

Berean Bible Church's Doctrinal Statement

APPROVED AND ADOPTED: JANUARY 8, 2011

Disclaimer: *God's Word alone is perfect. This statement is not. We desire to not commit ourselves to statements of doctrine which go beyond¹ that which has been clearly stated in the Bible, God's Word. If you have reason to believe that anything we say in this document goes beyond God's revelation through His Word, we respectfully request that you help us by bringing it to our attention.*

SECTION 1: THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the verbal² and plenary³ inspiration and infallibility of the Scriptures; that the Old and New Testaments are equally inspired⁴ and inerrant in the original writings; that the Scriptures are the believers' only rule of faith and conduct; that they are accurate and reliable in science, history, and every other matter they discuss; that we have the complete Divine revelation to man in the sixty-six books of the Bible as it now stands.

Joh 6:63; 2Ti 3:16-17; 2Pe 1:19-21; Psa 19:7-11; 119:89,105; Mar 13:31; Mat 5:18; Rev 22:19

SECTION 2: GOD

We believe in God as revealed in the Scriptures as eternally existent, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and manifesting Himself in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit B equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. We acknowledge that in His holiness God is "other" than all of His creation, therefore there is no perfect analogy within the created world for the Trinity of God. We also acknowledge that God's omnipotence and omniscience⁵ are unconditional, exhaustive, inherent⁶ and illimitable.⁷ Therefore, God knows the future as well as the past, and does whatever He chooses.

Deu 33:27; 1Ti 1:17; Gen 17:1; Rev 1:8; Psa 139:1-6; 147:5; Heb 4:12-13; Psa 139:7-16; Gen 1:26; Deu 6:4; Mat 28:19; Act 5:3-4; Joh 1:1-4, 9-14; 1Ti 3:16; 1Jo 5:7, 9-13; 1Jo 3:20; Pro 16:1,9; Isa 46:9-10; Eph 1:11; cf. 1Sa 10:1-7

a. God the Father

We believe that God the Father is Father only to those who receive Jesus Christ as Savior; that He is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, and measureless in power; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He is the object of our worship and praise.

Joh 1:12; 14:6; Psa 22:3; Isa 6:1-3; Rev 4:8,11; Psa 147:5; Mat 19:26; Joh 3:16; Psa 65:2; Mat 4:10

b. God the Son

1. His deity, birth and mission: 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 redeem⁸ sinful man.

Col 1:16-17; Joh 1:1-3,14,18; Php 2:5-11; Joh 17:11; 1Jo 5:20; Isa 7:14; Mat 1:18-25; Luk 1:34,35; Gal 4:4-7

2. His work on the cross and His resurrection: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that our future resurrection is made sure by His literal and physical resurrection from the dead and ascension into heaven.

Eph 1:7; 1Pe 2:24; Rom 3:24; 5:1; 1Pe 1:3-5; 1Jo 2:1-2, 1Co 15:1-8, 12-24

3. His present ministry in heaven: 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 His ministry as our Representative, Intercessor,⁹ and Advocate.

Act 1:9; Heb 9:24; 4:14-16; Rom 8:34; 1Jo 2:1-2

4. His future return: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall have a personal visible return to the earth at an hour known only to the Heavenly Father.

Act 1:10-11; 1Th 4:13-18; Joh 14:3; Mat 24:36

c. God the Holy Spirit

1. His work: We believe that God the Spirit, i.e. the Holy Spirit, gave man the Word of God; convicts the world of sin,¹⁰ righteousness, and judgment; that He bears witness to the Truth; that He is the agent of the New Birth; that He spiritually baptizes all true believers into the body of Christ,¹¹ indwelling and sanctifying¹² all of them when they trust in Christ, sealing and thus securing them forever; that He enables believers to understand the Word of God; that He guides, teaches, and helps believers; and that He fills and empowers believers so that they can give evidence of "the fruit" He produces: love,

joy, peace, longsuffering,¹³ gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance.¹⁴

