

Submitted by:

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Continental Baptist Missions

## Doctrinal Statement

### I. Doctrine of the Bible

#### 1. Briefly define inspiration as it relates to the Bible, and list two passages of Scripture that clearly teach the doctrine.

- Inspiration, meaning “God Breathed,” teaches us that God, using the Holy Spirit, worked through man to record the Scriptures, which includes both the Old and New Testaments. God used human authors and their own individual styles, while maintaining the inerrancy of the Scriptures in their original writings.
- 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:21

#### 2. What is the distinction between verbal and plenary inspiration?

- Verbal inspiration means that the Holy Spirit directed as far as even the selection of each word (Matt 5:18). Each word is the exact word that God wanted to use. Plenary inspiration means that the Bible as a whole- each part of it- is inspired.

#### 3. How would you explain to an unbeliever the apparent contradictions, or “errors”, in the Bible?

- First, it would be my responsibility to explain that the Bible is in fact free from error or contradiction. God gave the Scriptures to man, and they were inspired by God (2 Peter 1:21). **God is truth, and cannot lie** (Titus 1:2, Hebrews 6:18); therefore, we can know that everything in our Bible is truth—free from errors or contradictions. Apparent contradictions in the Bible may just represent different points of view by the authors (for example, the four gospels). Also, to explain apparent “errors,” I would explain that there are no errors in the Bible; the Bible is inerrant (Psalm 12:6).

#### 4. Briefly explain your position as regard the KJV-Only controversy, and indicate your preference for versions in public ministry.

- The belief that the KJV is an inspired translation is a controversy that I do not agree with. The original writings were the only inspired text. I believe that the translations that are with us today taken from the Greek and Hebrew are accurate because of the doctrine of preservation. I feel that it should not be an issue in our churches. My personal preference is NASB, ESV, NIV, KJV, and NKJV. When preparing sermons or lessons, I tend to use NASB because it is easier for me to study out of. I feel that this version tends to be more accurate with its translation.

**5. Is your choice of Bible versions a “test of fellowship” for your ministry?**

- No.

**6. Briefly state your view of the “sufficiency of Scripture” as it relates to such matters as practical Christianity and your view of Biblical counseling.**

- 2 Timothy 3:16 says that all Scripture is “useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.” The Bible can give believers and our counselees complete help in life and practice. The Bible addresses every situation we can face, whether directly or indirectly. It can provide answers for us every time. The Bible is the only counseling tool that will point toward salvation—which is the ultimate answer to our greatest problem in life: separation from God. The Bible provides us with an absolute authority: a reason for why we do what we do. The Bible is able to equip us for effective living. The Bible also guards us against deception of the world; it can reveal to us the truth and help us change.

## **II. Doctrine of God**

**1. List and briefly identify five central attributes of God, with at least one Scripture where this attribute is applied to God.**

- Omnipresence: God is beyond the limits of space and time; He is everywhere. (Jeremiah 23:23-24, Psalm 139: 7-10).
- Omniscience: God fully knows everything, both actual and possible (All Knowing) (Job 37:16, 1 John 3:20, Psalm 139:1-6).
- Omnipotence: God can do all things consistent with His will (All Powerful) (Genesis 18:14, Matthew 19:26).
- Wisdom: God always chooses the best goals and the best means to those goals (Job 12:13, Romans 16:27).
- Holiness: God is separated from sin and devoted to seeking his own honor (Exodus 15:11, Isaiah 6:3).

