

Doctrinal Positions

1. The Word of God

a. Infallible: (def: incapable of making mistakes or being wrong) I absolutely believe that the Bible is like no other book on this earth. It is divine in origin and not human in origin. It is not man's thoughts, but Gods. His Spirit wrote it. It is free from contradictions, error, or inaccuracy.

- "In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;" - (Titus 1:2)

b. Authority of the Bible: It is the supreme authority in our lives and ministry. By it we learn who God is and what He wants. We find direction, counsel, correction and encouragement. He never contradicts His Word and still speaks today through it.

- "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." - (Hebrews 4:12)

- "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." - (Psalms 138:2)

c. Inerrant: It is fully inerrant (def: incapable of being wrong) - It is God's Word, so it cannot be untrue or in error or contradictory - or He would not be God. It is tied completely to His nature and Character and He is the Word.

- John 1:1-5

d. Importance: I would have no basis for anything if his Word were fallible. It is vital to everything in life that I know He and His Word are completely trustworthy.

"That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:" - (Hebrews 6:18)

2. Trinity

The Word clearly teaches that each member of the trinity is God. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all specifically called God. All of the attributes attributed to God the Father are also attributed to the God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

"But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God." - (Acts 5:4)

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." - (John 1:1)

"And 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 fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." - (Gen 1:26)

3. Deity of Jesus Christ

He is all of God that God is. Everything that can be said of the Father can be said of Him. He is the Word of God and He is the creator. He is immortal, without beginning or end, He is all knowing, all powerful, everywhere at once. He called Himself God. God the Father calls Him God.

"But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And,

Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:"

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." - Colossians 1:15-17

"For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;" - Colossians 1:19

"Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:" - Philippians 2:6

"And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. (John 20:28)

4. Virgin Birth

The Word clearly states that Joseph did not know his wife intimately prior to Jesus' birth. That she would be over shadowed by the Most High and bear a child of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 1:18-25

5. Sinless Life of Christ

He was/continues to be absolutely sinless. He is the spotless lamb of God.

"For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." - (II Corinthians 5:21)

"But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:" - 1 Peter 1:19

6. Jesus' Miracles

I believe each and every miracle Jesus performed was literal - they were not exaggerated or a product of myth or folklore. They are not to be "spiritualized".

cf. John Ch 9. "He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not: one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see." - vs 25

7. Atoning Death of Christ

It is everything. I was completely born in sin, completely separate from God and dead in my trespasses and sins. Nothing good dwelt in me. My sin separated me from my God. And I was a slave to that sin. I had no hope apart from his death.

My sin required death and judgement

cf. Romans 6:23 "for the wages of sin is death..."

His death was the penalty and judgement for MY sins, and thus by accepting His sacrifice my debt was paid. And as such, I was no longer guilty for my sins - because the price had been paid.

This removed the "enmity" between God and I and allowed me to come into fellowship and relationship with Him.

8. Resurrection and Ascension of Christ

The Bible teaches that Jesus was raised bodily from the dead three days after His death on the Cross. He was seen by many people to attest to this fact... the Apostle Paul said that many of those who saw Him after His resurrection were still alive and could be questioned about it. His resurrection is fact.

The Resurrection is essential to the claims of Christ

His ascension was also witnessed and corroborated by many. His ascension is His return to His rightful place at the Father's right hand and according to Jesus was necessary that the "Helper might come" to them.

9. Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

a. Person = The Holy Spirit is continuously referred to as a "Him" or "He", not an "it". The Holy Spirit is called God. He is said to have attributes that God alone has. He is all of God that God is.

He is not a force or impression... He is God, and is to be worshipped and glorified as such.

b. Work = In John 14 He is called our "Helper". As our Helper, He will abide with us forever, He will be in Me as a believer. He will teach us all things, and remind us of the things Jesus said to us and bring peace.

In John 16 He is said to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He will guide us into all truth, He will tell us what He hears from the Father and will tell us of things to come. He will glorify the Son

He is the only source of power we have to live as God desires. He transforms believers into followers and disciples and powerful instruments in the Lord's hands.

There is a marked difference in the life of any believer who has been filled with the Holy Spirit.