Joh 16:7-15; 3:5-7; Mat 3:11; Act 11:15-16; Joh 14:16-17; Eph 1:13; 4:30; Joh 14:26; Eph 5:1-18; Gal 5:22-23; 1Co 2: 9-14; 1Pe 4:10; 1Jo 2:25-26; 1Jo 5:6b

2. His "gifts": We believe that God the Spirit gives believers "gifts" for ministry (exhortation, wisdom, etc.). Rather than being for the individual's own use, these gifts are for the edification¹⁵ of the church as a whole.

Much attention is often given to the "gift of tongues." We believe that this gift was given to the early church to be an evidence of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. It was over-valued in the church at Corinth and then de-emphasized and reigned in by the Apostle Paul; because of this precedent we do not practice speaking in tongues.

1Co 12:7, in loc vv. 4-11; and 1Co 12:27-31; Rom 12:3-8; 1Pe 4:8-11; 1Co 14:21-22; 13:8-12

SECTION 3: CREATION

We believe that God, in the beginning, "by the word of His power," made from nothing and for His Own pleasure, the heavens and the earth and everything in them within the period of six days with mornings and evenings, and all created things were good.

Gen 1:1ff.; Jer 10:10,12; Heb 1:2-3; Col 1:16; Joh 1:3; Exo 20:11; Rev. 4:11; Gen 1:1-31ff.; Heb 11:3

SECTION 4: SPIRIT BEINGS

a. Satan

We believe that Satan is a supernatural being, a fallen angel, the prince of this world, the author of sin, and the cause of man's temptation which resulted in the occasion of man's ultimate fall; and that Satan is the open and declared enemy of God and man and that his final doom, along with his hosts, shall be eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

Eph 6:12; Joh 8:44, 12:31, 14:30, 16:11; Luk 4:6-7; 2Co 4:4; 1Jo 3:8; Gen 3:1-6ff.; Isa 14:12-15; Mat 4:1-11; 1Pe 5:8; Mat 25:41; Rev 12:7-10; 20:1-3,7-10; cf. Eze 28:11-19

b. Angels and Demons

We believe that angels and demons are spirit beings. Angels were created as heavenly beings, but some through choice now serve Satan and will share in his

ultimate doom. These are called demons and are known to have possessed some people at the time of Christ.

Col 1:16; Jude 1:6; 2Pe 2:4; 2Co 11:14-15; Gal 1:8; Mat 25:41; Luk 8:30-33; Eph 6:12

The true angels of heaven (ministering spirits), are sinless and pure and are forever seeking to glorify God. Their responsibilities, ranks, and orders differ, and their strength, appearance, travel, etc., are not constrained by natural limitations. They are immortal and do not marry.

Heb 1:13-14; Rev 7:11-12; Mat 18:10; Gen 3:24; Isa 6:2; Jude 1:9; Psa 103:20; Mat 1:20; 22:30

SECTION 5: MAN

We believe that man was created by the direct creative act of God¹⁶ for God's Own pleasure, but unlike other created beings, man was created uniquely in God's Own image. Man was to love and to glorify God.¹⁷ However, man fell, and as a result of God cursing the ground, now all of creation groans with anticipation of the adoption and revealing of God's children.

Rev 4:11; Gen 1:26 28, 31; 3:17-19; 1Chr 16:26-29; Deu 6:4 9; Rom 8:14 25; 8:28 30; Joh 3:16 17; Eph 1:4-6

a. Man's Fall and Helplessness

After man's creation, man fell¹⁸ in Adam's sin. All men since Adam have inherited a sinful nature and are alienated from God. We believe that all men through this inherited sinful nature and through choice have hearts which are not righteous and do not seek God, and whose hearts and minds are naturally inclined toward evil. All men have therefore sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Consequently, man is, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his fallen condition, can do nothing that is good enough to please a holy God, and that if not saved by God's grace¹⁹ will endure eternal punishment.