**2. Is there a basic, or foundational, attribute of God? If so, what is it and why is it basic to all others?**

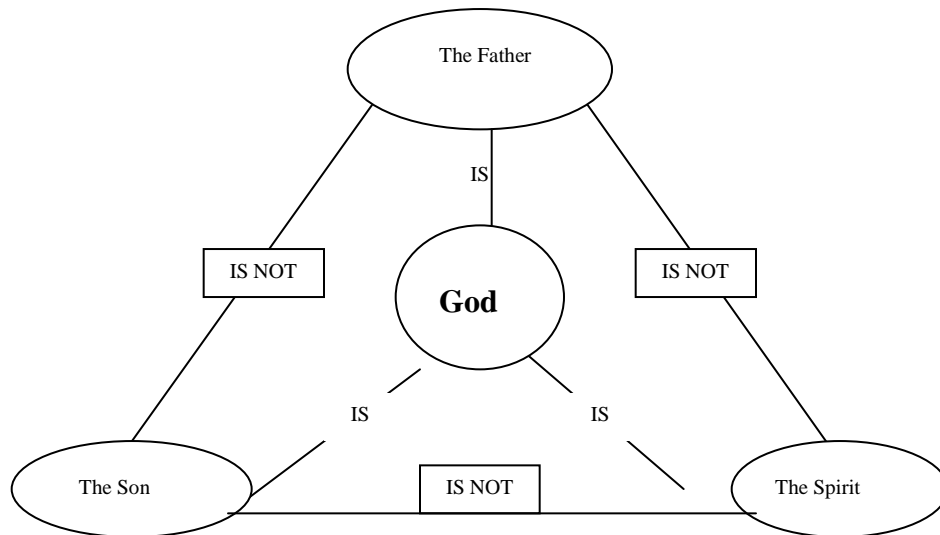
- All of His attributes are what define Him, and we would tend to not separate one from the others. However, if forced to choose, we would say that holiness is God’s foundational attribute. His holiness is what separates Him from His creation as the only example of perfection and purity.

**3. Give a simple explanation for God's tri-unity (trinity) and list two places in scripture where this feature of the Godhead is displayed.**

- God eternally exists as three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.
- Matthew 28:19, 1 Peter 1:2

**4. What is the relationship between the persons of the Godhead?**

- Each person is completely and fully God, each has all the attributes of God. However, each person is distinct in function.
- God the Father: Chooses whom shall be saved: the elect (1 Peter 1:2).
- Jesus Christ the Son: Died for the sins of the world: became flesh to provide the way of salvation (Mark 8:31).
- Holy Spirit: Permanently indwells us after salvation (Ephesians 1:13-14).



**III. Doctrine of Christ**

**1. Briefly explain your understanding of how Jesus Christ could be both God and man simultaneously.**

- Jesus Christ is one person with two natures. He had the nature of humanity, and the nature of God. Christ is 100% man and 100% God (hypostatic union)(John 1:14, Philippians 2:1-12). Christ claimed to be the great I AM (John 8:58), and the Alpha and the Omega (Revelation 22:13). At the same time, Christ had all the qualities of a man: physical body (Luke 2:7), soul (Matt. 26:38), emotions (Matt. 9:36, John 11:34,35), human mind (Luke 2:52), limitations in thirst (John 19:28), hunger (Matt. 4:2), and tiredness (John 4:6).

**2. Give several indicators of the deity of Christ and cite the Scriptures where these are seen.**

- Christ's deity is seen in His names:
  - Son of God—Matthew 16:16, 26:63-64
  - Holy & Righteous One—Acts 3:14
  - The Alpha and Omega—Revelation 22:13
  - Mighty God—Isaiah 9:6
  - Wonderful Counselor—Isaiah 9:6
  - Everlasting Father—Isaiah 9:6
  - Prince of Peace—Isaiah 9:6
- Christ's deity is seen in His divine attributes:
  - Omnipotence—Matthew 8:26-27
  - Omniscience—John 6:64
  - Omnipresence—Matthew 28:20
  - Truth—John 14:6
- Christ's deity is shown in His works:
  - Creation—John 1:3
  - Preservation—Colossians 1:17
  - Victory over death—John 11:43-44
  - Forgiveness – Mark 2:1-12
- Christ's deity is shown in His acceptance of worship:
  - By men—Matthew 14:33
  - By the angels—Hebrews 1:6
  - By all—Philippians 2:10

