



Introduction

What you are about to study are the very truths that unite us. The primary source of our unity is not common interests, common backgrounds, or similar music preferences. The primary source of our unity is not even our elder leadership. The source of our unity is the truth of God's Word. At times we will disagree about music preferences, finances, ministry models, and a host of personal issues. Yet, through all such disagreements, we will have a unity that cannot be shaken because the source of our unity is the truth of God. Our prayer for all involved in this study is that...

we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love. (Ephesians 4:13-16 ESV)

Recommended Resources

At the end of each section you will notice that we recommend resources for further study. The resources listed will be resources that have to do with that particular topic. Those marked with a double asterisk (**) are easier to read. If you would like a single volume book that deals with most of the doctrines with our statement of faith we recommend the following books...

- *Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem
- *Bible Doctrine*, Wayne Grudem
- ***Christians Beliefs*, Wayne Grudem
- *Christian Theology*, Michael Horton
- *Pilgrim Theology: Core Doctrines for Christian Disciples*, Michael Horton
- *Systematic Theology* (3 Volumes), Douglas Kelly
- ** *Concise Theology*, J.I. Packer
- ***Essential Truths for the Christian Faith*, R.C. Sproul
- ***Now That's A Good Question*, R.C. Sproul
- ***Tough Topics: Biblical Answers to 25 Challenging Questions*, Sam Storms



The Scriptures

Our statement:

The Bible, consisting of 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books, is the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The Bible is “God-breathed”. God inspired human authors to write his Word. He did this by working through the authors’ personalities and circumstances. God inspired every word of the Bible. The Bible is inerrant in the original manuscripts. It is completely truthful since God is the ultimate author of the Bible and He is truthful. The Bible is clear in its message. Although some passages are hard to understand, the teaching of the Bible, through the power of the Holy Spirit, is understandable to those who desire to know and obey God. Disagreements over biblical passages are not due to problems with the Bible but due to problems with the interpreters. The Bible reveals all we need to in order to know, trust, and obey God. Nothing is to be added or taken away from the Bible. God does not lead or teach his people contrary to Scripture.

Discussion questions:

Who wrote the Bible?

- ✦ 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ✦ 2 Peter 1:20-21

What does it mean that the Bible is inerrant?

- ✦ 2 Samuel 7:28
- ✦ Titus 1:2
- ✦ Proverbs 30:5

If the Bible is clear, why are there so many differing interpretations?

- ✦ Psalm 19:7
- ✦ Job 32:8
- ✦ 2 Timothy 2:7

When we say “the Bible reveals all we need,” what do we mean by that?

- ✦ 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- ✦ Deuteronomy 29:29

Recommendations for further study:

- *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, Rene Pache
- ***Knowing Scripture*, R.C. Sproul
- ***The Gospel and Scripture: How to Read the Bible*, Mike Bullmore
- *Canon Revisited*, Michael Kruger



God

Our Statement:

There is one living and true God who is most holy, self-existent, self-sufficient, unchangeable, all knowing (omniscient), all powerful (omnipotent), fully sovereign, has no beginning and no end (eternal), and his whole being is present everywhere (omnipresent).

Discussion Questions:

Why is knowing God's attributes important?

We use the word holy quite often, what do we mean when we say God is holy?

- ✝ Leviticus 11:44
- ✝ Isaiah 6:1-5
- ✝ Revelation 4:6b-11

Self existent?

- ✝ John 5:26

Self sufficient?

- ✝ Acts 17:24-25

Eternal?

- ✝ Psalm 90:2

Immutable (unchangeable)?

- ✝ Malachi 3:6
- ✝ James 1:17
- ✝ Psalm 33:11

Omniscient?

- ✝ Psalm 139:1-4
- ✝ Job 37:16
- ✝ John 3:20
- ✝ Hebrews 4:13

Omnipotent?

- ✝ Job 42:1-2
- ✝ Psalm 89:8



✝ Daniel 4:35

Omnipresent?

✝ Jeremiah 23:23-24

✝ Psalm 139:7

Fully Sovereign?

