

Doctrinal Statement

By Stephen Jenney

I. The Godhead:

A. The Trinity of God: God is three persons in one God-head. (Dt 6:4; Is 43:10-11; Mark 10:18)

1. Oneness of God (Dt 6:4; Is 43:10-11; Mark 10:18)

2. Three personalities (II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19-20; I John 5:7)

B. God, The Father (Romans 1:17; Matthew 23:9)

1. The Existence of God

a. General Revelation - also called natural. reaches to all (Mtt 5:45; Acts 14:17)

i. Revealed through creation (Romans 1:20; Psalms 19:1-6)

ii. Revealed through Conscience (Romans 2:15; Acts 17:22-29)

b. Special Revelation - Extension to the general revelation.

i. Several means of Special Revelation

a). Theophanies (Genesis 17:1; Exodus 3:2-6)

b). Dreams and visions (I Kings 3:5-15; Daniel 2:19)

c). Direct contact (Exodus 33:11)

d). Miracles and signs (Exodus 3-15)

e). The Prophets (II Peter 1:21)

f). Jesus Christ (John 1:14; Hebrews 1:1)

g). The Scriptures (II Peter 1:16-21)

ii. Scriptures are the completeness of God's Special Revelation (I Pt 1:19)

2. The Personality of God - God possesses self-consciousness and the power of self-determination.

a. There are three elements of personality

i. Mind (Psalm 94:11; Isaiah 55:9)

ii. Emotions (Genesis 6:5-6; Deuteronomy 6:15)

a). Grief (Genesis 6:6)

b). Anger (I Kings 11:9)

c). Jealousy (Deuteronomy 6:15)

d). Compassion (Micah 7:19)

- e). Hatred (Proverbs 6:16)
- iii. Will (Romans 12:1-2; II Peter 3:9)
- b. God's Personality shown in His names
 - i. Jehovah-jireh - The Lord will provide (Genesis 22:13-14)
 - ii. Jehovah-nissi - The Lord our banner (Ex 17:15; Psalm 20:7)
 - iii. Jehovah-rapha - The Lord that healeth (Exodus 15:26)
 - iv. Jehovah-shalom - The Lord is our peace (Judges 6:24)
 - v. Jehovah-raah - The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23:1)
 - vi. Jehovah-tsidkenu - The Lord our righteousness (Jeremiah 23:6)
 - vii. Jehovah-sabaoth - The Lord of Hosts (I Samuel 1:3)
 - viii. Jehovah-shammah - The Lord is present (Ez 48:35)
 - ix. Jehovah-elyon - The Lord most high (Psalms 97:9)
 - x. Jehovah-mkaddesh - The Lord that sanctifieth thee (Ex 31:13)
- 3. Attributes of God
 - a. Incommunicable - cannot be obtained by man
 - i. Self existence (John 5:26; Exodus 3:14)
 - ii. Immutability - cannot change (Mal 3:6; Heb 6:17-18)
 - iii. Omniscience - All knowing (Romans 11:33; Job 11:7-8; Luke 16:15)
 - iv. Omnipotence - All powerful (Mtt 19:26; Gen 17:1; Ps 93:3-4)
 - v. Omnipresence - God is everywhere (John 4:21-24; Prv 15:3)
 - b. Communicable
 - i. Holiness (Ez 20:22)
 - a). Separate from evil (Leviticus 11:43-45; Dt 23:24)
 - b). Claim of scripture (I Peter 1:15-16)
 - c). Hatred for sin (Habakkuk 1:3; Dt 25:16; Prov 6:16)
 - d). Delight in righteousness (Proverbs 15:9; Lev 19:2)
 - e). Justice and righteousness of God (Micah 6:8; John 17:25)
 - ii. Love - seeks the good of others regardless of sacrifice (I John 3:16)
 - a). God loves His only begotten Son (Mtt 3:17; John 17:24)
 - b). God loves His children (John 16:27)
 - c). God loves the world (John 3:16; II Peter 3:9)

d). God loves the sinner (Romans 5:6-8)

iii. Mercy and grace

a). Grace is unmerited (Eph 2:8-10; Acts 20:24; Romans 11:6)

b). Mercy pardons and grace justifies (Micah 7:18; Rm 3:24)

c). Mercy removes guilt and penalty, grace imputes righteousness (Psalm 103:12; Romans 4:5,24).

d). Mercy rescues and grace transforms (Lk 10:33; Titus 2:11-12)

C. God, The Son (Hebrews 1:8)

1. The Person of Christ - He is both fully God and fully man. In Jesus Christ is the basis of my faith, without Him Christianity would not exist.

a. Deity of Christ

i. He possesses attributes only God has.

a). Eternality (John 8:58)

b). Omnipresence (Matthew 18:20)

c). Omniscience (Matthew 16:21; Luke 6:8)

d). Omnipotence (Matthew 28:18; Mark 5:11)

ii. He performed works only God can do

a). forgiveness of sins (Mark 2:1-12)

b). Gives spiritual life (John 5:21)

c). Raises the dead (John 11:43)

d). Judges all people (John 5:22,27)

e). Creator (Colossians 1:16)

f). Other miracles (John 3:2)

iii. He was given names and titles of deity

a). Son of God (John 10:36) Refers to equality and nature.

