

Doctrines of Proclaim Church

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1. The Bible

1.1 The Bible contains 66 books -- 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 books in the New Testament -- inspired and directed by the Holy Spirit and communicated through human authors.¹ The Bible is God's word in written form² true and without error in the original writings.³

1.2 The Bible is the complete revelation of God's will for saving mankind and is the final authority on all matters pertaining to life and death.⁴ The authority of the Bible depends on God alone and not on the testimony of any person or church.⁵

1.3 While our human limitations and sinfulness may keep us from knowing God's truth completely,⁶ through the work of the Holy Spirit,⁷ we can know God's word rightly, in order that we might believe, trust and obey. Wherever the Bible is less clear it must be understood in light of passages which are more clear.⁸ The Bible will stand till the end of time and lacks nothing.⁹

2. The Trinity

2.1 There is one living and true God.¹⁰ He eternally exists as the all-knowing, all-powerful, invisible, immortal¹¹, and infinitely perfect God. God, one in essence, exists in three persons¹² - Father,¹³ Son¹⁴ and Holy Spirit¹⁵ - each person being fully God, co-eternal, co-equal, sharing this essence in its entirety.

2.2 God is self-existent and self-sufficient, having perfect love, joy, and fellowship within the Trinity¹⁶. He is the creator of all things,¹⁷ yet having all life in and of Himself,¹⁸ he has no need of His creation.¹⁹ He upholds and sustains all things by His perfect will and rule.²⁰ God deserves all worship and obedience.²¹

¹ 2 Peter 1:21

² 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:13, 14:37

³ Proverbs 30:5; John 17:17; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 12:6; Titus 1:2

⁴ Matthew 4:4; 2 Timothy 3:14-17

⁵ 1 Thessalonians 2:13

⁶ 2 Peter 3:16

⁷ 1 Corinthians 2:9-16; John 14:26; John 16:13-14

⁸ 2 Peter 1:20-21

⁹ Psalm 119:160; Matthew 5:18; John 10:35

¹⁰ Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 16:16; 1 Timothy 4:10; Revelation 7:2

¹¹ 1 Timothy 1:17

¹² Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14

¹³ John 5:18, 20:17; Romans 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3

¹⁴ John 1:1-3

¹⁵ Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor 2:10-11

¹⁶ John 15:11, 17:26

¹⁷ Genesis 1; Colossians 1:16

¹⁸ John 5:26

¹⁹ Job 22:2, 3

²⁰ Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3

²¹ Revelation 5:12-14

God The Father

2.3 God the Father is all loving and all wise.²² He is the first person of the Trinity and all things were created from Him and exist for Him.²³ He wills both creation and redemption.²⁴ He is the ruler of heaven and earth with Jesus Christ seated with him on his royal throne.²⁵

2.4 Though he is Father to all creation,²⁶ he is revealed as father uniquely to his people. First, to the people of Israel,²⁷ and now, to all his children who are adopted through belief in the gospel.²⁸

God the Son (Jesus)

2.5 Jesus, God the Son,²⁹ was the word at the beginning.³⁰ He is the second person of the Trinity and all things were created and exist through Him.³¹ He is eternal and coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit.³² He was born of a virgin and came to earth as a man.³³ Being both fully God³⁴ and fully man,³⁵ he was tempted in every way that we are tempted, but prevailed against the temptation and lived the only perfect and sinless life in all history.³⁶

2.6 He willingly laid down his life,³⁷ being put to death by Roman crucifixion at the will of his own people.³⁸ On the cross the wrath of God was poured out on him for sin.³⁹ After three days in the grave, Jesus was raised from the dead⁴⁰ after which He walked among his friends and enemies for forty days⁴¹ until he ascended into heaven⁴² where he sits at the right hand of the Father⁴³ as our great high priest and advocate.⁴⁴

²² Matthew 6:6-9, 7:11, 24:36; Luke 11:13

²³ Genesis 1:1; 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

²⁴ Matthew 26:39; Luke 12:32; John 3:35; Luke 10:22

²⁵ John 1:18; Revelation 3:21

²⁶ 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6

²⁷ Exodus 4:22-23; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Isaiah 63:16

²⁸ Romans 8:14-15; Galatians 4:4-5

²⁹ Isaiah 9:6

³⁰ John 1:1-18

³¹ 1 Corinthians 8:5-6

³² Colossians 1:15-17; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

³³ Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:34-38; Philippians 2:6-7

³⁴ John 10:30-33; 14:9; Romans 1:2-4

³⁵ John 4:6; 19:28; Colossians 2:9

³⁶ 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22-23; Isaiah 53:9; Hebrews 4:15