✝ Deuteronomy 32:39

✝ Proverbs 16

✝ Isaiah 45:7

✝ Acts 17:24

✝ Ephesians 1:11

Recommendations for further study:

- ***Knowing God*, J.I. Packer
- *The Attributes of God*, A.W. Pink
- *The Knowledge of the Holy*, A.W. Tozer
- ***The Holiness of God*, R.C. Sproul



Trinity

Our Statement:

The only true God eternally exists in three persons, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – the Trinity. Each person of the Trinity is fully and completely God with the same divine nature, but the persons of the Trinity are not identical. Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, is fully divine. The Holy Spirit is fully God and not an impersonal force.

Discussion Questions:

Why do we believe this if the word “Trinity” isn’t in the Bible?

- The Trinity was hinted at in the OT
 - ✦ Genesis 1:2
 - ✦ Genesis 1:26
 - ✦ Psalm 45:6-7
 - ✦ Hosea 1:7
- The persons of the Trinity are revealed in the NT
 - ✦ Matthew 3:16-17
 - ✦ Matthew 22:41-46
 - ✦ Matthew 28:19
 - ✦ John 1:1
 - ✦ John 14:26
 - ✦ 1 Corinthians 8:6
 - ✦ 2 Corinthians 13:14
 - ✦ 1 Peter 1:2
 - ✦ Jude 20-21

Is Jesus really God?

- ✦ Isaiah 9:6
- ✦ John 1:1-4
- ✦ John 20:27-28
- ✦ Romans 9:5
- ✦ Colossians 2:9
- ✦ Hebrews 1:3



Is the Holy Spirit really a person? Is the Holy Spirit God?

- ✦ Acts 5:3-4
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 6:19
- ✦ 2 Corinthians 3:18
- ✦ Ephesians 4:30
- ✦ John 14:26

Doesn't this just mean we have three Gods?

- ✦ Deuteronomy 6:4
- ✦ 1 Kings 8:60
- ✦ Isaiah 45:5
- ✦ 1 Timothy 2:5
- ✦ Romans 3:30
- ✦ James 2:19

Recommendations for further study:

- ***What is the Trinity?, R.C. Sproul.*
- ***What is the Trinity?, David F. Wells.*
- ***Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Bruce Ware.*
- *Delighting in the Trinity: An Introduction to the Christian Faith, Michael Reeves.*
- *The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship, Robert Letham*



Jesus Christ

Our Statement:

Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, being fully divine became man without ceasing to be God. The divine and human natures of Jesus Christ are distinct but united in one person. Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He was tempted as we are but lived a sinless life. Jesus was crucified for our sin, buried, and raised from the dead. He ascended to the Father and now rules over all and makes intercession to the Father for his people. Jesus is the head of the body, the church, and He will return in glory to judge the living and the dead and usher in the final glorious state

Discussion Questions:

We already saw from our study of the Trinity that Jesus was really God, but was he really human?

- ✦ Luke 2:52
- ✦ John 4:6
- ✦ John 13:21
- ✦ Matthew 26:38

What is the significance of Jesus being tempted and without sin?

- ✦ Luke 4:1
- ✦ 1 Peter 1:19
- ✦ Hebrews 4:15
- ✦ 2 Corinthians 5:21

Is the resurrection real? Did Jesus physically rise from the dead? Why is this so important?

- ✦ Matthew 28:5-6
- ✦ Acts 2:29-32
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 15:1-7
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 15:17

What is Jesus' activity today and in the future?

- Head of the Church
 - ✦ Colossians 1:18
 - ✦ Ephesians 1:22-23
 - ✦ Ephesians 5:23
- Judge of all people
 - ✦ Matthew 25:31-32



- ✦ John 5:22
- ✦ John 5:27-29

Recommendations for further study:

- ***The Work of Christ: What the Events of Jesus' Life Mean for You*, R.C. Sproul.
- ***The Man Christ Jesus: Theological Reflections on the Humanity of Christ*, Bruce Ware.
- *God With Us: Divine Condescension and the Attributes of God*, K. Scott Oliphint.
- *The Work of Christ*, Robert Letham.
- *The Person of Christ*, Donald Macleod.