*Gen 1:26,27; 2:7, 2:15-17, 3:6-7, 6:5, 8:21; Rom 3:10-11, 23; 8:8, 5:12; Psa 14:1,3, 51:5; 53:1-3
Rom 1:28; Eph 4:18; Rom 7:18a; Rom 8:5-9; Jer 17:9-10; Rom 5:6-8; Joh 3:36; Rom 6:23;
Rev 20:12-15*

b. Man Living in a Fallen World

As a consequence of Satan's influence, Adam's sin, man's inherited sinful nature, and the ensuing curse that God pronounced on His creation, man lives in a fallen world. This means that man now must live in the presence of evil, death, sickness, calamity, war, oppression, deception, cruelty, wickedness, persecution, and many

other causes of pain and hardship. However, God uses these cruel torments for His ultimate good purposes and for His glory. God also calls man to live by faith in Him and His will despite the evil in the world, anticipating the glorious day in the future when Christ shall return and begin a reign of righteousness on earth.

1Pe 5:8; Isa 14:12-15; Gen 3:17-19; Rom 5:12; Eph 6:10-18; 1Jo 3:8; Job 5:6-16; Ps 2:1-5; 33:10-11; 76:10-11; Jam 1:2-4; 2Co 12:1-10; Rom 8:28-30; Php 3:7-14, 20-21; Joh 15:18-21; 16:32-33; 1Pe 1:6-9; Heb 12:1-2; 11:1-6, 13-16

SECTION 6: SIN

We believe that sin is the transgression of the law of God. We believe in the universality of sin; that it separates man from God; and that there is no remission²⁰ of sin apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ and man's faith in Him and repentance.

1Jo 3:4; Rom 3:10-12, 13-19, 23; Isa 59:1-2; Eze 18:4; Rom 6:23; Heb 9:22-28; Luk 24:46-47; Joh 14:6; Gal 3:22a, Rom 5:1-2; Act 2:38-41

SECTION 7: SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of a sinner from the penalty of sin is an unmerited gift of God accomplished by God's grace through Christ's shedding His blood on the cross because of that sinner's sin; Christ took the place of that sinner on the cross and died to pay the price for that sinner's wickedness; furthermore, Christ's resurrection from the grave gave evidence of His successful payment of that sinner's debt, ultimately leading that sinner to faith in this truth.

Rom 10:9-10; Eph 2:8-9; Tit 3:4-7; Isa 53:4-6; 2Co 5:21; 1Pe 2:24; Heb 13:12; 1Pe 3:18; Rom 3:24-26; 1Pe 1:3; 1Co 15:13-14, 17-20; 1Co 15:3-6

a. Atonement:

We believe that salvation of sinners is wholly by the grace of the Son of God, Who, by appointment of the Father, really took upon Himself our sins, yet He was without sin and honored the divine law by His personal obedience to the Father and to the Scriptures; and by His death He paid for and made a full and complete atonement for our sin; that atonement consisted, not of setting us an example by His death B as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the cross.

Eph 2:8-9; Act 15:11; Gal 4:4-5; 1Jn 4:10; 1Pe 2:24; Heb 4:15; Luk 22:41-42; 1Co 15:3-4; Rom 5:9-11; Php 2:6-8; Heb 2:14-17

b. New Birth:

We believe that the salvation of sinners is by an act called the New Birth, by which we become new creatures in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous, not a process; that in the New Birth the one who was “dead in sins” repents of his sins and is forgiven and is made a partaker of the Divine nature and receives eternal life, thereby accepting the free gift of salvation from God. We believe in the necessity of this New Birth through the Holy Spirit because, as a result of Adam’s fall: (1) in man is no good thing, (2) man’s mind is now filled with evil, and (3) all of man’s deeds which are thought to be righteous are “as filthy rags” in God’s sight. We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and the sufficiency of His atonement for our sins on the cross is the only condition of salvation. Sinners, in order to be saved, must each receive this New Birth thus being “born again.” We believe the New Birth is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that it is properly evidenced by repentance, baptism, a newness of life, obedience to the teachings of Scripture, the “fruit of the Spirit,” love of other believers, and true belief in Christ. However, such evidences are only that. They are not the means of the New Birth.