³⁷ John 10:18

³⁸ Philippians 2:8; Isaiah 53:3

³⁹ 1 Corinthians 15:3; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:1-2; Ephesians 1:7; Isaiah 53:4-6, 11-12; Romans 3:23-25

⁴⁰ 1 Corinthians 15:4

⁴¹ 1 Corinthians 15:5-7

⁴² Acts 1:9-11

⁴³ Romans 8:34; Philippians 2:9-11

⁴⁴ Hebrews 4:14; 7:23-25; 9:13-15; 10:19

2.7 Jesus is the only way to salvation.⁴⁵

God the Spirit

2.8 The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, being eternal and equally God, present with the Father and Son at creation.⁴⁶ The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus to indwell and empower each believer for the sake of the kingdom of God on earth.⁴⁷

2.9 The Spirit convicts the world,⁴⁸ guides the believer into truth,⁴⁹ gives gifts to aid in the work of the gospel,⁵⁰ gives supernatural power to the believer,⁵¹ reveals the truth of the gospel and the Bible to the church,⁵² and seals the salvation of each believer.⁵³ To those the Spirit chooses, he regenerates, calls, enlightens, convicts, and hardens.⁵⁴

3. God's Eternal Purposes

3.1 God, according to his will,⁵⁵ unchangeably⁵⁶ foreknew and declared everything that occurs.⁵⁷ God upholds and governs all things⁵⁸ according to his purposes in such a way that He never sins⁵⁹ or is unjust.⁶⁰

3.2 God predestined those who would be saved through Jesus Christ,⁶¹ before the foundation of the world,⁶² according to his purpose and grace⁶³ and without regard for any condition or work of the elect.⁶⁴ By this, those who God chose, are delivered from bondage to sin,⁶⁵ brought to repentance,⁶⁶ saved through faith in Jesus Christ,⁶⁷ and enter into His eternal kingdom.⁶⁸

⁴⁵ Colossians 1:19-21; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 3:8; John 14:6

⁴⁶ Genesis 1:2

⁴⁷ John 14:16-17, 16:7; Acts 1:4, 8; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18; Matthew 3:11

⁴⁸ John 16:8

⁴⁹ John 16:13

⁵⁰ Romans 12:3-8

⁵¹ Acts 2:14-21, 4:29-30

⁵² John 14:26

⁵³ 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14

⁵⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 3:2-6

⁵⁵ Ephesians 1:11

⁵⁶ Hebrews 6:17

⁵⁷ Genesis 15:13; Isaiah 46:10; Proverbs 16:33, 19:21; John 6:64, 19:36-37

⁵⁸ Genesis 50:20; Job 9:7, 37:6-13; Psalm 33:10-11, 147:15-18; Proverbs 16:9, 20:24, 21:1; Amos 3:6; Lamentations 3:37-38; Matthew 10:29-30

⁵⁹ 1 John 1:5; James 1:13

⁶⁰ Deuteronomy 32:4; Daniel 4:37; Romans 1:20, 2:11-14

⁶¹ John 6:37-39, 10:25-29

⁶² Ephesians 1:4

⁶³ Romans 8:28-30, 11:5-8; Ephesians 1:11

⁶⁴ 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Romans 9:11-18

⁶⁵ Romans 6:17, 8:2

⁶⁶ Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:24-25

⁶⁷ John 6:44, 65; Philipians 1:29; Ephesians 2:8-9, Matthew 16:17

⁶⁸ 2 Peter 1:10-11

4. God's Creation

4.1 God created the universe and everything in it, both visible and invisible, out of nothing.⁶⁹ All His creation was very good.⁷⁰ God requires nothing,⁷¹ but created everything for His glory.⁷²

4.2 God created mankind⁷³, both male and female, equally in His image⁷⁴ and without sin.⁷⁵

4.3 Adam and Eve were created for God's glory and to live in relationship with one another,⁷⁶ establishing marriage as a one-flesh union between one man and one woman, each with differing and complementary roles which is a reflection of the loving relationship between Christ and the church.⁷⁷

5. Man's Fall

5.1 Although God created Adam and Eve without sin, they were led astray by Satan⁷⁸ and sinned.⁷⁹ As a result of Adam's direct disobedience of God's command, each person is a sinner by nature and choice⁸⁰ corrupting the fellowship between God, mankind and all creation.⁸¹