Creation

Our Statement:

God created the world in six days out of nothing by the power of his word. The creation demonstrates God's eternal power, divine nature, and glory and is in no respects compatible with any theory of evolution. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit participated in creation. The crown of his creation was man, who was created in God's image. God created man male and female.

Discussion Questions:

Isn't the universe eternal? Didn't everything just evolve over time from some primordial ooze?

- ✦ Genesis 1:1
- ✦ Genesis 1:31-2:2
- ✦ Psalm 33:6
- ✦ Hebrews 11:3
- ✦ 2 Peter 3:5
- ✦ Psalm 19:1

Who made all things? Was it just the Father? Did the Son and the Spirit participate?

- ✦ John 1:1-3
- ✦ Colossians 1:15-16
- ✦ Hebrews 1:3a
- ✦ Genesis 1:1-2

What is humanity's significance? Is there anything special about us? Are we really not much more than talking beasts?

- ✦ Genesis 1:26-28
- ✦ Genesis 9:6
- ✦ James 3:9

Recommendations for further study:

- ***Creation*, Andrew Davis
- *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*, John Mark Reynolds, Howard J. Van Till, Paul Nelson, Robert C. Newman
- *God's Pattern for Creation: A Covenantal Reading of Genesis 1*, Robert Godfrey



The Fall

Our Statement:

At creation God established a covenant with Adam and his posterity. The Covenant of Works (or Creation) required complete obedience. When tempted by Satan Adam and Eve disobeyed and rebelled against God. Because Adam represented all mankind, the results of his sin are passed on to all his descendants. Being estranged from his Creator, yet responsible to him, man became subject to divine wrath, inwardly depraved and, apart from a special work of grace, incapable of returning to God. This depravity is radical and pervasive. It extends to his mind, will and affections. Unregenerate man lives under the dominion of sin and Satan. He is at enmity with God, hostile toward God, and hateful of God. Fallen, sinful people, whatever their character or attainments, are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ alone. After Adam transgressed the Covenant of Works God established the Covenant of Grace. The Covenant of Grace is demonstrated by God's care for his creatures, even though they are in rebellion against him, and his provision of salvation through the last Adam, Jesus Christ.

Discussion Questions:

Are we really born enslaved to sin and guilty of sin because of Adam?

- ✦ Romans 5:12-14
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 15:21-22
- ✦ Ephesians 2:1-3

Aren't people basically good?

- ✦ Genesis 6:5
- ✦ Ecclesiastes 7:20
- ✦ Micah 7:2
- ✦ Jeremiah 17:9
- ✦ Romans 3:10-18
- ✦ Matthew 15:18-19
- ✦ Romans 7:18

Do we have the ability to turn to God? Has the fall taken away our ability to repent and believe?

- ✦ Proverbs 20:9
- ✦ John 1:12-13
- ✦ Romans 8:7-8
- ✦ Romans 9:14-16
- ✦ 1 Corinthians 2:14



Is God really angry with sinners? Are we really under God's wrath without Jesus?

- ✝ James 4:4
- ✝ Romans 5:10
- ✝ Psalm 5:4-6
- ✝ Ephesians 2:1-3
- ✝ John 3:36
- ✝ Revelation 21:8

Recommendations for further study:

- ***Sin and the Fall*, Reddit Andrews
- *The Doctrine of Sin*, Iain Campbell
- *The Total Depravity of Man*, A.W. Pink



Salvation

Our Statement:

Before the creation of the world in eternity past, The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit covenanted to accomplish salvation. This covenant is called the Covenant of Redemption. Salvation, which is sovereignly administered by God, is being rescued from God's wrath and being given eternal life in Christ. The Father from all eternity chose people for eternal life. This choice was not due to any foreseen faith or merit in the chosen (elect), but only due to his mercy and good pleasure. The Father gave the elect to the Son, who accomplished redemption on their behalf. The Holy Spirit applies this redemption to the elect by regenerating unbelievers and sealing them for eternity guaranteeing their complete salvation. All who are foreknown by the Father are chosen, called, justified, and glorified. All aspects of salvation, including our faith in Christ, are gifts from God so that he receives all the glory.