**3. Define virgin birth as it applies to Jesus Christ, and state why you believe this doctrine is important.**

- The virgin birth is the method by which Jesus came into the world (incarnation). This conception was a miraculous work by the Holy Spirit without a human father.
- The virgin birth is important because it shows that salvation must ultimately come from the Lord. It shows that we cannot be saved through man's effort, but only by a miracle and work of God's grace (Gal. 4:4-5). The fact that He was born of a virgin means that He did not inherit the sinful nature of man. The Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary's sinfulness so that her sinfulness would not contaminate Jesus' sinlessness in any way (Luke 1:35). The virgin birth enabled Jesus to be our Savior and the only perfect sacrifice.

**4. Explain your understanding of the extent of Christ's atonement as cited in 1John 2:2 (in what way is He the "propitiation...for the sins of the whole world?")**

- When Christ died on the cross, He died for the sins of the whole world. His atonement is not limited in its offer (2

Corinthians 5:14-15, 19; 1 Timothy 2:4-6), but it is limited in its reception. Not everyone will accept His offer of salvation, but Christ desires all to come to Him in repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Christ as our propitiation means that by His death, He satisfies the wrath of God.

#### **5. What are the evidences for Christ's bodily resurrection, and why is this doctrine critical to Biblical Christianity?**

- His appearances:
  - Mary Magdalene—Mark 16:9
  - Peter—Luke 24:34
  - His disciples (Thomas)—Luke 24:36, Luke 24:13-15, John 20:19-29
  - The 500 brethren—1 Corinthians 15:6-7
  - The Ascension—Acts 1:3-12, Mark 16:19
- The empty tomb—Matthew 28:6
  
- 1 Corinthians 15:13-19 states a logical argument for the importance of Christ's resurrection. The Christian faith would be futile if not for the resurrection of Jesus; we would still be in our sins, and we would have no hope beyond this life. Moreover, all those who preached the resurrection in Bible times and those who preach it now would be liars. This doctrine is critical because it fulfills prophecy, and therefore validates Christianity (Isaiah 53). The resurrection is also important in proving that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Romans 1:4), and it confirms the truth of everything He said while on Earth (Matthew 28:6).

### **IV. Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**

#### **1. Who (or what) is the Holy Spirit?**

- The Holy Spirit is God. He is one of three persons of God, and exhibits personality traits in intelligence (1Cor. 2:11), feelings (Eph. 4:30), and will (1Cor. 12:11).

#### **2. Cite several biblical evidences for the deity of the Holy Spirit.**

- Identification with God (2Sam. 23:2-3).
- The Holy Spirit is called God (Acts 5:3-4).
- Divine Associations (Matt. 28:19, 2Cor. 13:14)
- Divine attributes
  - Omniscience (1Cor. 2:10-11)
  - Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10)
  - Omnipotence (Luke 1:35)
  - Eternally exists (Heb. 9:14)

- Divine works
  - Regeneration (John 3:3-6)
  - Inspiration (2Peter 1:21)
  - Conviction of Sin (John 16:8)

**3. What are several ministries of the Holy Spirit during the Church Age (use Scripture)?**

- Convicts of sin (John 16:8)
- Regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- Indwelling (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- Sealing (Ephesians 1:13-14)
- Filling (Ephesians 5:18)
- Spiritual Gifts (Romans 12, Corinthians 12, Ephesians 4, 1Peter 4)
- Prayer (Romans 8:26-27)
- Baptism (1Corinthians 12:13)
- Teaching (John 16:12-15)
- Guiding (Romans 8:14)
- Assuring (Romans 8:16)

**4. What is your understanding of the baptism of (or by, or with) the Holy Spirit? Who is/was the object of this baptism and what is its result?**

- The Baptism of or by the Holy Spirit is the work by which we are brought into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. The object of this baptism is the believer, it occurs in the life of the believer immediately at the time of regeneration. We do not believe in what some might call ‘baptism with the Holy Spirit’ as a special endowment of power such as tongues. The results of this baptism by the Holy Spirit are that it unifies the believer with the body of Christ (the church). It also unifies us with Christ Himself, in His death and resurrection. It also puts believers in a position to receive power (Rom. 6:3-4, 1 Cor. 12:13).