Gen 6:5; Isa 64:6; Tit 1:15-16; 3:5; Rom 3:9-18; Rom 7:18a; Rom 5:12, 3:23; Joh 3:1-7, 16-20, 35-36; Eph 2:8-9; 2Co 5:17; Joh 1:10-12; Mat 7:16-23; Luk 6:43-46; Gal 5:22-24; 1Jo 3:14; 4:2; Mat 28:19-20a; Tit 3:5

c. Justification:

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares us to be righteous through our faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation²¹ of God’s righteousness; that it is given to us, not for any work which we have done, but solely by God’s grace through our faith in the Redeemer’s (Jesus’s) blood sacrifice.

Gen 15:6; Rom 3:28-30; Gal 2:16; Rom 4:1-8; 5:8-11; 8:1; 5:1; Act 13:39; Isa 53:11; 2Co 5:20-21; Eph 2:8-9).

d. Sanctification:

We believe sanctification to be the process by which, according to the will of God, true believers²² are made partakers of His Holiness; that it is an ongoing work, begun in the “new birth.” God then conforms true believers to the image of Christ, completing the process of sanctification at their death, or the return of Christ for “His saints,²³” when they see Him. We believe sanctification is carried on in the hearts of true believers by the Holy Spirit and the continued use of the appointed

means, especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

1Th 4:3-7; Eph 1:4, 13-14; 1Co 6:9-10,11; Rom 8:28-29; 1Th 5:23-24; 3:12-13; 1Jo 3:2-3; Rom 12:1-2; Tit 3:5; Joh 17:17; Eph 5:25-27; 2Co 3:18; Heb 12:1-2; Psa 139:23-24; 2Co 7:9; Luk 9:23-24

e. Personal Holiness:

Although every Christian has the right to exercise Christian liberty within the guidelines of God's Word, he must be wholly motivated by a desire to glorify God and honor His Holy Name; this requires each Christian to be separated from the fallen world "unto God" and His holiness. Therefore, he must reject various worldly²⁴ practices and attitudes, and in behavior, speech and dress, must raise a proper standard and example of purity to the fallen world and to weaker Christians. To fail to do so is contrary to Scriptural principles and harms the work of Christ and His church.

Gal 5:1, 13; 1Pe 1:15-16; 1Co 6:12; 10:31; Rom 12:1-2; 14:7-8; Eph 5:11-12; 1Co 6:19-20; 1Ti 2:9-10; Eph 4:17-20-29-31-32; 5:1-8; 1Co 5:1,5-6; 1Pe 1:13-23; Rom 14:19-21, 23; 1Co 8:4-13; Rom 15:1-3

f. Assurance:

We believe that all people who are genuinely redeemed by Christ persevere in their salvation, being kept by God's power, and are thus secure in Him forever. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, and the witness of the Holy Spirit. Scripture, however, clearly forbids the use of our Christian liberty as an occasion for indulging the flesh.