Discussion Questions:

What is meant by "the Father chose people?" Don't people choose God? Isn't that how people are saved?

- ✦ John 6:44
- ✦ Acts 13:48
- ✦ Romans 8:29-30
- ✦ Romans 11:5
- ✦ Ephesians 1:3-6
- ✦ Ephesians 1:11
- ✦ 1 Thessalonians 1:4
- ✦ 2 Thessalonians 2:13

Is God's choice to save us based on him knowing that we would choose him?

- ✦ Ephesians 2:8-9
- ✦ 2 Timothy 1:9
- ✦ Romans 9:11-13
- ✦ Romans 9:16
- ✦ Romans 9:18
- ✦ Titus 3:5
- ✦ Revelation 13:8

Who saves us? Jesus? The Father? The Holy Spirit?

- Father--elects us unto salvation (see first question for references)



- Son--accomplishes our salvation
 - ✦ Romans 3:24
 - ✦ Ephesians 1:7-10
 - ✦ John 6:37-39
 - ✦ John 10:25-29
 - ✦ John 17:6-9
- Holy Spirit--applies our salvation
 - ✦ John 1:13
 - ✦ John 3:5
 - ✦ 2 Corinthians 1:21-22
 - ✦ Ephesians 1:13-14
 - ✦ Titus 3:5

Recommendations for further study:

- ***Chosen By God*, R.C. Sproul
- ***Putting Amazing Back Into Grace*, Michael Horton
- ***Chosen for Life*, Sam Storms
- ***The Doctrines of Grace*, J.M. Boice & Philip Ryken
- *A Defense of Calvinism*, Charles Spurgeon
- *The Bondage of the Will*, Martin Luther
- *Freedom of the Will*, Jonathan Edwards
- *Election and Free Will: God's Gracious Choice and Our Responsibility*, Robert A. Peterson
- ***What Does it mean to be Born Again?*, R.C. Sproul
- ***What Are Election and Predestination?*, Richard D. Phillips



The Gospel

Our Statement:

God's justice requires the penalty of death for sin. God's grace provides the satisfaction of that penalty for all who place their trust in Christ alone. Jesus alone can satisfy God's wrath so he once and for all satisfied (or propitiated) God's wrath by his death on the cross. Jesus' death was a substitutionary atonement in that he took our sin on himself and died on our behalf. Our sin was imputed (or credited) to Christ and his righteousness is imputed to those who by faith come to Jesus. His resurrection demonstrated that his sacrifice appeased God's holy wrath. Jesus ascended to the Father and is the only mediator between God and man. Therefore, salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only way to be reconciled to God. All this is good news (the gospel). The gospel demonstrates God's great love and amazing grace.

Discussion Questions:

Do sinners really deserve death? Is it really that big of a deal?

- ✦ Genesis 2:16-17
- ✦ Romans 6:23

Don't we have to be a really good person to be forgiven? Don't we have to do something to earn salvation?

- ✦ Acts 15:11
- ✦ Romans 3:28
- ✦ Galatians 2:16
- ✦ Ephesians 2:8-9
- ✦ Titus 3:5-6

Why does God forgive us for believing in Jesus?

- Jesus was an acceptable sacrifice. He was without sin and perfectly obedient to the Father.
 - ✦ 1 Peter 2:22
 - ✦ Hebrews 2:17-18
 - ✦ Hebrews 4:15
- Why is this important? *If Jesus had sinned. His death would not have paid for our sins, it would have merely paid for his own sins.*
 - ✦ John 5:19
 - ✦ John 10:30
 - ✦ John 17:4
- Jesus died in our place. Our sin was imputed to him. God's righteousness is imputed to us.