b). Lord and God (Lk 1:76; Mal 3:1; Rm 10:13; Jn 1:1; 20:28)

iv. He accepted worship (Mtt 4:10; Acts 10:25-26; John 13:13)

b. Humanity of Christ

i. He had a human body (Luke 2:52; John 8:40)

ii. He had a human soul and spirit (Matthew 26:38; Luke 23:46)

iii. He experienced characteristics of a human being:

- a). He was hungry (Matthew 4:2)
 - b). He was thirsty (John 19:28)
 - c). He was tired (John 4:6)
 - d). He was tested (Hebrews 4:15)
 - iv. He was called by human names such as "Son of Man" and "Son of David" (Matthew 8:20; 24:27)
 - c. The Hypostatic Union - the divine and human natures in one person. These two natures are unified without separation, without mixing, and without change.
 - d. The kenosis of Christ - self emptying (Phil 2:5-8). Christ left His heavenly place to confine Himself to suffer as a man. He did not empty Himself of His divine nature, but laid aside divine attributes to fulfill the will of God as the perfect sinless sacrifice for the sin of man.
2. The Preincarnate Christ - Christ existed before His physical birth.
- a. Evidence of preexistence
 - i. His origin is in heaven (John 3:13)
 - ii. His work as creator (John 1:3)
 - iii. His relationship with God (Phil 2:6)
 - iv. His attributes (Col 2:9)
 - v. His relation to John the Baptist (John 1:15)
 - b. Eternality - Christ has always existed, eternally. (John 1:1)
 - c. Activity
 - i. Creator (John 1:3)
 - ii. Angel of God/Yahweh (Genesis 16:7-14; Exodus 3:2)
3. The Sinlessness of Christ - Christ had to be sinless in order to be the pure sacrifice for sin.
- a. Pure and free from defilement (I John 3:5; I John 1:5)
 - b. Testimonies of others
 - i. Unclean spirit (Mark 1:23-24)
 - ii. Judas Iscariot (Matthew 27:3-4)
 - iii. Pilate (John 18:38)
 - iv. Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:19)

- v. Dying thief (Luke 23:41)
- vi. Roman centurion (Luke 23:47)
- vii. Peter the Apostle (Acts 3:14)
- viii. John the Apostle (I John 3:5)
- ix. Paul the Apostle (II Corinthians 5:21)
- x. Ananias (Acts 22:14)
- xi. Jesus Himself (John 14:30)
- xii. God the Father (Hebrews 1:8,9)

4. The Work of Christ - Christ's redemptive acts toward mankind.

a. His death

i. Purpose of His death

- a). to show holiness (Habakkuk 1:13) God cannot look on sin
- b). to show love of God (I John 4:10)
- c). to take away sin of man (I Peter 2:24-25; Ephesians 2:13)
- d). to fulfill scripture (Isaiah 53; Luke 24:25-27)

ii. Aspects of His death

- a). Voluntary (John 10:17-18)
- b). Vicarious - on our behalf (I Peter 3:18; Romans 4:25)
- c). Sacrificial (I Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 9:14)
- d). Propitiatory - satisfied God (Romans 3:25)
- e). Redemptive - ransom paid (Galatians 4:4-5; Matthew 20:28)
- f). Substitutionary - in our place (I Pt 2:24; Rm 5:1; II Cor 5:21)

iii. Results of His death

- a). Saving grace of God brought to man (Titus 2:11)
- b). Satan and his power were defeated (II Corinthians 2:14-15)
- c). The sinner becomes a new creation (II Corinthians 5:17)

b. His resurrection

i. The Reasons

- a). Christ must have power over death to give us victory over death (I Corinthians 15:55-58)
- b). Christ must have power over death to complete His redemptive

work (Romans 4:25)

c). Christ must have power over death to fulfill offices of priest and king (Hebrews 4:14; Revelation 19:16)

d). Christ must have power over death to fulfill His intercessory work. (Hebrews 7:25)

ii. The Evidences

a). Empty tomb (Luke 24:3)

b). Appearances (Acts 1:3; Matthew 28:5,8-9; I Cor 15:4-7)

c). Meeting on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; I Cor 16:2)

d). Christ's testimony (John 14:6; Revelation 1:18)

iii. The Results

a). Reveals the power of God (Ephesians 1:19-20)

b). Establishes the deity of Christ (Romans 1:4)

c). Provisions of justification for believers (Romans 4:23-25)

d). Lively hope (I Peter 1:3-4; I Timothy 1:1)

e). Makes certain God's future judgment (Acts 17:31)

f). Makes the priesthood available to every believer (Heb 7:22,25; Rm 8:34)

g). Gives believers assurance of their resurrection (II Cor 4:14)

c. His ascension - Christ was taken up into heaven to begin His role as high priest (Mark 16:19)

d. Present ministry

i. Head of the Body, which is the Church. (Ephesians 1:23)

a). formed by the sending of His Spirit on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 1:5; I Corinthians 12:13)

b). He cares for His body (Ephesians 5:26,29)

