

Whitneyville Bible Church

Doctrinal Statement and Declaration of Faith

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are given by inspiration of God, inerrant in the original writings, and are the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

II Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2. The Godhead

We believe in one GOD—the Creator and ruler of the Universe, existing in a divine and incomprehensible Trinity—the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, each possessing divine perfection.

I John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. (NKJV)

A. The Person and Work of God the Father

1. We believe that God, the Father, who is holy, omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent, so loved the world that He gave His Son, Jesus Christ, to become our only means of salvation.

Isaiah. 6:3 "...Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Psalms 139:7-12 "Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you." (See also vs. 1-4, 1316)

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

2. We believe that God the Father is sovereign and calls the sinner. He becomes the believer's Father at the new birth.

John 6:37 "All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out."

John 6:44 "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day."

3. We believe that God the Father sends the Holy Spirit to abide in the believer forever in response to the Son's request, and that this takes place at conversion.

John 14:16-17; 26 "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

4. We believe that God the Father answers believing prayer when asked in accordance with His will in Jesus' name.

James 1:5-7 "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;"

B. The Person and Work of God the Son

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men.

John 1:1-2, 14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth."

Luke 1:35 "And the angel answered her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God'."

2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as our representative, substitutionary sacrifice. The sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice, once and for all eternity, to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him is assured by his literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

Romans. 3:24-25 "and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins."

I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5

Hebrews 7:27 "He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself."

3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest. He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate.

Hebrews. 7:25 "Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them."

Hebrews 9:24 "For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf."

I John 2: 1-2 "My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world."

Acts 1:9-11; Romans. 8:34

C. The Person and Work of God the Holy Spirit

1. We believe in the Holy Spirit as a Divine person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption.

John 16:8-11 "And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

I Corinthians 12:12-13 "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves[a] or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

Romans 8:9; II Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14

2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth, and that it is the privilege and responsibility of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit.

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you."

Galatians 5:18 "But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law."

3. We believe that spiritual gifts are allocated by God through the Holy Spirit to all believers for the building up of the Saints and the glorification of God as instructed in the Scriptures.

I Corinthians Chapters 12-14

3. Creation and Fall of Man

We believe that mankind was created holy and upright but fell from this condition and that in consequence, the whole human race is by nature depraved, sinful, alienated from God, and unable to remedy his lost condition.

Genesis 1:26-27 "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

Romans 3:23 "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

Ephesians 2:1-3 "And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind."

Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2: 12

4. Salvation

We believe in the incarnation, death, and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God; and that salvation is attained only through repentance, and faith in Him.

Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men[a] by which we must be saved."

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, The new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus and is instantaneous and not a process. In the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the Divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. The new creation is brought about in a manner beyond our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 4:10-12 "Let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well. This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

5. Assurance of Salvation

We believe that every believer can and should be assured of their salvation, having God's Word as authority for such assurance.

John 5:11-13 "But he answered them, 'The man who healed me, that man said to me, "Take up your bed, and walk.'" They asked him, 'Who is the man who said to you, "Take up your bed and walk"?' Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place."

6. The Church

We believe that Christ is the Head over all things in the Church. We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is made up of all born-again believers, irrespective of color, race or denomination.

Ephesians 1:22-23 "And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all."

I Corinthians 12:13 "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

7. The Walk of the Believer

It is the privilege and duty of all the saved to live in joy, peace, and continued fellowship with believers in Christ and our great God and Savior Who, although setting us free from the law, has commanded us to live separately from sinful pleasures, practices, and associations and to keep our mind set on things above, not on things on the earth.

Romans 12:1-2 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Additional References:

Romans 14:13; Galatians 5:1; Titus 2:12; I John 1:17; I John 2:1; II Corinthians 6:17- 18; II Corinthians 7:1

8. The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind, the saved to eternal life with Christ in heaven and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment in hell.

Matthew 25:46 "And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

John 5:28-29 "Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

John 11:25-26 "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?'"

Additional References: Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13; Luke 16:22-23

9. Holy and Fallen Angels

- A. The Bible clearly teaches the existence and personality of angels, both holy angels and fallen angels (demons).

2 Peter 2:4 "For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but cast them into hell and committed them to chains of gloomy darkness to be kept until the judgment;"

- B. We believe in an actual devil, Satan, who is a fallen angel, the author of sin, and the expressed enemy of God and accuser of mankind. He goes about as a roaring lion and as an angel of light seeking whom he may devour. His defeat was accomplished through the cross of Christ and he and his demons will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

1 John 3:8 "Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil."

Revelation 12:10 "And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.'"

Revelation 20:10 "and the devil who had deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur where the beast and the false prophet were, and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

1 Peter 5:8 "Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour."

11 Corinthians 11:14 "And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light."

- C. We believe in the holy angels as God's ministering spirits.

Hebrews 1:14 "Are they not all ministering spirits sent out to serve for the sake of those who are to inherit salvation?"

10. The Return of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, imminent and pre-millennial return of our Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones at the close of this age when the Church, His bride, will be caught up to meet Him in the air and so we shall ever be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

Jude 14b "' Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of his holy ones,'"

Revelation 20:1-6

11. Marriage and Human Sexuality

- A. We believe and teach that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, pornography, any attempt to change one's sex or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

Lev. 18:1-30; Matt. 5:8; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 5:1-5, 6:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-8

- B. We believe and teach that homosexuality, in particular, is subject to God's wrath of abandonment, is a matter of choice and not inherited status, and epitomizes man's ungrateful rebellion against God.

Rom. 1:18-27

- C. We believe and teach that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture or the doctrines of the church. We teach that the faithful proclamation of the Scripture, including the call to repentance, does not constitute hate speech, or hateful and harassing behavior, but is instead a fundamental part of the church's loving mission to the world.

Matt. 28:16–20; 2 Cor. 5:11–20; 1 Tim. 1:5; 2 Tim. 4:1–5

- D. We believe and teach that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in scripture.

Gen. 2:23–24

- E. We believe and teach that God offers redemption and forgiveness to all who confess and forsake their sin, including sexual sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We teach that His forgiveness is total and complete (*Ps. 103:11–12; 130:34; Is. 43:25; 44:22; John 5:24; Col. 2:13–14*) and that God imputes the full righteousness of Christ (*2 Cor. 5:21*) to the believing sinner. We teach that the forgiven sinner has been cleansed from the guilt of sin, set apart unto God, or made holy, and justified before Him (*1 Cor. 6:9–11*). We teach that any man or woman who has received that forgiveness is “in Christ” and is a “new creation” (*2 Cor. 5:17*).