

Bethany

BIBLE CHURCH

The Doctrine of Scripture. The 66 books of the Bible in the Old and New Testaments are the inscripturated Word of God. God the Holy Spirit carried along the human authors of Scripture so that they wrote the very words that he desired them to write. The words in Scripture penned by human authors are thus the very words of God himself. Inspired by God they are completely free from error, and serve as the inerrant, infallible, and final rule for life and faith for all humanity. The Bible speaks with complete authority about every matter it addresses. The words of Scripture concern vital issues of life and faith before God and therefore serve as a sufficient guide for all things that pertain to life and godliness.

Acts 1:16; 2 Timothy 3:1-17; 2 Peter 1:3-21; 2 Peter 3:15-16

The Doctrine of God. God is creator of all that exists. He made the heavens and the earth out of nothing. God is eternal and infinite in all of his perfections. He exerts comprehensive sovereignty over all of his creation. He possesses exhaustive and perfect knowledge of all events past, present, and future. He is present everywhere at all times. He is infinitely good with no shadow of sin in any part of his being. The one God exists eternally in three distinct fully divine persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Genesis 1-3; Psalm 139:1-16; Isaiah 46:8-11; Acts 5:1-4; Romans 9:5 Ephesians 1:11

The Doctrine of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, the second member of the Trinity. He exists as one person with two distinct natures, fully divine, and fully human without any mixture of the two. He was born of a virgin. He lived his entire life on earth without transgressing the law of God, thus earning righteousness for his people. He suffered a violent death on the cross to pay for the sins of his people. He rose miraculously from the grave on the third day as Lord and Savior, demonstrating his victory over sin, death, and the devil. He ascended bodily into heaven where he actively upholds and intercedes for his people as he awaits his glorious return for his bride, the church.

Matthew 1:18-25; John 17:6; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-15; Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:25

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the eternal third member of the Trinity. He is the personal Spirit who convicts of sin and who indwells Christians. He empowers them to live the Christian life, to understand the Scriptures, and to worship Jesus Christ. He is the sovereign God who equips believers with gifts of service to do ministry in the church.

John 16:4-15; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-30; Ephesians 1:13-18

The Doctrine of Divine Grace. Salvation is all of grace from beginning to end. Before the foundation of the world, the Father elected to save a people who would compose the church. Jesus Christ purchased the salvation of those individuals through his life, death, resurrection and ascension. The Holy Spirit applies the work of Christ to all who believe, creating the gift of faith in their hearts, and he keeps them in that faith forever.

Romans 3:21-23; Ephesians 1:3-14; Ephesians 2:1-10; Philippians 1:6

The Doctrine of Man. God created man out of the dust and breathed life into him so that he became a living person. Human beings were created by God to be the pinnacle of creation and the bearers of the divine image in the world. God made mankind in two complementary genders of male and female, each possessing equal dignity and worth. Men are called to roles of spiritual leadership particularly in the home and in the church. Women are called to respond to and affirm godly servant leadership in the church and home. God created the human person with a physical body and an immaterial soul, each of equal honor and essential to humanity. The Bible depicts the soul as that which motivates the physical body to action. These constituent parts are separable only at death. The great hope of Christians is the restoration of these two parts of man in a glorified existence in the new heavens and new earth. Man is by design a dependent creature standing in need of divine counsel in order to be conformed into the image of Christ.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7; Proverbs 4:23; Roman 8:29; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; Ephesians 5:22-33; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10

The Doctrine of Sin. God created mankind in a state of sinless perfection, but the human race fell from this state when Adam ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Since that time, every human being has been born in sin and thus separated from God. Every element of human nature is stained by sin so that mankind stands in desperate need of the grace of God in order to be cleansed from sin through repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Genesis 3:1-7; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:1-21; 5:12-21

The Doctrine of the Church. The church is the bride of Christ and is composed of all who have repented of their sins and trusted in the work of Jesus Christ to pay their penalty and earn their righteousness. The church is the organism through which God accomplishes his mission in the world. The church is the main sphere for all ministry of the Word, and it is through the local church where most effective ministry takes place.