1Pe 1:4-5; Joh 10:27-29; 6:37-40; Rom 8:16-17, 38-39; Gal 5:13; Rom 13:13-14; Tit 2:11-14

SECTION 8: THE CHURCH

The local church is a deliberate assembly of believers who meet together for the purpose of worship, preaching, teaching, prayer, fellowship,²⁵ and ministry.²⁶ All true believers are automatically members of the one worldwide church of Christ, which is comprised of all true believers through all the ages in the whole world, and of which Jesus Christ is the head, however, the New Testament does not picture a believer being a member of that "big" church comprised of all true believers through all time, without also being connected with a specific local church. The local church is the visible expression of the worldwide universal church. We believe the New Testament local Church rightly consists

of an organized local assembly of “born again” baptized individuals (true believers), elderled, pastor-taught (as the Bible defines elders and pastors), self-governing and voluntarily associated together for the purpose of carrying on the principles and precepts of God’s Word, the Bible. The head of the local church, like the head of the church of all true believers of all time, is Christ. The elders’ responsibilities include, but are not limited to: overseeing, teaching, preaching, protecting, shepherding, and discipling the local church. Each member is to be part of the “body of Christ,” the church, exercising those spiritual gifts with which he/she has been endowed by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of edifying²⁷ other believers. Each member is also to assemble together with other believers for the purposes mentioned above, under the leadership, care and authority of that local church. Where possible, the leadership of the local church is to be comprised of a plurality of elders and deacons.

1Co 1:2; 12:4-31; 2Co 1:1; 1Th 1:1; 2Th 1:1; Rev 2:1, 8, 12, etc.; Act 2:41-42; Tit 1:5-9; Col 1:12-18; Eph 4:11-16; 5:1-12; 1Co 11:2; Heb 10: 24-25; 1Pe 5:1-4

a. Ordinances

- 1) **Baptism:** We believe in immersion of believers in water as the only Biblical mode of baptism.
Act 8:36-39
- 2) **Lord’s Supper:** We believe the communion of the Lord’s Supper, which we perform in remembrance of the Lord Jesus’ death, is a privilege reserved for those who are “born again” believers in Christ.
Mat 26:26-30; 1Co 11:23-29

b. Ecclesiastical Purity

Because the church represents God to the world, it must be characterized not only by His love but also by His holiness and purity. This will necessitate our taking a stand against and separating ourselves from all groups that do not uphold the unchanging Christian fundamentals of the faith as expressed by the entire Bible and the Bible alone, as well as from all disorderly brethren.

1. **We are to be pleasing to God.**
Rom 12:1-2; 1Pe 1:13-16; Rom 14:7-8; 1Co 10:31; Eph 5:25-27
2. **We must stand firm on His Word.**
Jude 3-4, 11-13, 16-23
3. **False teaching must be identified and condemned.**
Rom 16:17-18; 2Jo 7-11; 2Co 6:14-18; 1Ti 6:3-5; Tit 1:10-11

4. Disorderly behavior must be addressed.
2Th 3:6, 14-15; 1Co 5:6-13; Eph 5:1-12; Tit 3:10-11
5. The whole Bible (both the Old and New Testament) is true, eternal and necessary, and all of God's Word contains essential teachings which cannot be denied, minimized or sidestepped without robbing true Biblical Christianity of that which can save a soul from hell, and communicate God's will to mankind.
1Ti 6:3-5; Rom 16:17-18
6. There will be times when Biblically-based separation is necessary.
Amos 3:3; 2Co 6:14b-15; 1Co 15:33

SECTION 9: THE GREAT COMMISSION

We believe that the Lord gave each of us a responsibility in Matthew 28:18-20. The command "to teach" [KJV]²⁸ in verse nineteen has the idea of bringing someone to be a disciple, pupil, or follower of someone else. We believe that we are to be "bringing people to be faithful and obedient followers of the Lord Jesus Christ." We acknowledge that this is a process which begins before one genuinely places trust in Jesus (such as when Philip invited Nathaniel to come to Jesus, Joh 1:43-51), then includes repenting of sins and asking Christ to be one's Lord and Savior, and continues for the rest of one's life. The scope of this responsibility is both local, in our own community with our own contacts, and global, through our support of missionary activity worldwide. As a church and as individual Christians we share this great responsibility.

We recognize this responsibility includes our speaking the gospel to others, praying for more laborers, giving financially to enable reaching those we may never meet, and going ourselves to reach "all the world." We acknowledge and affirm that God providentially directs our steps each day to place us in situations in which we can be used by Him for the sake of His name and for His glory.

