements of our culture and world. (Joh 4:23-24) Biblical worship music should be Spirit-filled, (Eph 5:18) Biblically true, (John 4:24) reverent, (Heb 12:28-29), joy-filled, (Ps 95:1-2) grace-filled (Col 3:16) and different from the world. (Ps 40:3; Ps 149:1)

e. Separation

I believe that both the unity and purity of Christ's church are important to the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ prayed for the unity of His people (John 17:20-23), and believers are commanded to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit through humility, love, and truth. (Eph 4:1-6; Col 3:12-14)

I also believe that Christ desires His church to be holy and protected from false doctrine and spiritual compromise. (Eph 5:25-27; Acts 20:28-30) Scripture teaches that apostasy will increase in the last days. (1 Tim 4:1; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Jude 3-4) Therefore, churches must separate from false teachers, false religious systems, and those who deny the Truths of Scripture. (Rom 16:17-18; Gal 1:8-9; 2 Cor 6:14-18; 2 John 9-11) I also believe that individual believers should exercise personal discernment regarding people or organizations that knowingly partner with those who compromise Biblical doctrine and practice. (Rom 16:17; 2 John 9-

11) I believe every believer is called to personal holiness and separation unto God. Christians should reject worldly philosophies, sinful practices, and associations that dishonor Christ and weaken their testimony. (Rom 12:1-2; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Eph 5:11) When a professing believer persists in doctrinal error or unrepentant sin, Biblical confrontation should be pursued with humility and restoration as the goal. If there is continued refusal to repent, the church must practice biblical discipline for the glory of God, the purity of the church, and the restoration of the individual. (Matt 18:15-17; Gal 6:1; 1 Cor 5:1-13)

Although, I appreciate some of the work of conservative evangelicals, I do not believe it would be right to partner with them ecclesiastically because of their compromise of doctrine and practice.

f. Alcohol and Drug Use

I believe that believers are commanded to live sober, self-controlled, and Spirit-filled lives that honor the Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:18; 1 Pet 1:13; 5:8) While Scripture specifically condemns drunkenness (Prov 20:1; Eph 5:18; Gal 5:21), I believe the Biblical principles of sobriety, self-control, and avoiding the appearance of evil lead believers to abstain from social drinking and the recreational use of marijuana or any other mind-altering substances. I believe that alcohol and marijuana impair sound judgment, harm personal testimony, and create unnecessary stumbling blocks for others. (Rom 14:13-21; 1 Cor 6:19-20; 10:31-32) Believers are called to be filled with the Spirit, walk in wisdom, and pursue holiness in every area of life. (Gal 5:16; Eph 5:18; 1 Thess 5:22)