5.2 Each person is corrupted in every aspect,⁸² enslaved to sin,⁸³ and are morally unable to delight in God.⁸⁴ Therefore, as children of wrath⁸⁵ mankind is condemned to death and eternal punishment.⁸⁶ Mankind is unable to save themselves or contribute in any way to their acceptance before God.⁸⁷

6. Gospel

6.1 Though everything God created was good,⁸⁸ man destroyed that goodness with sin⁸⁹ and brought himself under the curse of the law.⁹⁰ Even so, God made a way for the restoration of

⁶⁹ Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:16

⁷⁰ Genesis 1:31

⁷¹ Acts 17:25

⁷² Isaiah 43:7; Romans 11:36

⁷³ Genesis 2:7

⁷⁴ Genesis 1:26-27, 9:6; James 3:9

⁷⁵ Genesis 1:31; Ecclesiastes 7:29

⁷⁶ Genesis 2:18; Isaiah 43:7

⁷⁷ Ephesians 5:22-33

⁷⁸ Ecclesiastes 7:29; Genesis 3:1; Genesis 3:13; 2 Corinthians 11:3

⁷⁹ Genesis 2:17, 3:6

⁸⁰ Psalm 51:5; Job 14:4

⁸¹ Genesis 3:7-8; Romans 8:19-23

⁸² Titus 1:15; Genesis 6:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:10-19; Ephesians 2:2-3

⁸³ James 1:14-15; Romans 6:16, 20

⁸⁴ 1 Corinthians 2:14; Romans 8:7-8; Deuteronomy 29:4

⁸⁵ Ephesians 2:3

⁸⁶ Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21

⁸⁷ Romans 8:7; Colossians 1:21

⁸⁸ Genesis 1:31

⁸⁹ Genesis 3:14-19

⁹⁰ Galatians 3:10

relationships between man, the world and God.⁹¹ This work is revealed in the gospel, the true story of all of creation, with Jesus Christ as the center and it's full revelation.⁹²

6.2 Jesus Christ lived the perfect life we should have lived,⁹³ died the death we should have died,⁹⁴ and rose again, proving his power over sin and death⁹⁵ in order to reconcile sinful man with a loving God who sacrificed himself to be with us.⁹⁶ Through this good news, Jesus Christ is renewing and redeeming all creation to himself.⁹⁷ All of God's work in Christ will come to completion in eternity and will last for eternity.⁹⁸

7. Salvation

7.1 Mankind cannot save themselves. Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.⁹⁹

7.2 Mankind, because they are spiritually dead in sin,¹⁰⁰ cannot obey or please God.¹⁰¹ God calls those He predestined¹⁰² spiritually opening our eyes,¹⁰³ enlightening our minds,¹⁰⁴ and renewing our hearts.¹⁰⁵ This regeneration frees us from slavery to sin¹⁰⁶ into life¹⁰⁷ in Jesus Christ.¹⁰⁸

7.3 God justifies the elect,¹⁰⁹ declaring righteous those who, through faith in Christ, repent of their sins¹¹⁰ and submit to Jesus as Lord¹¹¹. Christ takes the punishment for our sin and gives us His righteousness¹¹² by His perfect life and death.¹¹³ Therefore, God's justice and wrath is fully and permanently satisfied on our behalf.¹¹⁴

7.4 All who are justified are adopted by God,¹¹⁵ made heirs of God,¹¹⁶ and given the Holy Spirit¹¹⁷ who guarantees our inheritance.¹¹⁸

⁹¹ Romans 3:20-21

⁹² Hebrews 1:1-3

⁹³ 1 John 3:5; Hebrews 4:15; Romans 5:18-19

⁹⁴ 1 Peter 3:18

⁹⁵ Romans 14:9

⁹⁶ 2 Corinthians 5:21

⁹⁷ Colossians 1:20

⁹⁸ Revelation 21:1-7

⁹⁹ Titus 3:5

¹⁰⁰ Ephesians 2:1, 5

¹⁰¹ Romans 8:7-8; Titus 3:3; John 6:44; Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰² Romans 8:30, 11:7; Ephesians 1:4-5, 11