Mat 28:18-20; Joh 1:12, 43-51; Mar 1:15; Rom 10:9-10; 2Pe 3:18; Joh 6:65-66; Mat 7:21-23; Luk 24:46-48; Act 1:8; 2Co5:18-21; 2Pe 3:9, Act 8:26-38; Mat 5:13-16; Eph 6:18-20; Php 4:14-18; 2Co 9:1,5-8; Heb 10:34; Mat 9:37, 38; 2Co 4:7

SECTION 10: FUTURE EVENTS

We believe in the Second Coming²⁹ of our Lord Jesus Christ, a period of great turmoil and tribulation³⁰ on earth, and after that a thousand year period of peace under the direct rule of Christ known as the Millennium. We also believe that this Millennium is of special

interest to the Children of Israel in fulfillment of the many promises made to them in the Old Testament. After the Millennium we look forward to dwelling with God when the new heavens, new earth and new Jerusalem are revealed.

1Th 4:15-18; 2Th 2:1-4; 1Jo 3:2; Act 1:6-11; 1Co 15:51-53; Joh 14:1-3; Mat 24:29-30; Luk 21:20-28; Zec 14:2-4; Mat 24:27; Rev 1:7; 19:11-19; 2Th 1:7-8; Rev 21:1-5, 10-23; 22:1-6

a. God's Plan for Israel

We believe that God will fulfill all of His promises to Israel.

For Example: Deu 30:1-5; Isa 61:8-9, 11:1-16; Jer 16:14-16, 30:4-11, 31:31-37, 32:36-42; Eze 20:34-38, 36:32-38, 37:21-28; Dan 7:13-14; Hos 1:10-11; Joe 2:28-32, 3:1-21; Amo 9:11-15; Mic 4:4-7; Zep 3:14-20; Zec 8:1-8, Mat 5:17-18, Rom 11:11-12, 25-32

b. Eternity

We believe in the everlasting joy and bliss of the saved (the righteous) and the separation from God and conscious everlasting punishment of those (the wicked) who reject the Lord Jesus Christ as their own Savior.

Joh 14:1-3; Rev 21; Joh 3:36; Rev 20:15



ENDNOTES

- ¹ go beyond: for example, by “extrapolation” or by adding “greater specificity”
- ² verbal: “every word”
- ³ plenary: “complete”
- ⁴ inspired: “God-given”
- ⁵ omniscience: “all knowing”
- ⁶ inherent: “innate”
- ⁷ illimitable: “without limits or bounds”
- ⁸ redeem: “buy the freedom of”
- ⁹ Intercessor: “the One Who pleads for us”
- ¹⁰ convicts the world of sin: i.e. “makes man conscious of his guilt”
- ¹¹ body of Christ: “the church”
- ¹² sanctifying: “making them holy”
- ¹³ long-suffering: “patient endurance”
- ¹⁴ temperance: “self-control”
- ¹⁵ edification: “building up”
- ¹⁶ direct creative act of God: i.e. “without the process of evolution”
- ¹⁷ glorify God: i.e. “to praise, honor, and exalt Him”
- ¹⁸ fell: “became sinful and subject to death”
- ¹⁹ grace: “unmerited favor”
- ²⁰ remission: “removal”
- ²¹ imputation: “attributing to us”
- ²² true believers: “those who have genuinely participated in the “new birth” as defined above.
- ²³ saints: “all born again believers”
- ²⁴ worldly: including that which is “fleshly, sensual or sinful”
- ²⁵ fellowship: “brotherly interaction”
- ²⁶ ministry: “service to God”
- ²⁷ edifying: “building up, strengthening”
- ²⁸ KJV: King James Version of the Bible
- ²⁹ Second Coming: “return to earth of our Lord Jesus Christ”
- ²⁰ tribulation: “distress”