- ✦ 1 Peter 2:24
- ✦ Romans 3:24-25
- ✦ 1 John 2:2
- ✦ 2 Corinthians 5:21
- ✦ Hebrews 10:10
- The death of Jesus satisfies the wrath of God
 - ✦ Romans 5:9-10
 - ✦ Romans 8:3
- Jesus rose from the grave, proving that the sacrifice was acceptable to God.
 - ✦ 1 Corinthians 15:17
- Jesus ascended to heaven and intercedes for those who believe in him
 - ✦ Acts 1:9-11
 - ✦ 1 Timothy 2:5
 - ✦ Hebrews 9:15
 - ✦ Hebrews 9:24

Don't well meaning Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unitarians, etc. all go to heaven since they believe in a god?

- ✦ John 3:36
- ✦ John 14:6
- ✦ John 20:31
- ✦ James 2:19

Recommendations for further study:

- ***What is the Gospel*, Greg Gilbert
- ***What is the Gospel*, Bryan Chapell
- ***The Truth of the Cross*, R.C. Sproul
- ***Getting the Gospel Right*, R.C. Sproul
- ***The Explicit Gospel*, Matt Chandler
- ***Gospel: Recovering the Power that Made Christianity Revolutionary*, J.D. Greer



The Holy Spirit

Our Statement:

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; glorifies Jesus Christ; applies the work of Christ to the believer; regenerates believers in Christ; baptizes believers into the church; indwells believers permanently; and seals believers for the day of redemption. He is the active agent in our sanctification and produces His fruit in us as the Word of God renews our minds and we are conformed to the image of Christ. *He interprets and brings believers prayer before the Father.* The Holy Spirit desires to continually fill each believer with power to witness, and imparts His supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and the work of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first century are available today and are to be earnestly desired and practiced in an orderly manner.

Discussion Questions:

What is the Holy Spirit's role in salvation?

- ❖ John 16:8-11
- ❖ John 16:13-14
- ❖ John 14:16-17
- ❖ John 3:5
- ❖ John 6:63
- ❖ Titus 3:5
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 12:3
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

What is the Holy Spirit's role in our growth and holiness (sanctification)?

- ❖ 2 Thessalonians 2:13
- ❖ Galatians 5:22-23
- ❖ Romans 8:13
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:11
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:19
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 3:18
- ❖ Romans 8:26-27

What is the Holy Spirit's role in the Church?

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 11
- ❖ Romans 12:4-6
- ❖ Ephesians 4:7-8
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 14:26-33



❖ 1 Corinthians 14:1

Recommendations for further study:

- ***The Holy Spirit*, Kevin DeYoung
- *The Holy Spirit*, John Owen
- *The Holy Spirit*, Sinclair Ferguson
- *The Mystery of the Holy Spirit*, R.C. Sproul
- ***Who Is the Holy Spirit*, R.C. Sproul
- ***The Beginner's Guide to Spiritual Gifts*, Sam Storms



Sanctification

Our Statement:

Because our flesh sin remains a reality; however, as we grow in the Word and are led by the Spirit, we grow in the knowledge of the Lord, keeping His commandments and endeavoring to so live in the world that all people may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. All believers are exhorted to persevere in the faith knowing they will have to give an account to God for their every thought, word and deed. The spiritual disciplines, especially Bible study, prayer, worship and confession, are a vital means of grace in this regard. Nevertheless, the believer's ultimate confidence to persevere is based in the sure promise of God to preserve His people until the end, which is most certain.

Discussion Questions:

What does sanctification mean?

A progressive work of God and man that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in our actual lives.¹

Does anyone ever achieve perfection in this life?

- ✝ 1 John 1:8
- ✝ 2 Peter 1:10

What do we do to grow?

- ✝ Matthew 5:16
- ✝ John 14:15
- ✝ Galatians 5:16-17
- ✝ Romans 12:1-2
- ✝ 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ✝ 1 Thessalonians 5:17
- ✝ 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22
- ✝ 1 Peter 2:12
- ✝ James 5:16
- ✝ Jude 1:21

¹ Wayne Grudem, *Bible Doctrine*, p. 326.