**5. What is the filling of the Holy Spirit, who gets it, when, and to what effect?**

- The filling of the Holy Spirit is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18). Those who receive the filling of the Holy Spirit are those believers who actively seek to be filled and to live under the Spirit’s control. These people will invest their time in God’s Word and in prayer; they will strive to live Holy lives, and they will yield themselves to the Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is an ongoing process, something that should always be sought after. The

result of being filled by the Spirit is the development of the fruit of the Spirit in the life of the believer (Galatians 5:22-23).

**6. Is the gift of speaking in tongues apropos for today? Why or why not?**

- The gift of tongues was used by God to spread His message on the day of Pentecost and after. Tongues is the God-given ability to speak in a language that is unknown to the speaker. God used this gift to build His church among the nations by communicating truth from God, and then as a sign to prove the authenticity of His messengers. The gift of tongues has ceased as a spiritual gift (1 Corinthians 13:8). This is a revelatory gift, meant to reveal God's truth in order to lay the foundations of the church. Since the foundations for the church age have been laid, the gift of tongues has ceased (Ephesians 2:20, Hebrews 2:4).

**7. List several spiritual gifts active in the Church today. What is yours, why do you think so?**

- Evangelism- Eph. 4
  - Pastor- Eph. 4
  - Serving- Rom. 12, 1Cor. 12, Eph. 4
  - Teaching- Rom. 12, 1Cor. 12, Eph. 4
  - Faith- 1Cor. 12
  - Exhortation- Rom. 12
  - Discernment- 1Cor 12
  - Showing mercy- Rom. 12
  - Giving- Rom. 12
  - Hospitality- 1Peter 4
  - Administration- Rom. 12, 1Cor. 12
  - Wisdom and Knowledge- 1Cor. 12
- Andy has the gifts of Serving and hospitality and Faith. Elizabeth has the gifts of Teaching and Administration.

**8. What is your view of "divine healing" in post-apostolic times?**

- The gift of healing was a gift used to verify the authenticity of God's message and His messengers in the apostolic times. Therefore, since that message has been verified, the gift of healing has ceased (Hebrews 2:3-4). It is no longer a gift that a believer can possess, however, God Himself still heals within His will.

## V. Doctrine of Salvation

### 1. What do you understand by the term election as it applies to the work of the Father in salvation?

- Election is the act of God whereby He chose some people to be saved before the creation of the world. This choice was not based on any good merit in man, but upon God's sovereign good pleasure (John 6:44, Eph. 1:3-5).

### 2. How do you explain the relationship of Divine sovereignty and human responsibility in the working out of an individual's salvation?

- God has chosen those who are to become his children. He has chosen us by His grace alone, not of anything that we have done to possibly earn it (Titus 3:5-6). Our part is to believe through faith. God's part is to save, our part is to believe, the two work together (Eph 2:8-9).

### 3. What does it mean to be justified?

- Justification is the act of God whereby he declares the sinner righteous, and views him as if he had never sinned. The righteousness of Christ was given to believers through the death of Christ, thus making justification possible (Romans 3:24).

### 4. What are repentance and faith, and what part do they play in conversion?

- Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ (Acts 2:38).
- Faith is trust in Jesus Christ as a living person for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life with God (Romans 10:9).
- Repentance is the necessary first step in conversion. When we repent, we realize that we are sinners and that Christ is the perfect Messiah. Instead of staying in our sin, repentance involves actually turning from that sinful lifestyle, and choosing to live righteously. Faith in conversion means that we believe what God says is true: Jesus died and rose again for our sins, giving us eternal life.

### 5. Briefly state your understanding of the security of the believer, and cite several Scriptures where this doctrine is clearly taught.