c). He gives gifts to His body (Ephesians 4:7-13)

d). He empowers His body (John 15:1-10)

ii. High Priest (Heb 2:17-18; 4:14-16; 7:25; Luke 22:32; I John 2:1-2)

iii. Preparing a place for us (John 14:1-3)

e. Future Ministry

- i. He will raise the dead
 - a). NT saints at the rapture of the Church (I Thess 4:13-18)
 - b). OT saints at the second coming (Daniel 12:2)
 - c). Unbelieving dead after the Millennium (Revelation 20:5)
- ii. He will reward all people
 - a). Believers at the judgment seat of Christ (I Cor 3:11-15)
 - b). Unbelievers with lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15)
- iii. He will rule this world (Revelation 19:15)
- iv. He will banish Satan and his followers in the lake of fire and create a new heaven and a new earth. (Revelation 21:1-4)

D. God, The Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4)

1. The Person of the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit is a person in the same sense that Jesus Christ is a person.

a. His attributes

- i. He has a mind (I Corinthians 2:10-11)
- ii. He has emotions (Ephesians 4:30)
- iii. He has a will (I Corinthians 12:11)

b. His actions

- i. He guides us into truth (John 16:13; Romans 8:14)
- ii. He convicts of sin (John 16:8)
- iii. He performs miracles (Acts 8:39)
- iv. He intercedes (Romans 8:26)
- v. He comforts (John 14:26)
- vi. He restrains sin (Isaiah 59:19; II Thessalonians 2:6-8)
- vii. He empowers (Zechariah 4:6; Acts 1:8)

c. His ascriptions

- i. He is one to be obeyed (Acts 10:19-21)
- ii. He can be lied to (Acts 5:3)
- iii. He can be resisted (Acts 7:51)
- iv. He can be grieved (Eph 4:30)
- v. He can be blasphemed (Matthew 12:31)

- vi. He can be insulted (Hebrews 10:29)
- d. His relations as person to persons
 - i. To the apostles (Acts 15:28)
 - ii. To Jesus (John 16:14)
 - iii. To other persons of the Trinity (Matthew 28:19; II Cor 13:14)
 - iv. To believers (Romans 8:14)
- 2. The Deity of the Holy Spirit
 - a. Revealed by divine names
 - i. Spirit of God (Genesis 1:2)
 - ii. Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)
 - iii. Spirit of the Lord (Luke 4:18)
 - b. Attributes of the Holy Spirit
 - i. Omniscience (Isaiah 40:13; I Corinthians 2:12)
 - ii. Omnipresence (Psalm 139:7)
 - iii. Omnipotence (Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30)
 - iv. Holiness (Romans 1:4)
 - v. Eternality (Hebrews 9:14)
 - c. Works of the Holy Spirit
 - i. Regeneration (John 3:6)
 - ii. Sanctification (II Thessalonians 2:13)
 - iii. Creation (Genesis 1:2)
 - iv. Cause of the Virgin birth (Luke 1:35)
 - v. Agent in giving the inspired Scriptures (II Peter 1:21)
- 3. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament -
 - a. He came upon individuals for a period of time to complete a work for God (Exodus 31:3; I Samuel 10:9-10).
 - b. Man was under the OT law so this was not regenerative
- 4. The Holy Spirit in the New Testament
 - a. In the life of Christ
 - i. Christ was filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:1)
 - ii. Christ was anointed with the Spirit (Lk 4:18; Acts 4:27; 10:38; Heb 1:9)

- iii. Christ rejoiced in the Spirit (Luke 10:21)
- iv. Christ was empowered by the Spirit (Isa 42:1-4; 61:1-2; Lk 4:18)
- b. In the life of Believers
 - i. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Baptism of the Holy Spirit)
 - a). Received at the moment of salvation (John 7:37-39; Acts 11:16-17; Romans 5:5; I Corinthians 2:12; II Corinthians 5:5)
 - b). It is a one time event (Ephesians 4:5)
 - c). It is permanent (John 14:16)
 - ii. The filling of the Holy Spirit - State of yieldedness to God.
 - a). It is a command (Ephesians 5:18)
 - b). It is the means to overcome the power of sin (Gal 5:16)
 - c). Results of being filled
 - 1). Sanctification (Gal 5:22-23)
 - 2). Teaching (I John 2:27)
 - 3). Guidance (Romans 12:1-2)
 - 4). Assurance (Romans 8:16)
 - 5). Worship (Ephesians 5:18-20)
 - 6). Prayer (Romans 8:26)
 - 7). Service (Ephesians 2:10)
- c. Spiritual Gifts
 - i. Temporary Gifts - These gifts ceased when the canon of Scripture was complete. (I Corinthians 13; II Peter 1:19)
 - a). Apostleship (I Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11)
 - b). Prophecy (Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:10; Eph 4:11)
 - c). Miracles (I Corinthians 12:28) and healings (9, 28, 30)
 - d). Tongues (I Corinthians 12:10, 28, 30)
 - e). Interpreting Tongues (I Corinthians 12:10)
 - f). Discerning Spirits (I Corinthians 12:10)
 - ii. Permanent Gifts
 - a). Teaching (Romans 12:7; Ephesians 4:11)
 - b). Ministry (Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 12:28)