That's a pretty tall order. How do I know I will be able to do that stuff? Is God going to help me? Is it possible that I will lose my salvation?

- ✝ John 6:37-40
- ✝ John 10:27-29
- ✝ Philippians 1:6
- ✝ Hebrews 12:1-2
- ✝ Ephesians 1:13-14
- ✝ Jude 1:24-25
- ✝ 1 Thessalonians 5:23

Recommendations for further study:

- ***The Hole in Our Holiness*, Kevin DeYoung
- ***The Pursuit of Holiness*, Jerry Bridges
- ***Respectable Sins*, Jerry Bridges
- *Eternal Security*, A.W. Pink
- ***What is Perseverance of the Saints*, Michael A. Milton
- ***How the Gospel Bring Us All the Way Home*, Derek Thomas



The Church

Our Statement:

God by His Word and Spirit creates the Church, calling sinful men out of the whole human race into the fellowship of Christ. The Church universal is made up of those who have become genuine followers of Jesus Christ, and all members of the Church universal are to be a vital and committed part of a local church. The local church is a community of regenerated believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord. In obedience to Scripture they organize under qualified leadership, gather regularly for preaching and worship, observe the biblical sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, are unified by the Spirit, are disciplined for holiness, and scatter to fulfill the Great Commandment and the Great Commission as missionaries to the world for God's glory and their joy. Upon conversion, newly redeemed men and women are added to a local church in which they devote themselves to teaching, fellowship, the Lord's Supper and prayer. In the context of the local church, God's people receive pastoral care and leadership and the opportunity to employ their God-given gifts in His service in relation to one another and to the world. The church is the building, body, bride, and family of Christ and the true Israel of God.

Discussion Questions:

How exactly does the Word [Jesus] and Spirit create the Church?

- ❖ Matthew 16:16-18
- ❖ Acts 20:28
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 1:9
- ❖ Ephesians 3:6
- ❖ Ephesians 5:23
- ❖ Revelation 5:9

What is the universal Church?

- ❖ John 10:16
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 12:13
- ❖ Ephesians 4:4

Does scripture recognize "local churches?"

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 1:2
- ❖ Romans 16:1
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 1:1
- ❖ Philemon 1:2
- ❖ Revelation 2:1

What do we mean by "qualified leadership?"

- ❖ 1 Timothy 3:1-7



- ❖ Titus 1:5-9

What is this leadership supposed to do?

- ❖ 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- ❖ 1 Peter 5:1-3
- ❖ Ephesians 4:11-12

How is the church to respond to this leadership?

- ❖ Hebrews 13:17
- ❖ 1 Timothy 5:17

What does the church do together?

- ❖ 2 Timothy 4:1-2
- ❖ John 4:23-24
- ❖ Acts 2:42-47
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 14:26
- ❖ Colossians 3:16
- ❖ James 5:14

What is the church sent out to do?

- ❖ Matthew 28:18-20
- ❖ Ephesians 6:4
- ❖ Galatians 6:10
- ❖ 1 Peter 4:10-11
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 10:31

What are some other ways the New Testament refers to the Church?

- ❖ Ephesians 2:19-22
- ❖ 1 Peter 2:5
- ❖ Ephesians 1:22-23
- ❖ Ephesians 5:29-30
- ❖ Ephesians 5:25
- ❖ Revelation 19:7
- ❖ 1 John 3:1-2
- ❖ Romans 8:14-17

We claim that “the Church is the true Israel.” What does that mean and how do I know it’s true?