He fills believers and anoints them with power to carry out what God has called them to.

He can be grieved and quenched as a result of sin and rebellion.

10. Baptism of the Holy Spirit

a. Baptism = The Holy Spirit is said to be with the unsaved bringing conviction and truth. The Holy Spirit is said to come into the believer upon salvation - and dwells in them. The baptism of the Holy Spirit (or filling) is a separate experience where believers are anointed with "power from on high" to accomplish what is impossible for man.

b. Occurs = Biblically, it sometimes occurs at salvation. Other times we see those who are already saved but not yet being filled. The Lord tells us to ask Him, and He like a good father, will give to us the Holy Spirit if we ask.

c. Purpose = To enable us to live this life in obedience to his will, to carry out His commands, to be conduits for His love, to be effective instruments in his hand. To be witnesses of Him.

d. Receiving = see letter a. Upon salvation for some, asking for most (recognizing my need for His Spirit and asking).

11. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of the Holy Spirit were given to His church of which we are still a part of. We need His gifts every bit as much today as they did then. They are very much for today in very practical ways.

Their operation is to be characterized by "order". The Lord is very specific in His instruction on the use of these gifts within the local body. He is not the author of confusion and thus His gifts are intended to bring clarity to the local body and glory to Him alone.

The operation of the gifts of the Spirit I believe are to be waited upon at times set aside for that purpose. They are not to be a part of the regular worship service - as it is a time for believers. Thus, the "afterglow" concept is a good model.

12. Water Baptism

a. It represents the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. it is a picture of our being crucified with Him, buried with Him, and raised to new life with Him. It is a "going on record" statement to the world.

b. Water baptism is not essential for salvation... the thief on the cross was not water baptized and yet Jesus promised him he would be in paradise that day with Jesus.

I believe that a real believer will desire to be baptized and desire to be identified publicly as belonging to the Lord.

13. Lord's Supper

a. The Lord told us to do this as often as we eat in remembrance of Him. We remind ourselves of the sacrifice made by Him for us. We remind ourselves of His gift to us.

This is to be done with believers.

b. It's significance is that this must always be before us... this makes us thankful people, grateful people. Reminds us of who we are, and who He is and His love.

14. The Church

a. Nature - The Church is a body of believers (not a building) whose head is Christ - He leads the church, the people are His.

b. Purpose - The purpose of the church is to build up the body of Christ through the Word of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. To corporately express our love for Him. To reach the lost within our community and beyond. To make disciples.

The Book of Acts has the model for the church: "And they continued steadfastly in the Apostle's doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and in prayers." - Acts 2:42

To so build up the body that they naturally reproduce. We have been taught, "healthy sheep beget healthy sheep"

15. Personal Return of Jesus

There will only be one return of Jesus Christ to this earth and that will take place at the end of the tribulation and will commence the 1000 year reign of Christ on the earth.

He will return to this earth physically and will set up His kingdom here.

The rapture is a "calling up" of believers to meet Him - He does not then return to the earth... but instead seven years (in the tradition of Jewish weddings) will be spent with His bride as Israel goes through their time of "trouble".

16. The Rapture

1 Thess 4:16-17 teaches that the Lord will return prior to the tribulation period for His Church. This is also seen in revelation ch. 4-5. The church is not mentioned after ch. 5 until ch 20 again in heaven with Christ.

The rapture of the church occurs prior to the tribulation, where

God will remove His people, prior to judgment.

He will not judge the just with the wicked. We are to comfort one another with the idea that He will take us home one day.

17. Israel and the Church

I do not hold to "replacement theology", I do not believe the church is the "new Israel". I believe Israel is Israel and the church is the church. 2 Separate entities. God is NOT finished with Israel, they remain His people, that He chose and many will be saved.

It is still true that those that bless Israel, He will bless and those that curse them, He will curse.

18. Calvinism

Total Depravity - completely born in sins - I agree.

"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"

Unconditional Election - He chose me I did not chose Him, but I had a choice to not choose Him. - So I agree and disagree.

"Just as He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world..."

"...that whosoever would believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"

Limited Atonement - He died for the whole world, not just those that would be saved. - Disagree

Irresistible Grace - Again man has a choice. - Disagree.