- c). Administration (Romans 12:8; I Corinthians 12:28)
- d). Evangelism (Ephesians 4:11)
- e). Pastor (Ephesians 4:11)
- f). Giving (Romans 12:8)
- g). Mercy (Romans 12:8)
- h). Faith (I Corinthians 12:9)
- i). Exhortation (Romans 12:8)

II. The Scriptures

A. Inspiration (II Timothy 3:16-17)

1. All scripture is inspired, meaning it is "God-breathed"
 - a. Plenary inspiration - Completely inspired
 - b. Verbal inspiration - the very words are inspired (Matthew 5:18)
2. The Basis for inspiration of scripture
 - a. Bible claims it (II Timothy 3:16; Psalm 12:6-7)
 - b. Evidence of divine authorship
 - i. God's holiness (Psalm 108:7)
 - ii. Man's sinfulness (Romans 3:10-20)
 - c. Fulfilled prophecy
 - i. Jews became a nation (Genesis 12:2-3)
 - ii. Coming of Christ (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23)
 - iii. Coming of John the Baptist (Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 11:10)
 - d. Internal proofs
 - i. 66 books written by 40 authors, each with a different background.
These books were written over a period of 16 centuries.
 - ii. Unity of thought in scripture
 - iii. Plan of salvation
 - iv. Unity of doctrine
 - e. External evidence
 - i. Archeological
 - ii. Geological
 - iii. Historical

f. Lives changed (II Corinthians 5:17)

B. Finality (II Peter 1:19-21)

1. Inerrancy - Without error

- a. The Bible is God breathed (II Timothy 3:16)
- b. Claimed to be the very words of God (Dt 4:2; Psalm 19:7)
- c. Christ confirmed the Old Testament (Mtt 4:4; 5:18; John 10:35)
- d. Apostles spoke of the inerrancy of Scriptures (Romans 7:12; James 1:22-25)

2. Infallibility - Incapable of error.

- a. The nature of God (Psalm 18:30)
- b. The perfect Living Word is equal to the written Word (John 1:1, 14)
- c. Jesus claimed the Word of God to be truth (Mtt 5:18; John 10:35; John 17:17)

3. Canonicity - that which is measured

- a. The Bible consists of books recognized by the Jewish synagogue and the Christian church (Pillar and ground of truth).
- b. The canon of scripture is the result of inspiration and not human authority. (II Peter 1:20)
- c. The canon of scripture has stood the test of time.
- d. The canon of Scripture is complete (Revelation 22:18-19; I Cor 13:9-10)

4. Preservation

- a. God has preserved his Word through every generation since its beginning. He preserved His Word through copying, translation, and printing.
- b. God promised to preserve His Word (Psalm 119:89, 160)
- c. The Bible has outlived attempts of destruction

5. Translation - I believe that the King James Version is the most accurate and best English translation of the preserved received text.

C. Authority - The Word of God is the absolute and final authority for faith and practice.

- 1. Christ gave testimony to its authority (Matthew 5:18)
- 2. Christ emphasized the authority (Luke 24:44)
- 3. He quoted the Old Testament as authoritative (Matthew 4:4,7,10; Dt 8:3)
- 4. The early church held it as authoritative.
 - a. Peter (Acts 2:14-36)

b. Stephen (Acts 7:2-50)

c. Paul (Acts 13:16-41)

III. Ecclesiology

A. The Body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23; I Corinthians 12:12-31)

1. All members are born again (Ephesians 1:22-23; I Corinthians 12:13)

2. Every believer in heaven and Earth (Hebrews 12:23)

3. The Church was started by Christ (Matthew 16:18)

4. Other names for the Church

a. Building of Christ

i. Jesus is the foundation (I Corinthians 3:11)

ii. Jesus is the builder (Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 2:20)

iii. Jesus is the cornerstone (Psalm 118:22; I Peter 2:6-7; Isaiah 53:3)

iv. All believers are the spiritual stones (I Peter 2:5).

b. Bride of Christ (Ephesians 5:25; John 14:1-3; Revelation 19:7)

5. The Church is not Israel (Acts 21:19; I Corinthians 10:32)

6. The Church Began on the day of Pentecost. (Acts 2)

B. Kingdom of God - The physical and spiritual domain over which God is sovereign.

1. The Kingdom of God is unending (Daniel 6:26; Luke 1:32-33)

2. The Kingdom of God is His entire realm (Mark 1:15)

3. The Kingdom of God is where God's Will is Done (Matthew 6:33)

4. The Kingdom of God is God's authority/rule (Matthew 21:43; 12:28; Mark 10:15)

5. You must choose to receive the Kingdom of God in order to enter (Mark 10:15; John 3:5)

6. The Kingdom of God is Spiritual (Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17)

7. The Kingdom of God has a physical aspect that is future
(Mtt 8:11; Lk 14:15; 21:27-28,31; I Corinthians 15:24)

8. The Kingdom of God consists of those who submit to God (Matthew 21:43)

9. Believers are participants in the Kingdom of God

(Romans 8:17; II Timothy 2:12; Ephesians 2:6; Revelation 1:6; I Peter 2:9)