¹⁰³ 2 Corinthians 4:4-6

¹⁰⁴ Ephesians 1:17-18; Acts 26:18

¹⁰⁵ Ezekiel 36:26

¹⁰⁶ Colossians 1:13; John 8:36

¹⁰⁷ Romans 3:28; 4:4-5; Galatians 2:16

¹⁰⁸ Ephesians 2:1-6

¹⁰⁹ Romans 3:24; 8:30, 33

¹¹⁰ Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 11:18; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Isaiah 55:6-7

¹¹¹ Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 12:3; 2 Corinthians 4:5; Philipians 2:11

¹¹² 2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:5-8; Ephesians 1:7

¹¹³ Romans 8:1, 3; Galatians 3:13; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Isaiah 53:5

¹¹⁴ 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Romans 5:9-10, 8:1, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; John 5:24

¹¹⁵ Ephesians 1:5; Galatians 4:4-5; John 1:12

¹¹⁶ Galatians 4:7; Romans 8:17

¹¹⁷ Romans 8:15

¹¹⁸ Ephesians 1:5, 11, 13-14; 4:30; 1 Peter 1:5; Jude 24

8. Church

8.1 There is one universal church of all true believers from all time. It consists of those who are chosen in Christ,¹¹⁹ united with Christ through faith by the Spirit,¹²⁰ submitted to Christ,¹²¹ and prepared by Christ for eternity.¹²² The visible or local church is a covenant community of baptized believers who carry out the work designed for the church by God¹²³.

8.2 The purpose of the church is glorify God¹²⁴ and make disciples.¹²⁵ For this reason, the local church is the primary method for offering the gospel to every tribe and tongue and people and nation.¹²⁶

8.3 The Holy Spirit continues to work in and through the church giving spiritual gifts as in the New Testament.¹²⁷ These gifts are neither essential for salvation nor an indication of spiritual maturity, but are designed to empower the church to fulfill its purpose by testifying to the gospel¹²⁸ and building up the church.¹²⁹ They are to be eagerly desired and lovingly practiced.¹³⁰

8.4 Each local church should recognize and affirm¹³¹ the calling of spiritually qualified men¹³² to give leadership to the church and oversight to its teaching through the role of pastor-elder.¹³³

9. Ordinances

9.1 There are two Scriptural ordinances, or sacraments, instituted by Christ, which are to be continued until Christ's second coming: Baptism¹³⁴ and the Lord's Supper¹³⁵ (Eucharist). By these tangible ordinances, Christ and the benefits of the new covenant are represented, sealed, and applied¹³⁶.

¹¹⁹ John 10:16, 15:16

¹²⁰ 1 John 1:3; Ephesians 4:3-6

¹²¹ Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:15-16, 5:23; Colossians 1:18

¹²² Ephesians 5:25-27

¹²³ Acts 8:1; 1 Corinthians 16:19

¹²⁴ Ephesians 3:10; Matthew 5:14-16

¹²⁵ Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8

¹²⁶ Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Colossians 1:23; Revelation 5:9

¹²⁷ John 14:12; Acts 4:29-30; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

¹²⁸ Acts 2:14-21; 9:42

¹²⁹ 1 Corinthians 12:7; 14:3-5, 12, 26; Galatians 3:1-5

¹³⁰ Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1

¹³¹ Acts 14:23; Titus 1:5

¹³² 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9

¹³³ 1 Timothy 2:12-13

¹³⁴ Matthew 28:19-20

¹³⁵ 1 Corinthians 11:26

¹³⁶ Genesis 17:7, 10; 1 Corinthians 11:23, 26)

Baptism

9.2 Baptism is commanded by Jesus¹³⁷. It is a sign and seal of one's regeneration, of forgiveness of sins, and of union with Christ¹³⁸. It signifies fellowship with Christ in his death and resurrection by which one walks in the newness of life¹³⁹.

9.3 Baptism admits the one baptized into the visible Church¹⁴⁰ and is administered by water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit¹⁴¹. Although it is a sin to neglect it¹⁴², baptism is not necessary for regeneration or salvation¹⁴³ nor does the act of baptism, in itself, produce regeneration¹⁴⁴.