Perseverance of the Saints - No one can take us out of His hands.

"Nothing shall separate us..."- I agree.

19. Armenian Position

Total Depravity - agree as stated previously.

Substitutionary effect of atonement - (limited atonement) - disagree as stated previously

Nature of election - faith is involved in salvation - Agree

"For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God..."

Extent of atonement - God universally draws men unto repentance - Agree

"The Lord is not slack concerning His promises, as some count slackness, but is long-suffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" - 2 Pet 3:9

"that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life"

Perseverance in faith - salvation can be lost - Disagree

"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus."

20. Believer's Security and Demon Possession

a. Believer's Security - The true believer is completely secure in Christ. There are no examples of true believers "falling away" in the scriptures. It is not taught or warned about through the epistles.

The Lord goes to great lengths to assure us of what He did for us. If we could loose it, then He could not have cried, "it is finished!"

"They went out from us for they were not of us"

b. Demon Possession - Darkness and light cannot dwell together. There are no warning against this in the scriptures and no examples of true believers ever being demon possessed.

Believers have the Lord living within them... He will not share that space... believers cannot be demon possessed, but can be demon oppressed.

21. Word Faith Movement

Characterized by a cancerous teaching and manipulation of the Word of God. It is a "movement" that is chalk full of heretic teaching and greed.

Sadly, well meaning, yet hurting parishioners are led astray and given false ideas concerning the Lord by greedy men professing true religion.

22. Purpose Driven and Emerging Church

a. Purpose Driven - While having many good points and teaching, it has largely been used to replace the clear teaching of the Word of God in place of a "formula" for success within many churches.

As good as it might be, it is still man's teaching and can never replace the living breathing Word of God.

b. Emerging Church - While the desire to reach the lost and "unchurched" is admirable among many of those within the Emerging movement, sadly it is a departing from the core

essentials of the faith in many cases.

The emerging church seems to be more of a revolt against conservative Christianity than anything else. Different for the sake of being different.

The emerging movement is blending clear lines the Word of God has drawn. Skewed teaching on key doctrine is common place and is shrouded in "art".

Sadly, man has become it's primary focus.

23. Signs and Wonders Movement

Again a distortion of the clear teaching of the Word of God regarding the gifts of the Holy Spirit within the local church. Experience is a focus within this movement, rather than clear Biblical teaching. Man and man's efforts become the focus.

Generally these services are characterized by the very thing Paul warned against, "disorder".

24. Psychology

Jeremiah 17:9 gives a good description of psychology when he says that, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; **who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I test the mind..**"

I do not believe psychology has any place in the church or in counseling.

The Lord is called "the Wonderful Counselor".

25. Style of Ministry

- a. Praise - Singing/speaking about the Lord
- b. Worship - Singing/speaking to the Lord
- c. Bible Teaching - Verse by verse, book by book with the intention to go through the entire counsel of God's Word as many times as possible, teaching clearly and applying the Word to our lives. All of which is to be accomplished through the Holy Spirit's ministry to "lead us into all truth".
- d. Outreach - Where there is need, where the Lord reveals need - we reach out and obey Him in meeting that need. Outreach is natural when it is initiated by Him and not by us. Thus we do what He directs us to do instead of manufacturing something to reach out.

26. Pastor's Financial Responsibility

Malachi teaches that the money that I am given is given by the Lord and does not actually belong to me - it is His. And it is something that I am accountable to Him for. It is one of those "small things" I am to be faithful in.

A pastor is to tithe and give generously as the Lord leads. I am not to be greedy for money, I am not to love it... but I am also not to neglect it. It is a part of my witness to this world the way that I handle it - and it can disqualify me and stumble others based on what I do with it.

A pastor's lifestyle is to be one of transparency... not above the people (so as to think he is more than they) and not below (so as to grumble and complain and to illicit pity from the people). People should be able to look at me and see nothing. Not rags and not riches. Nothing distracting.