10. The throne of God's Kingdom is in Heaven (Psalm 103:19)

11. There will be a physical throne where Christ will sit (Isaiah 9:7)

12. The Kingdom of God is a gift (Hebrews 12:28)

13. The Kingdom of God is not in words but in action (I Corinthians 4:20)

C. Kingdom of Heaven - This is synonymous with the Kingdom of God and used in the book of Matthew where synoptic verses in the other Gospels use Kingdom of God. (Mark 1:14-15; 4 Matthew 4:12, 17) To the Jews this was known as the literal, physical Kingdom where the Messiah would sit on the throne of David and Israel would receive all the unconditional promises God had made to them. (Gen 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-16; 15:18; 17:6-8; II Sam 7:16; Psalm 89:1-4; Jer 31:31-34; Ezek 36:25-30; Deut 28-30). The aspect and form of God's Kingdom mentioned in Scripture must be interpreted according to the literal and historical context of the passage. The Physical portion of God's Kingdom will be fulfilled at the return of Christ. The Spiritual portion of God's Kingdom is present.

1. A new aspect of the Kingdom was being taught for this present age (Matthew 13:11)

2. Mystery between Israel's rejection and reception of the Messiah (Matthew 13)

3. The future Physical Kingdom was preached

(II Timothy 4:1; Mtt 8:11; Lk 14:15; 21:27- 28,31; I Corinthians 15:24)

4. Christ set aside the physical for the Spritual. Blood for Faith (Mtt 12:48-50)

a. Kingdom of God taken from Israel (Mtt 21:43)

b. Jerusalem would suffer judgment (Mtt 24:37-39)

c. The Physical realm fell to the Gentiles until Christ's return. (Luke 21:24)

D. The Local Church

1. It is a gathering of believer's in Christ who have been baptized by believer's baptism through immersion. (Matthew 18:20). The word "church" was translated from the Greek word "Ekklesia" meaning "the called out ones". The word "church" comes from "kuriakon" which means "dedicated to the Lord." Kuriakon was commonly used to refer to a holy place or temple. Kuriakon was a translation from Greek to Latin of the word Ekklesia. Ekklesia was also used synonymously with the word synagogue, which means "come together." Therefore a church can be described as a "gathering" of believers as mentioned in Matthew 18:20 where the gathering is described as as few as two or three.

2. Scriptural officers of the Local Church

a. Pastor/shepherd (Acts 20:28), bishop (I Peter 5:2), elder (I Timothy 5:17).

i. One and the same position

- ii. Qualifications (I Timothy 3:1-7)
 - iii. Position limited to men (I Corinthians 14:34-35)
 - b. Deacon (Acts 6:2-3; I Timothy 3:8-13)
- 3. The Mission of the Local Church
 - a. To glorify God (John 15:8; Romans 15:6,9; Ephesians 1:5, 12, 14, 18, 3:21; Colossians 1:18; II Thessalonians 1:12; I Peter 4:11)
 - b. Edifying or building up believers (Ephesians 4:16; II Peter 3:18)
 - c. Evangelizing the perishing (Matthew 28:19; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8)
 - d. Protecting the truth (I Timothy 3:15)
- 4. Ordinances of the Local Church
 - a. Baptism
 - i. publicly identifies the new believer with Christ, and as brother to those within the Body of Christ. Should be administered to anyone who accepts Christ as savior. (Acts 8:37)
 - ii. Baptism may be done by any member of a local new testament church under the scriptural authority of the local church. Many places in scripture do not state who actually did the baptizing (I Corinthians 1:14-16; Acts 10:47-48; Acts 1:15, 2:41 - doubtful the 12 baptized everyone.) There was a concern in the NT about over exulting leaders and, for some, baptizing too many would lead to this.
 - b. Communion
 - i. Should be administered to those who are saved (I Corinthians 11:27-29) and those who are in fellowship with a local church (I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Thessalonians 3:6, 11-15).
 - ii. Should be administered by members of a local church under the authority of the local church.
- 5. Anyone who has received Christ and has been baptized may be admitted into church membership (Acts 2:47; 2:41)
 - a. A believer should only hold membership in one church that he may be faithful and loyal without conflicting authority (I Corinthians 4:2; Matthew 6:24)
 - b. Members should be dismissed following the order of (Matthew 18:15-18)

- i. The Pastor is the authority for discipline (Matthew 8:15-18; Revelation 2:2; I Timothy 5:20).
- 6. The Church Government of a Local New Testament Church is Congregational. I like the term "Theo-democratic" meaning God's rule through the people (Acts 6:1-5; 13:1-3; 15:22; II Corinthians 8:1-13).
 - a. Each church makes its own decisions guided by the Holy Spirit (Revelation 3:22)
 - b. Christ is the only overruling authority over the churches. (Ephesians 4:15; Philippians 2:11)
- 7. Associations, conventions and councils have no place in the conduct of the local church. They hold no authority over the church and could only serve to hinder the guidance of the Holy Spirit for a local church.
 - a. The local church is responsible to Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:15)
 - b. The final authority of the church in matters of faith and practice are the scriptures (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21)
- 8. The church is to be separate from the State. (Matthew 22:21)

IV. Separation

A. Personal Separation - The individual demonstrates in his conduct and attitude obedience to God's Word and refuses to look and act like the world and has no desire for the world or for fellowship with those who are of the world.