The Lord's Supper

9.4 The Lord's Supper, also known as communion or the Eucharist, is for gathered believers¹⁴⁵. Prior to his crucifixion, Christ ate his last meal with his disciples and commanded them to remember his body given and blood shed for his people. Therefore, the Lord's Supper is a time of remembrance for the believer.¹⁴⁶

9.5 When believers participate in communion they share, not physically, but spiritually, in the body and blood of Christ to their spiritual benefit.¹⁴⁷ There is no sacrifice of Christ in the observance of communion. Rather, it is a remembrance of the sacrifice of Christ once for all¹⁴⁸ and a proclamation of Christ's death until He comes.¹⁴⁹ Therefore, each believer should prepare their heart before partaking in communion, confessing and repenting of any sin in their life.¹⁵⁰

¹³⁷ Matthew 28:19

¹³⁸ Titus 3:5; Mark 1:4; Romans 6:5

¹³⁹ Romans 6:3-5; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12

¹⁴⁰ 1 Corinthians 12:13

¹⁴¹ Matthew 3:11; 28:19-20

¹⁴² Luke 7:30

¹⁴³ Acts 10:2, 4, 22, 31, 45, 47; Romans 4:11

¹⁴⁴ Acts 8:13, 23

¹⁴⁵ 1 Corinthians 11:17-20, 22

¹⁴⁶ 1 Corinthians 11:24-25

¹⁴⁷ 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; John 6:53-57, 63

¹⁴⁸ Hebrews 9:25-28

¹⁴⁹ 1 Corinthians 11:26

¹⁵⁰ 1 Corinthians 11:27-29

10. Christian Living

10.1 Redeemed people are to live in a redeeming way in all areas of life.¹⁵¹ Indeed, the faith by which the elect receive redemption necessarily produces, by the Holy Spirit and the Word,¹⁵² transformed lives¹⁵³ as their minds are renewed by faith in Christ.¹⁵⁴

10.2 Christians are marked by the pursuit of reconciliation and the Fruit of the Spirit.¹⁵⁵ We are to live in love¹⁵⁶ and unity, generosity and hospitality,¹⁵⁷ forgiving one another,¹⁵⁸ and meeting regularly.¹⁵⁹ We care for the poor and marginalized and are marked as distinctly different than the rest of fallen mankind.¹⁶⁰

10.3 Though we cannot achieve perfection on earth,¹⁶¹ we strive to be holy¹⁶² and join with the Holy Spirit in our sanctification.¹⁶³

11. Eternal State

11.1 At an appointed time that no man will know,¹⁶⁴ Jesus Christ will visibly return to the earth,¹⁶⁵ in the flesh¹⁶⁶ and in power,¹⁶⁷ to renew all things.¹⁶⁸

11.2 Jesus will raise the dead¹⁶⁹ and judge everyone who has ever lived¹⁷⁰: God's people to eternal joy with their Creator¹⁷¹ and God's enemies (those who did not believe the gospel) to eternal punishment in hell.¹⁷² Heaven and hell are literal places that last for eternity.¹⁷³

¹⁵¹ Matthew 5:23-26; Luke 17:3; James 2:17, 26

¹⁵² 2 Thessalonians 2:13

¹⁵³ 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Acts 26:18

¹⁵⁴ Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:20-24

¹⁵⁵ Galatians 5:22-23

¹⁵⁶ 1 Peter 4:8

¹⁵⁷ Acts 20:35; 1 Timothy 6:18-19; 1 John 3:17; 2 Corinthians 9:7; Romans 12:13; 15:2-3; Hebrews 13:2

¹⁵⁸ Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13

¹⁵⁹ Hebrews 10:25

¹⁶⁰ James 1:27; 1 Peter 2:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8

¹⁶¹ Romans 7:18, 23; Philippians 3:12

¹⁶² Hebrews 12:14

¹⁶³ Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Corinthians 15:10

¹⁶⁴ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-4; Matthew 22:42-44, 50; Mark 13:32-33; Luke 12:40

¹⁶⁵ Revelation 1:7-8

¹⁶⁶ Luke 24:39-43; Acts 1:11

¹⁶⁷ Philippians 3:20-21

¹⁶⁸ Acts 3:19-21; Revelation 21:1; 22:20-21

¹⁶⁹ Acts 24:15; John 5:28-29

¹⁷⁰ 1 Corinthians 4:5; Acts 17:31; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18; 2 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 22:12-13; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:10, 12

¹⁷¹ Colossians 3:4; Matthew 25:34-40; Psalm 16:11

¹⁷² Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Mark 9:48

¹⁷³ 2 Corinthians 5:1; Matthew 25:46; Revelations 14:9-11

11.3 After the final judgement, Christ will usher in His final and earthly kingdom, bringing heaven on earth.¹⁷⁴ For all eternity we will worship Him for His mercy toward us and His justice against sin.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷⁴ Isaiah 65:17; 2 Peter 3:13

¹⁷⁵ Romans 9:22-23