- a. Fund Raising - Where God guides God provides... He is

not in need of money, not broke. He does not need us (nor want us) to place burden on people to support His plans. Thus as a rule we do not fund raise - we pray and ask the Lord to provide for what He is involved in.

b. Tithes and Offerings - We also do not ask for tithes. We teach on it when it presents itself in the Word - it is important for people to understand the concept of tithing and what it means for them and why God instituted it. But we do not have to worry about the tithes that are brought in or not brought in.

We have a box at the back of the sanctuary that says "tithes and offerings" and we leave it at that.

27. Biblical Counseling

I believe that Biblical counseling is giving people the Word of God under the direction of the Holy Spirit in place of my opinion.

I believe that Biblical counseling is the only counseling that a Pastor ought to perform. I also believe that it is the only method of counseling that people need. The Lord is the Wonderful Counselor and His Word is perfect council. There is nothing that compares to this.

Jeremiah tells us ...

"The heart is deceitful above all things , and desperately wicked: who can know it?" - (Jeremiah 17:9)

Thus man is not able to council for he does not even know his own heart let alone someone else's.

However, Hebrews 4:12-13 says,

"For the Word of God is living a powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from his sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account"

28. Divorce

Jesus said it was because of the hardness of man's heart that divorce was conceded in the Law. Divorce is clearly something the Lord hates as it destroys the picture that it is meant to paint - the picture of He and His bride. Thus He says...

"What God has joined together let no man separate"

There are biblical grounds for divorce (which are not commanded but allowed) specifically regarding unfaithfulness (sexual immorality)

There are also Biblical grounds for remarriage after being divorced if it is against your will.

Otherwise divorce and remarriage is viewed as adultery.

29. Church Government

Paul in the books of Timothy sets clearly the model for church government when he defines Christ as the Head of the Church and then addresses Timothy as the head overseer (pastor/under-shepherd/elder) and then we see two offices he is over: deacons and elders.

It is Christ's church, the people are His body and bride. he is their shepherd and I am just a helper to Him and under-shepherd.

He leads His church, thus it is a theocracy.

There are grounds for a council (or board) of men to make decisions, but it ultimately falls to the pastor - much as it was with Moses to hear direction from the Lord of the flock to whom Moses was over.

Women are not to be pastor's or overseers in the body - they are not to rule over men. Women can teach women and children but not men.

30. God's Grace and Personal accountability

We do not presume upon God's grace and "sin that grace may abound". I don't trust myself as far as I can throw myself and thus accountability is something that I desire - not to bind me within parameters, but that if I get off the path - someone can confront me on it.

With the enemy always seeking to devour, it seems best to me to have people that will question what's done.

It's also an issue of transparency - whatever I cannot do in front of other people should not be done privately. Because I am nothing but what I am when no one is looking.

31. Pastor's Role

I see the pastor's role as that of an under-shepherd. John 21 is the model the Lord gave to Peter - Peter was to love the Lord and love the Lord's sheep and to feed them and to tend them. my role is to love, feed, and tend them. To care for them as He does. To allow Him to meet His people's need through me.

I am to point them to Him and away from myself and all

others. I am to warn them of wolves and false doctrine.

a. Pastor's Wife Role

I see my wife's role as that of supporting the work the Lord has called me to. She is primarily equipped to minister to me and to raise our children and to enable me to serve the flock.

She is also called to love and pray for the flock - these are her primary ministries TO the flock.

32. Calvary Pastor's Qualities

a. Servant Hood - Jesus took a towel after dinner while the disciples were arguing about who would be greatest in the kingdom and girded Himself and washed their feet. And then He told them to do the same.

Jesus defines the term servant as seen in Phil 2:5-11 when He "made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant...." and He is called "the suffering servant". Many times He was tired and yet had compassion on them and healed their sick and lame.

Paul revealed his pastoral heart when he said he is "the chief of sinners". Paul saw himself as the lowest, not as the top.

b. Verse by Verse Teaching - "And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, He expounded to them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself."

Paul said, "I have not shunned to declare to you the whole council of God"

Verse by verse teaching is the safest way to teach the scriptures - it protects you from pet doctrines and

manipulation - exegesis in place of isogesis. Protects us from reading into the scriptures what we want to say. Or only teaching on those things we think are important.