- 1. Separation from worldliness (Ps 141:4; Dan 1:8; I John 2:15-17; Ps 97:10)
 - a. Clear commands - (Gal 5:19-21; Col 3:8,9; II Cor 6:14-18)
 - b. Gray areas - some tests
 - i. Have I committed every area of my life to God? (Proverbs 3:5-7)
 - ii. Am I willing to sacrifice my desires for God's will? (Luke 9:23-24)
 - iii. Have I prayed for God's guidance? (Psalm 32:8)
 - iv. Will this glorify God? (I Corinthians 3:16,17)
 - v. Can I thank God for this? (Colossians 3:17)
 - vi. Will this build me up spiritually? (I Corinthians 10:23)
 - vii. Will it cause a weaker brother to stumble? (I Cor 8:13; Rm 14:5)
 - viii. Am I in doubt as to whether it is right? (Rm 14:23)

ix. Will it hurt my witness to the lost? (I Cor 15:34; I Thess 5:22)

x. Would I want to be doing it when Jesus comes? (I Cor 15:52)

2. It is not isolation from the world (John 17:11, 14-16; Mtt 6:13-16)

B. Ecclesiastical Separation - The church should be pure and holy not having members or fellowship with other churches that practice or teach doctrine that is contrary to the Word of God. The churches goal should be to glorify God and evangelize the lost, not to intermingle with and entertain the world and the lusts thereof.

1. Militant defense of the faith (Jude 3; Eph 5:11; I John 4:1-4)

2. Separation from unbelievers (II Corinthians 6:14-18; I Cor 10:20,21; Amos 3:3)

3. Separation from disorderly brethren (II Chron 25:7; Rm 16:17; Mtt 18:15-17)

4. Separation from Apostate organizations (Prov 19:27; Rev 18:4)

5. Separation from False Teachers (Gal 1:8-9; II John 9-11; Eph 5:11)

V. Salvation

A. Salvation: Deliverance from sin and its consequences. It is the work of God (Psalm 3:8; Jonah 2:9; Ephesians 2:8-10) through Jesus Christ His son (I John 1:7). Faith is the only condition for salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5).

B. Regeneration: To re-create, reconstitute, or revive especially in a better condition. This is the act of God whereby He renews the spiritual condition of a sinner. It means to be born again (John 3:3). By the regenerative act of God the sinner becomes a new creature in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15).

C. Justification: The act of declaring a sinner righteous. According to the New Testament this is on the basis of Christ's atoning sacrifice. (Romans 3:24; Romans 5:9) The righteousness of Christ is imputed to the believer (I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 5:21).

D. Redemption: The action of regaining or gaining possession of something in exchange for a payment. God claims us as His own through the redemption in Christ. (Ephesians 1:14; Colossians 1:14) He became the payment for our sin (Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:15).

E. Faith: The assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another. According to the new testament this is the only conduit/means of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9).

F. Repentance: A change of mind and heart about an action or idea. According to the New Testament Biblical repentance is a change of mind about God and sin that results in a changed life. Simply put it is turning from sin toward God. Biblical repentance always includes faith

and faith always includes repentance. Both repentance and faith were preached by Paul (Acts 20:21). Repentance was commanded by Christ as necessary for salvation (Luke 13:3) and we are only saved through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9), therefore, faith and repentance are mutually inclusive.

G. Grace: The free and unmerited favor of God. It is often defined as God's Riches At Christ's Expense. Grace rules out all human merit (Romans 11:6). It is the source of salvation (Ephesians 2:8-9). The believer is no longer under the law but under Grace (Romans 6:14). He is not condemned according to what he deserves but has received favor with God under what God Himself has done and not what the sinner has done. (I Corinthians 15:11; Romans 5:2; II Corinthians 12:9).

H. Propitiation: The satisfactory payment for sin. Jesus Christ became the satisfactory substitutory atonement for our sins. He completely satisfied God's wrath by His death on the cross (I John 2:2).

I. Imputation: Attributing something to someone or something, a charging of one with or setting of something to one's account. Adam's sin was imputed to the entire human race (Romans 5:12-21). When Jesus came to die on the cross the sin of the human race was imputed to Christ (II Corinthians 5:21). When Christ died and rose again, His righteousness was imputed to the redeemed (I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 5:21). We are not righteous in our state, but in our standing with God (Romans 3:22-26; 4:6; 10:4; Philippians 3:9).

J. Forgiveness: The intentional and voluntary process by which a person undergoes a change in feelings and attitude regarding an offense, letting go of negative emotions with the desire to wish the offender well. In legal terms it is used for absolving or giving up all claims on account of debt. Christ offered forgiveness of sins (Acts 26:18). This forgiveness is made possible by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14). Christians are commanded to forgive others as Christ has forgiven them (Ephesians 4:32).