Matthew 16:18-20; Romans 15:14; 1 Peter 2:1-12; Revelation 19:6-10

The Doctrine of Regeneration. Regeneration is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit where he transforms the hardened heart of a sinner into the soft heart of a believer, one who loves God and seeks to obey his Word. The immediate fruit of this new birth is repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ezekiel 36:25-27; Acts 20:21; John 3:1-9; Titus 3:4-6; James 1:18

The Doctrine of Justification. Justification is the sovereign declaration of God that the righteousness of Jesus Christ has been imputed to those who have trusted in his work on the cross for their salvation. When God justifies a person, he no longer views him as a sinner but understands him to possess that righteousness which Jesus Christ earned on their behalf, through his sinless life and sacrificial death. The declaration of justification does not come through any past, present, or future merit of the sinner, since there is none, but solely upon the ground or basis of the merit of Jesus Christ.

Luke 18:9-14; Romans 4:1-12; Philippians 3:1-11

The Doctrine of Sanctification. Sanctification is a joint work between God and man, where God supplies grace for Christians to grow in obedience to Christ. While Christians are made holy in a definitive sense at conversion, it still remains for them to progressively grow in holiness. This work of grace requires believers to utilize, by faith, the normal means of grace such as Bible reading, prayer,

mind renewal, growing as fellow believers in the context of the local church. Christians will experience real progress in growing more like Christ, yet this work will be incomplete in this life until the day of Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:17-18; Romans 6:1-14; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 1:6, 2:12-13; Colossians 3:1-17

The Doctrine of Revelation. God discloses himself to humanity in two ways. Special revelation is God's disclosure of himself to his covenant community in the pages of Scripture. General revelation is God's disclosure of himself to the entirety of humanity in the things that have been made. General revelation and special revelation each come from God and so are of equivalent authority, though they differ in content. Special revelation discloses detailed information about the character of God and the path to salvation. General revelation is a disclosure of the beauty and power of God, which leads to judgment. The subject matter of general revelation is the character of God, and not mere facts about the created order.

Psalms 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-23; 2 Timothy 3:15-16

The Doctrine of Common Grace. The chief manifestation of God's grace is his salvation of sinners by the blood of Jesus Christ to all who believe. God also extends his grace to people by providing for their physical needs and granting them intellectual gifts. This common grace of God is what grants unbelievers the ability to apprehend much true information about the world, but without the special saving grace of God in salvation, common grace indiscriminately given to unredeemed human beings cannot allow them to overcome the corrosive effects of sin in their thinking. This reality guarantees that though unbelievers can know many facts about the world in which they live, they will misunderstand and misconstrue the information they gather. The most critical knowledge central to all of human life, which includes the true wisdom about God, the human sin problem, and its solution in Jesus Christ, is not spiritually discerned through common grace given to unbelievers. Life's most important questions and answers are attainable only through the God-given grace to understand the Word of God and its gospel message of saving grace.

Matthew 5:44-45; John 1:9; Romans 1:18-23; Colossians 1:21

The Doctrine of the Great Commission. Jesus Christ commissioned his church to go into the world with the dual tasks of evangelism and discipleship. In giving this commission, Jesus requires his people to use their character and conversations to draw people to Christ in evangelism and build them up in Christ through discipleship. The teaching referred to in the Great Commission necessitates that all biblical doctrine has as its goal and end the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 10:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; Colossians 1:24-29

The Doctrine of Last Things. Jesus Christ will return for his church at a moment known only to God himself. At Jesus' coming, he will sit in judgment on the entirety of the human race. After this judgment, he will usher all humanity into the eternal state. All those who have spent their lives persisting in unbelief will go away into everlasting torment. Those who are genuine believers in Christ will be ushered into everlasting joy in the presence of Jesus. Christians can, therefore, have hope that all wrongs will be punished, that all righteous acts will be rewarded, that all evil will be vanquished, and that God's people ultimately will enjoy him forever.

Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 2:6-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21