



Doctrine

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## Church Doctrine

- I. We believe literally in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as inspired by God, inerrant in the original writings, and of supreme and final authority in faith and life (2 Timothy 3:16 and 2 Peter 1:21).
  - II. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19 and 2 Cor. 13:14) (Father - Eph. 4:6; Son - Heb. 1:8; Holy Spirit - John 14:16,17).
  - III. We believe Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is the true God and true man (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:20,21; 1 Tim. 2:5,6).
  - IV. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as our substitutionary sacrifice according to the scriptures, and all who receive Him by faith are justified on the basis of His shed blood (1 Cor. 15:3,4; Col. 1:14; Eph. 1:4,9; Rom. 5:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Tim. 1:15).
  - V. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, His bodily ascension into heaven, and His present ministry as High Priest and Advocate for us (Heb. 9:24, 10:20-21; 1 Tim. 2:5,6; 1 John 2:1; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; Heb. 7:25; Acts 1:9-11).
  - VI. We believe the Holy Spirit exists eternally with the Father and the Son; His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. During this present age He convicts men (John 16:8), regenerates the believing sinner (Titus 3:5), places believers into the body of Christ by His baptism (1 Cor. 12:13), and indwells (1 Cor. 6:19) and seals (Eph. 4:30) every believer. He fills (Eph. 5:18), guides (Rom. 8:14), instructs (John 16:12-15), and empowers the believer for Godly living and service.
  - VII. We believe angels were all originally created holy, but under the leadership of Satan, some angels now exist in a fallen state (Jude 1:6).
  - VIII. We believe that the first man, Adam, created in the image of God, sinned. Man thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. Consequently, all human beings are born with a sinful nature (Rom. 3:23, 5:12, Gen. 1:6-27, Ps. 51:5).
  - IX. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:12-15; Acts 24:14,15; John 5:28,29; Rev. 21:8; Luke 16:19-31).
  - X. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,38,39). We believe that it is the privilege of the believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to sin (Rom. 12:13,14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).
  - XI. We believe that believers in Christ are sanctified and set apart unto God for His service:
    - A. At the moment a person trusts Christ for salvation (1 Cor. 5:11, 1:2; Heb. 10:10,14).
    - B. Daily by the reading of the Word and by the teaching of the Holy Spirit (Ps. 119:11; Eph. 5:25-26; John 17:17; Gal. 5:16; Rom 8:4).
    - C. Ultimately when the believer comes into the actual presence of the Lord (1 Cor. 15:51-18; 1 John 3:2; 1 Peter 1:4-6; Jude 24-25).
  - XII. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, which is His Body, the Church (Eph. 1:22,23; 4:1-16; Col. 1:15-18; Rom. 12:4,5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27).
  - XIII. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that He has given each believer at least one spiritual gift to be exercised to edify the whole body of Christ. We believe that the revelatory sign gifts ceased with the apostolic age (1 Cor. 12:4-11, 13:8; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12; Heb. 2:3,4). We believe that God, in accord with His own will, does hear and answer the prayer of faith for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; James 5:14; 1 John 5:14,15).
  - XIV. We believe water baptism and the Lord's Table are the two ordinances of the church and are for all born-again believers.
    - A. The ordinance of baptism is for those who have personally accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. Baptism is an outward manifestation and testimony of the spiritual change that occurred in the believer's life when he accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Our mode of baptism is immersion because it more closely typifies the believer's relationship with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:36-38).
    - B. The Lord's Table will be observed regularly. It is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and is open to all Christians who are walking in fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - XV. We believe in the imminent, personal, and pretribulational return of Christ to rapture out His church (I Thess. 1:8-10, I Thess. 4:14-18, I Thess. 5:9), and the premillennial return of Christ to the earth with His church to redeem Israel (II Thess. 2:1-3).
- In subscribing to these Articles of Faith we by no means set aside, or undervalue, any of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, but we deem the knowledge, belief, and acceptance of the Truth, as set forth in our Doctrinal Statement, to be essential to sound faith and fruitful practice, and therefore foundational for Christian fellowship in Cleburne Bible Church.
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