

First John Church

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

ARTICLE 1. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the verbally inspired Word of God, authoritative and without error in the original manuscripts. We further believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are designed for our practical instruction in faith and conduct. (II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:21).

ARTICLE 2. THE GODHEAD

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three Persons - the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and that these three are one God. (Deuteronomy 6:4, Genesis 1:26, Matthew 28:19).

ARTICLE 3. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, came into the world that He might manifest God to men, fulfill prophecy and become the Redeemer of a lost world. To this end, He was born of the Virgin Mary, received a human body and a sinless human nature, without ceasing to be God.

We believe that, in infinite love for the lost, He voluntarily accepted His Father's will and became the divinely provided sacrificial Lamb and took away the sin of the world.

We believe that He arose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which he had lived and died and that His resurrected body is the pattern of that body which ultimately will be given to all believers.

We believe that on departing from the earth, He was accepted of His Father and that His acceptance is a final assurance to us that His redeeming work was perfectly accomplished.

We believe that He became Head over all things, including the church which is His body, and in this ministry He does not cease to intercede and to be an advocate for the saved. Luke 1:35, John 1:1, 14, 18, 29, I Corinthians 15:1-3, Ephesians 1:23, Philippians 2:6-8, I Timothy 2:5, I John 2:1-2).

ARTICLE 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, dwells in every believer immediately after he places

his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and God provides through the Holy Spirit, power to live the Christian life.

We believe that every believer receives grace from God in the form of a spiritual ability which enables him to function as a member of the body of Christ. (Romans 8:9, Romans 12:6, I Corinthians 12:7, Ephesians 4:7).

ARTICLE 5. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe that Satan, or the devil, is the prince of demons, and is the declared adversary of God and man. However, when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, He limited the power of the evil one. (Ephesians 2:2, I Peter 5:8, Revelation 20:10). Angels were originally created Holy, but now exist as unfallen and fallen, including Satan. (Col 1:16; Neh 9:6; Matt 25:41; Rev 12:9; Eph 6 11-12)

ARTICLE 6. SALVATION

We believe that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again spiritually, and that the new birth of the believer comes only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We believe also that our redemption has been accomplished by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and that this redemption is by the grace of God, an unmerited gift, given in love by God and not the result of any human works.

We believe that upon receiving the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, the believer passes immediately out of spiritual death into spiritual life, and into fellowship with God.

We also believe that once this salvation is accomplished, we and all true believers everywhere shall be kept saved forever. (John 3:5, John 10:28-29, Romans 3:24, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, Ephesians 2:5).

ARTICLE 7. THE CHURCH

We believe that all who are united to the risen and ascended Son of God are members of the church which is the body of Christ.

We believe that the explicit message of our Lord Jesus Christ to those whom He has saved is to make Christ known to the whole world and that this is the purpose of the church as individuals.

We believe that the church as a group gathers together for practical instruction in the Scriptures, fellowship with God and with other believers and for corporate witness to the unsaved likeness. (Matthew 18:18-20, Acts 2:42, Ephesians 2:11-18, Ephesians 4:13-16).

ARTICLE 8. THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe that a future period of great tribulation on the earth will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth as He went in person in the clouds, and with power and great glory. But prior to this tribulation, we believe that there will be the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air to receive unto Himself into Heaven both His own who are alive and remain unto His coming and also all who have died in Christ Jesus. (I Thessalonians 4:13-17, Zechariah 14:4-11, Revelation 3:10).

ARTICLE 9. THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe that at death, the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body when Christ comes for His own, whereupon soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory. (II Corinthians 5:8, Revelation 20:11-15).

ARTICLE 10. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BELIEVERS

We believe that all believers should seek to walk by the Spirit, separating themselves from worldly practices; witnessing by life and by word to the Truths of Holy Scripture. (Romans 12:1, Galatians 5:16,25, II Corinthians 5:17).

ARTICLE 11. CHURCH ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be observed by all believers until His return. (Matthew 28:19, Luke 22:19).

We believe that the ordinance of Baptism is immersion of the believer in water as it sets forth the essential facts in redemption - the death and resurrection of Christ as well as the essential facts in the experience of the believer - death to sin and resurrection to newness of life. (Romans 6:4, Acts 8:39).

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a privilege accorded to all believers in commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes. (I Corinthians 11:26).