- A believer can never lose their salvation once they have become a child of God. The Holy Spirit acts as a seal or a deposit guaranteeing us our inheritance.

- References
  - The Holy Spirit seals us -Ephesians 1:13-14
  - Christ will not loose those who have been given to Him –John 6:39
  - No one can be plucked or can pluck themselves out of Christ’s saving hand –John 10:28-29
  - Nothing can separate us from God –Romans 8:33-39
  - Christ will continue the work of salvation in each believer until the rapture –Philippians 1:6
  - The Christian is kept by the power of God and not by his own ability –1 Peter 1:5.

**6. What is sanctification, and how is it demonstrated in the life of the believer in the past, present and future?**

- Sanctification is a progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and life Christ in our actual lives (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- In past sanctification we were freed from the penalty of sin at the time of conversion (Hebrews 10:14). In present sanctification we strive to overcome sin’s power in our daily lives, becoming more and more like Christ (1 Peter 14-15). In future sanctification we are freed from sin’s presence at the time of the rapture and through all eternity (1 John 3:2).

**7. What is the significance of the literal shedding of Christ’s blood as it relates to the atonement?**

- The blood was a payment and atonement. Without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:11-22). In order for the elect to receive salvation and forgiveness of sins, it was necessary for Christ to die and shed His blood as the ultimate sacrificial lamb (1 Peter 1:18-19). His blood covers our sins, and makes us clean.

**VI. The Doctrine of Man**

**1. Briefly describe what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God.**

- The image of God in man consists of man’s personal, spiritual, and moral resemblance of God. His personal resemblance consists of his intellect, emotion and will (Col 3:10). His spiritual resemblance is his capacity to fellowship with God (Eph 4:24). His moral resemblance consists of his ability to discern right and wrong (Rom 2:14-16). This image was marred but not removed by the

fall (Gen 9:6, Js 3:9). It does not mean we are like God in Physical form.

**2. What word(s) would you use to describe man's spiritual condition prior to the Fall? Support with Scripture.**

- Before the fall man was innocent and untested (Gen 3:7), sinless, and enjoyed close fellowship with God (Gen 3:8a, Gen 1:26-27, 31).

**3. How did the fall of man affect his relationship to God?**

- When Adam and Eve sinned, they were no longer innocent, and no longer possessed the close fellowship with God that they had before (Gen 3:7-8, 24). God is Holy; any sin in His presence is unacceptable. Physical and spiritual death was the consequence of the sin of man (Rom 6:21-23), and we would forever be separated from God if not for Jesus Christ and His substitutionary death.

**4. How did the fall of man affect his relationship to the creation?**

- God cursed the ground; now man had to work harder for his food, thorns and thistles were created by God to hinder man in the field. Also, man's relationship to the animals changed. Killing of animals for food and for the removal of sins started (Gen 3:17-19, 21; Rom 8:20-22).

**VII. The Doctrine of Sin**

**1. What is sin according to the Scriptures (cite references)?**

- Sin can be defined as a lack of conformity to the moral law of God. It can also be called a trespass or falling short. This can be an active or passive violation. There are three categories of sin: sin as an act (Gal 5:19), as an attitude (Gal 5:20; Matt 5:22, 28), and as a nature (Rom 3:23; Eph 2:3).

**2. How did the sin of Adam affect ongoing generations of mankind, even unto this day?**

- When Adam sinned, all of mankind sinned with him (Rom 5:12). Because of this sin, all of humanity gained a sin nature, condemning us all to death (Rom 3:23). Because of this sin nature, we all struggle with the temptations of sin daily (Rom 7:21).

**3. Define total depravity, as you understand it, and indicate how this factor relates to man's need of salvation.**

- Total depravity means that the sin nature affects all aspects of man's being (Rom 7:18). There is nothing good in anyone that can make him or her right before a righteous God (Titus 3:5).