K. Sanctification: To make holy or to set apart as sacred. It is purification from moral evil and conformity to the image of Christ. It is a state of separation unto God which all believers enter into when they are born again (I Corinthians 1:2, 30; 6:11; Hebrews 10:10). The believer is in a position of sanctification, but in practice he is going through the process of sanctification day by day (Colossians 3:8-1; Romans 8:13; I Peter 2:2; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 7:1; I John 3:2). There will be a day when this sanctification is complete and final (I Corinthians 13:10; Romans 8:23; Philippians 3:20). The means of this progressive sanctification is by the word of God

(John 17:17; 15:3; Ephesians 5:26-27), prayer (Matthew 26:41; Mark 14:38), and faith (Colossians 2:6).

L. Spirit Baptism: An act of God whereby the believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was new phenomenon given only to the Church (I Corinthians 12:13). Old Testament believers were not indwelt by the Holy Spirit permanently. Peter stated that the new permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit was prophesied by Joel (Acts 2:16-18; Joel 2:28). Jesus told His disciples to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5). On the Day of Pentecost they received this promise and thus the church began (Acts 2). It was with the power of the Holy Spirit that the church was to carry out the great commission (Acts 1:8). All who receive Christ receive the Spirit (Galatians 3:26-27). There is never a command in Scripture to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, it is automatically received at the time of salvation (Ephesians 4:4-5). Through the Spirit of God we are empowered to live the Christian life (Zechariah 4:6; Ephesians 5:18; John 15:15).

M. Eternal Security: Once saved, always saved. Salvation cannot be lost because it is kept secure forever by Christ. Since it is not gained by anything we do, it is not lost by anything we do or don't do. (John 10:28-29; 11:26; 17:11; Ephesians 1:13; Philippians 1:6; I Peter 1:5).

N. Apostasy: The abandonment or renunciation of a religious or political belief. In the first century it was a technical term for political revolt or defection. For the Church it is a falling away from key and true doctrines of the Bible into heretical teachings that claim to be "real" Christian doctrine. It can also mean a complete renunciation of the Christian faith. Apostates are false Christians, especially marked in the New Testament as those that creep into the church and pervert the Gospel (II Corinthians 11:13-14; I John 2:19). The book of Jude gives strong warnings against apostates. They eventually show their true selves (Titus 1:15-16).

O. Glorification: To be exalted, praised and/or changed to the heavenly. The future work of God upon Christians, where he transforms our mortal sinful physical bodies to the eternal sinless physical bodies in which we will dwell in forever. (I Corinthians 15:42-44). Jesus is the first to receive the glorified body (I Corinthians 15:20). He being mentioned as the first implies there will be more to follow.

VI. The Plan of Salvation

The Bible is God's Word given to mankind that we may know Him and what He expects out of our lives. In the Bible God gives certain commands that represent His perfection. Through these laws

we learn of our imperfection and our failure to match up to a Holy God. As a result of our failure we are doomed to be separated from God for all eternity. Since God is perfect He must also be just, in His justice sin has to be punished or else perfection would have to accept imperfection and that is not possible. God made a place called Hell as the punishment for sinning against Him. This place was made for the Devil and his angels who chose to rebel against God and afterward, lead men into rebellion against Him. When the first two people called Adam and Eve Sinned, every person born down the line was born a sinner doomed to suffer the punishment for their sin. You must believe that the Bible is the Word of God, that Hell is real, and that as a sinner you deserve to spend eternity in Hell.

The Good News is that God so loved the World that He sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ into the World, not to condemn it but to save it. Jesus was God in human flesh who chose to take the sin of mankind upon Himself and to suffer the punishment for it. He became your substitute to take your punishment. After He died and was buried He rose again the third day proving that He was God and that His sacrifice was the acceptable punishment for sin and conquered death for us all. John 3:16 says that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Do you believe this? If you do the Bible says "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Are you willing to turn from your sin toward God for His free gift of salvation? If so you can call upon Him right now and ask Him to save you from your sin and its penalty.

VII. What is the Gospel?

- A. I believe that the saved are the elect of God chosen in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4; I Peter 5:13; Romans 8:29).
- B. I believe that God's sovereignty does not negate man's freedom and responsibility, and that all men are invited genuinely to believe and to be saved (John 3:16; II Peter 3:9).
- C. I believe that both conceptions given above are Biblically and in-comprehensively true.
- D. I believe that "healing" is part of its message, it was a miracle given to confirm the Gospel and is no longer needed since the giving of the Holy Scriptures.
- E. I do not believe in "Speaking Tongues" as it is used today. I believe this was another sign given to confirm the Gospel and since "that which is perfect is come" (aka the Bible) it is no longer used by God.