**4. Briefly indicate the effects of sin in the life of a believer and specify (using Scripture) how the Christian is to deal with it.**

- When a believer sins their relationship with God is affected (Is 59:1-2), as well as their relationships with others. Sometimes the church must use church discipline on a believer caught in sin (1 Cor 5:2-13; Matt 18:15-17). The believer also receives discipline from the Lord (Prov 3:11-12; Heb 12:1-11). The believer will also experience trouble (Is 57:20-21; Prov 22:8), and face conviction by the Holy Spirit (Jn 16:8).
- The believer must deal with sin in their life by confessing it to God (1 Jn 1:9), and submitting to His authority (Luke 14:27). They should memorize and meditate on God's Word (Ps 119:11; Josh 1:8), and have an accountability partner (Prov 27:17).

**5. Can a believer be under the domination of sin? Why or why not?**

- According to Romans 6, the believer can no longer be under the domination of sin. Through the baptism of the Spirit, the "old man" (sinful nature) was crucified and buried with Christ, and the "new man" was put on. Believers are raised to newness of life, and are set free from the power and control of sin in our lives. However, we still battle our fallen flesh (Rom 7) until Christ comes again, when we will be made perfect.

## **VIII. The Doctrine of Angels**

**1. What is an angel, and when and how did this kind of being come into existence?**

- An angel is a spiritual being created by God (Col 1:16). It seems that angels were created in the opening moments of creation, because they were there when God created the earth (Job 38:4-7). The word angel means, "messenger" and several times in Scripture angels are used of God as messengers (Luke 1:26-38; Acts 11:13).

## **2. Account biblically for the existence of fallen angels.**

- Satan and his demons were cast from heaven to earth when they sinned against God in heaven and thought they could be greater than Him (Ez 28:14-19; Isa 14:12-14; Jude 6).

## **3. Who is Satan, and by what other terms is he known?**

- Satan is God's adversary. Satan is a fallen angel who was once perfect and beautiful (Ez 28:14-19). He became conceited and thought that he could be better than God, which is the sin of pride. He is a real being, and the source of evil in the world. Today he roams the earth seeking to draw man to him and overthrow God.
- Satan goes by many names:
  1. Devil—1Peter 5:8
  2. The Great Dragon—Revelation 12:9
  3. That Old Serpent—Revelation 12:9
  4. The Accuser—Revelation 12:10
  5. The Tempter—Matthew 4:3
  6. The Prince or Ruler of this world—John 12:31
  7. The god of the world—2 Corinthians 4:4
  8. The prince of the power of the air—Ephesians 2:2
  9. Beelzebul—Matthew 12:24
  10. Lucifer—Isaiah 14:12
  11. Satan—Revelation 12:9

## **4. What will be Satan's final end?**

- Christ will ultimately defeat Satan. When Christ comes back at the end tribulation, He will cast Satan into the bottomless pit (Rev 20:3). He will stay here for the duration of the millennium. At the close of the millennium, Satan will be released to gather together all of those who are not saved, and they will try to attack Jerusalem, but will instantly be defeated (Rev 20:9). At this time, Satan will be thrown into the Lake of Fire for eternity (Rev 20:10).

## **5. What is a demon or devil, and what do these beings do in this era?**

- A demon is fallen angel, who is evil in nature (Jude 6; Rev 12:3-4). We know how demons will act in the end times: following Satan's orders (Rev 12:7), and sponsoring false prophets/worship (Rev 9:20). We also know how demons behaved in the New Testament times: causing physical ailments (Mk 9:17, 20; Acts 8:7), and possessing individuals (Matt 4:24, 10:7-8). Demons are also recorded as opposing angels and humans as they attempt to carry out the plans of God (Dan 10:13; 1 Thess 2:18). The Bible says Christians today still wrestle with demons and evil

forces (Eph 6:12). Satan and his demons ultimately oppose God and Christians, and they will do whatever they can to go against God. Their works may not be as obvious as they were in the NT times, or as they will be in the end times, but there is no reason to believe that they are not still working in these ways.

**6. What is demon possession? Can believers be demon-possessed? Support with Scripture.**

- Demon possession is when a demon indwells within an unbeliever. When possessed, the demon exerts direct control and influence over the individual's actions, speech, and bodily functions (Luke 8:26-39).
- A believer cannot be demon possessed, after we become alive in Christ. Christ rather than sin is the master of our life. (Romans 6:14).

**IX. The Doctrine of the Church**

**1. What is the local church? (Define carefully and use some form of the word organized in your definition)**

- The local church is a body of believers who meet in one location, and organize themselves under the leadership of a pastor, who is led by God. They unit themselves for worship under a set of common beliefs and exist to glorify God by edification, worship, fellowship, and evangelization. Every member of the body has gifts from the Holy Spirit that are to be used to bring edification to the saints (Eph 4:11-16, Romans 12, 1Cor. 12, 1Peter 4).

**2. In what other way(s) is the word for church (ekklesia) used in Scripture?**

- "Ekklesia" is used in the Bible to refer to the people of Israel in the wilderness (Acts 7:38). Also to a civil assembly or a mob (Acts 19:32). It also refers to the New Testament church: the Universal church (Eph 1:22), the Historical church (Acts 9:31), and the Local church (Romans 16:5).

**3. What is Paul referring to when he identifies "the church which is His [Christ's] body" in Eph. 1:22-23?**

- Paul is referring to the universal church. Every believer belongs to the universal church regardless of his or her individual local church affiliation.

**4. What are the biblically established officers of the church?**

- The Bible supports two church offices: pastor/overseer/bishop and deacon (Phil 1:1; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-7).

**5. What is an indigenous church?**

- An indigenous church is a local church started in a local area that is self-governing.

**6. What is an autonomous church? If an autonomous church is the goal of the church planter, what characteristics should the “finished product” bear?**

- An autonomous church is a self-supporting and self-governing church. They make their own decisions with Christ as their head.
- The “finished product” would be an organized church with members. The church would be God seeking, self-supporting and self-governing, with the calling of a senior pastor.

**7. What are the two ordinances of the church? Who is an appropriate candidate for each, and in what context should they be observed?**

- The two ordinances of the church are:
  - Baptism (Acts 2:41)
    - Candidates: Those who have made a profession of faith, and have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior, and can understand the meaning of Baptism as an act of obedience (Matt 28:19) and as identification with Christ in His death and resurrection (Rom 6:3-4).
    - Context: Baptism is meant to be a testimony to other believers of identification with Christ in His death (into the water), His burial (under the water), and His resurrection (out of the water) (Rom 6:3-4).
  - Communion (1 Cor 11:26)
    - Candidates: Those who have made a profession of faith, and have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior.
    - Context: Communion is meant to be served regularly (Acts 20:7) in memorial of the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection until Christ returns (1 Cor 11:24-26).

**8. What is the purpose of church discipline? Give a sketchy outline of how discipline should be administered when there is credible evidence of sin that is affecting the church body.**

- The purpose: Restoration of the offending individual
- The process: Matthew 18:15-17
  1. Go to the individual alone (v. 15).
  2. If he does not listen, go with a witness (v. 16).
  3. If he still does not listen, take it to the local church (v. 17), and keep it within the local church (1 Cor 6:1-6).
  4. If there is no repentance, excommunicate the individual, and treat them as an unsaved person (v. 17; 1 Cor 5:5).
  5. If the individual repents, forgive him (Matt 18:21-22).

**9. Explain what you understand as ecclesiastical separation and cite some of the more obvious organizations and entities a separatist church must avoid? Identify some modern movements that might lead the church into compromise if it were to affiliate or cooperate.**

- Ecclesiastical separation is when a church separates itself from apostasy in order to maintain the purity of the church (2 Cor 6:14-18, Matt 7:15).
- I choose to fellowship with groups or causes who believe and present the Biblical gospel of Jesus Christ without compromise.
- Some modern movements that might lead to compromise within the church are the Evangelical Catholic Covenant, World Council of Churches, and the Billy Graham Crusade.