VIII. Creation

- A. God Created the Heaven and the Earth from nothing (Genesis 1:1-2; Isaiah 45:18)
- B. God Created the Earth in 6 literal days (Genesis 1:31)

- C. God created every creature after its own kind (Genesis 1:25)
- D. Man was created last to have dominion over the rest of creation (Genesis 1:26)
- E. God created all things good (Genesis 1:31)

IX. Eschatology

- A. The Rapture of the Church (I Thessalonians 4:15-17; 1:9-10; 5:9-10; I Corinthians 15:51, 53)
 - 1. It is imminent - could happen at any moment and there are no signs. (James 5:7-9)
 - 2. The restraining work of the Holy Spirit will be removed (II Thessalonians 2:7)
 - 3. Will include only the dead in Christ and those that are alive in Christ at that time.
 - 4. Meeting in the air to distinguish from 2nd coming.
 - 5. Promise to be kept from the hour of temptation/testing (Revelation 3:10)
- B. The Judgment Seat of Christ (I Corinthians 4:5; Revelation 22:12)
 - 1. The rewarding takes place at the time of resurrection, which is part of the rapture (Luke 14:14)
 - 2. At the 2nd coming the church is already rewarded (Revelation 19:8)
 - 3. This is for believers only (Romans 14:10-12; II Corinthians 5:1-10)
- C. The marriage of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7) - The church is united with the "Bridegroom"
- D. The Great Tribulation (70th week of Daniel) (Daniel 9:24-27)
 - 1. Three divisions
 - a. seven sevens (49 years) Rebuilding of Jerusalem v.25
 - b. sixty-two sevens (434 years) rebuilding to the coming of the Messiah
 - c. 70 times 7 (490 years) only 483 fulfilled; 7 years left.
 - 2. The last week begins when the Antichrist makes a covenant with Israel v.27
 - a. halfway through (3.5 years) covenant will be broken
 - b. Antichrist starts as leader of a powerful western nation (Daniel 7:8,20)
 - c. Antichrist will be assassinated and restored to life (Revelation 13:3,12,14)
 - d. Antichrist becomes dictator of the world (Revelation 13:5-7)
 - e. Antichrist defeated by Christ (Revelation 19:20)
 - 3. Judgments of God
 - a. Seal judgments (Revelation 5:1-6:1)
 - b. Antichrist will rule the world for a 42 month period (Revelation 13:5-7)
 - c. Persecution against Israel (Matthew 24:9-24)

- d. Trumpet Judgments (began by seventh seal (Rev 8:1))
- e. Bowl Judgments (began by seventh trumpet (Rev 10:7) - Most intense)

4. Religion

- a. Israel will go back to former levitical worship
- b. Apostate Christian Church (Revelation 17)
- c. 144,000 come to faith in Christ
- d. Last half begins with persecution against Israel (Matt 24:15; Rev 13:14-15)
- e. At midpoint the world will be worshipping Satan and Antichrist (Rev 13:4-5)
- f. At Midpoint Satan is banished from Heaven. (Rev 12:7-12)

5. The Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 16:14) - A War Campaign

- a. Land area is 180 miles in length (Rev 14:20)
- b. Numerous conflicts among a number of nations.
- c. Culminates in the second coming of Christ

E. The Second Coming of Christ (Revelation 1:7)

1. Jesus brings salvation to Israel
 - a. oppression and persecution ended
 - b. Rebellion of Israel will be broken. (Matthew 23:39)
2. Christ Reclaims the world for God (Revelation 19:11-21)
 - a. Israel receives fulfillment of land promise (Jeremiah 16:14-15)
3. Satan thrown into the abyss (Revelation 20:1-3)
4. Jesus Christ establishes Himself as King. (Revelation 19:16; Daniel 2:44)
5. Three Judgments
 - a. Judgment of the Gentiles at end of Tribulation (Matthew 25:31-46)
 - b. Judgment of the Jews who are living at the end of the trib (Mtt 25:1-30)
 - c. Judgment of OT saints and Tribulation saints (Daniel 12:2-3,13; Rev 20:4-6; Jer 30:7-9)

F. The Millennium (Revelation 20:4)

1. Christ will rule over a united Israel and over the Gentiles in Jerusalem (Psalm 2:1-9)
2. Animal sacrifices for the sinful men in the millennium (Jeremiah 33:18; Heb 10:1-4 - reminder of sins offense toward God; Ez 43:18-46:24).
3. Curse on creation lifted (Is 11:6-9)

4. No more sickness and deformity (Is 33:24)

5. Will last 1000 years.

G. The Final Revolt of Satan (Revelation 20:7,9)

1. Satan released from the Abyss

2. Large amount of people gathered against Christ

H. The Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11,15)

I. The Destruction of This present Heaven and Earth (II Peter 3:10,11)

J. The New Creation of Heaven and Earth (Revelation 21:1)

X. Baptist Distinctives

A. Biblical authority (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:21)

B. Autonomy (1 Cor 5:13; Acts 6:3; 13:2,3)

C. Priesthood of all believers (2 Pet 1:20; Heb 4:16; 1 Pet 2:9)

D. Two ordinances (Acts 2:41, 42) Lord's supper and Baptism

E. Individual Soul liberty (1 Jn 2:27)

F. Saved Membership (Acts 2:41) Do not take the people into fellowship right when they come forward unless you have met with them before and have talked with them about their salvation.

H. Two officers (Phil 1:1) bishops and deacon

I. Separation of Church and State (Matt 22:21) Neither tells the other what to do.