## **X. The Doctrine of Last Things**

**1. Would you consider your approach to eschatology to be premillennial, amillennial or postmillennial? What factor most influences you in this direction?**

- Our approach to eschatology is premillennial.
- The influencing factor is a literal interpretation of the end times as recorded in Scripture (Rev 20:2-6). This passage states that all believers will reign with Christ on earth for 1000 years.

**2. What is the next major prophetic event on God's calendar? Cite several texts leading you to that conclusion.**

- The next major prophetic event is the rapture of the church (1 Cor 15:50-58; Jn 14:1-3; 1 Thess 1:10, 4:13-18, 5:9).

**3. Do you believe Christ returns to take His Bride from earth before the events of the Tribulation, after, or sometime during that period? State briefly why.**

- We believe Christ will return for His church before the tribulation.
  - Revelation 3:10, 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9: God will spare believers from the hour of trouble, and from wrath.
  - Mark 13:32-33: No one knows the time of Christ's return except God the Father. His return is imminent, and only the pre-tribulation rapture view allows for this truth.

**4. Would you consider your method of interpretation re: last things and other doctrines, to be dispensational? What is your strongest reason for this?**

- Yes, I believe my method of interpretation to be dispensational. (Eph. 1:9-10, 3:2-3)
- There are a total of seven dispensations that are throughout the Bible.
  1. The Age of Innocence
  2. The Age of Conscience
  3. The Age of Human Government
  4. The Age of Promise
  5. The Age of Law
  6. The Age of Church/Grace (the current dispensation)
  7. The Age of the Kingdom (yet to come)

**5. Describe the nature and some of the primary features of what is commonly called the millennium.**

- The millennium is the 1000-year reign (Rev 20:2-7) of Christ as King on earth in Jerusalem (which will be the religious capital of the world) (Isa 1:26). During this time, Christ rules over the earth (Isa 24:23; Dan 7:14), which contains all believers of all time. Satan is locked up during this time until the millennium nears its end, when He is ultimately defeated.
- During the millennium there will be a general outpouring of blessings upon the earth (Isa 51:11). There will be a readjustment of moral values as Christ shall be the ruler and judge (Isa 42:3, 2:3). There will be peace on the earth and

goodwill among men (Isa 2:4, 9:6-7). The animals will be at peace with each other, and humans will have no illnesses (Isa 11:6-8, 35:5).

**6. What is the basic difference between the Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema) and the Great White Throne Judgment?**

- The Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema) is the judgment of believers based on the motives for their works, and walk of the Christian life (2 Cor 5:10; 1 Cor 3:10-15).
- The Great White Throne Judgment is the judgment of non-believers based upon their rejection of God in life (Rev 20:11-15).

**7. What is the condition of unregenerate man between his death and the resurrection? What is the position of the Church age believer between death and the Rapture?**

- The unregenerate man goes to Hades and experiences torment (Luke 16:22-24; Rev 20:13-15). The church age believer goes to heaven when they die (Phil 1:23; 2 Cor 5:8). To be absent in the body is to be present with the Lord (2 Cor 5:6).

**8. Using appropriate Scripture, list the main features of Hades, or Hell, as we know it. Is there any difference between today's Hell and the lake of Fire?**

- The main features include suffering, torment, unquenchable fire, weeping, gnashing of teeth (Matt 25:30; Lk 16:19-31; Mk 9:43, 48).
- There is no real difference as far as the type of torment between Hades and the Lake of Fire. Both have unquenchable fire as the form of judgment and torment (Mk 9:43, 48). However, the Lake of Fire will last for all of eternity, while Hades is emptied before the Great White Throne Judgment (Matt 25:41; Rev 20:13).

**9. Is the punishment of Hell one of annihilation, or eternal conscious suffering?**

- The punishment of Hell is one of eternal conscious suffering (Matt 25:46). The persons in Hell will be very conscious of their torment and discomfort (Lk 16:19-31).