- ❖ Ephesians 2:11-22



- ❖ Ephesians 3:4-6
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 1:20
- ❖ Ephesians 4:4-6
- ❖ Galatians 3:7-9
- ❖ Galatians 6:16

Recommendations for further study:

- *The Church*, Edmund P. Clowny
- *The Church: The Gospel Made Visible*, Mark Dever
- *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*, Mark Dever
- *******What is a Healthy Church*, Mark Dever
- *******What is a Healthy Church Member*, Thabiti Anyabwile
- *******Church Membership*, Jonathan Leeman
- *Finding Faithful Elders and Deacons*, Thabiti Anyabwile
- *Simple Church*, Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger
- *What is the Mission of the Church*, Kevin DeYoung
- *Why We Love the Church*, Kevin DeYoung & Ted Kluch



Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Our Statement:

Water baptism is for the individual who has received the saving benefits of Christ's atoning work and become his disciple. Therefore, in obedience to Christ's command a believer should be baptized in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Water baptism is a visual and symbolic demonstration of a person's union with Christ in the likeness of His death and resurrection. It signifies that his former way of life has been put to death and depicts a person's release from the mastery of sin. As with water baptism, the Lord's Supper is to be observed only by those who have become genuine followers of Christ. The Lord's Supper portrays the giving of Christ's body and the shedding of His blood on our behalf, and is to be observed repeatedly throughout the Christian life as a sign of continued participation in the atoning benefits of Christ's death. As we partake of the Lord's Supper with an attitude of faith and self-examination, we receive spiritual nourishment for our souls and signify our unity with other members of Christ's body.

Discussion Questions:

Who should be baptized?

- ✿ Acts 2:41
- ✿ Acts 8:12-13
- ✿ Acts 10:47-48

How should we be baptized?

- ✿ Matthew 28:19
- ✿ Acts 8:35-38
- ✿ Acts 19:5

What is baptism all about? What does it symbolize?

- ✿ Romans 6:1-4
- ✿ Galatians 3:27
- ✿ Colossians 2:11-12

What is the Lord's Supper all about? What does it symbolize?

- ✿ Luke 22:19-20
- ✿ 1 Corinthians 10:16
- ✿ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Who should receive the Lord's Supper? How are we to approach the Lord's Supper?

- ✿ 1 Corinthians 11:27-29
- ✿ 2 Corinthians 13:5
- ✿ 1 Corinthians 10:17



❖ Acts 20:7

Recommendations for further study:

- ***Baptism and the Lord's Supper*, Thabiti Anyabwile & Ligon Duncan
- *Children at the Lord's Table*, Cornelis P. Venema
- *Believer's Baptism*, Thomas Schreiner & Shawn D. Wright
- ***The Church*, Mark Dever



The Consummation

Our Statement:

The consummation of all things includes the future, physical, visible, personal and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the translation of those alive in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. In the consummation, Satan with his hosts and all those outside Christ are finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring eternal punishment in Hell, but the righteous, in glorious bodies, shall live and reign with Him forever, serving Him and giving Him unending praise and glory. Then shall the eager expectation of creation be fulfilled, and the whole earth shall proclaim the glory of God who makes all things new.

Discussion Questions:

Is the consummation the end of the world as we know it? (Yes, that was an REM joke)

- ❖ Acts 1:10-11
- ❖ Revelation 1:7
- ❖ Matthew 16:27
- ❖ John 5:28-29
- ❖ Revelation 20:11-13
- ❖ 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17
- ❖ 2 Peter 3:11-13
- ❖ Revelations 21:1

What will happen to Satan, demons, and wicked people at the consummation?

- ❖ Revelation 20:10
- ❖ Revelation 20:14-15
- ❖ Matthew 13:41-42
- ❖ Revelation 21:8
- ❖ Revelation 22:15

What will happen to those who trust in Jesus at the consummation?

- ❖ Revelation 22:3-5
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 15:51-53
- ❖ Revelation 22:14
- ❖ 1 John 3:2



All of creation can't wait for this to happen. This ought to be our hearts deepest longing. (We know – this is not a question)

- ❖ Philippians 3:20-21
- ❖ Romans 8:19-21
- ❖ Revelation 21:5
- ❖ Isaiah 65:17

Recommendations for further study:

- ***The Restoration of All Things*, Sam Storms
- ***The Momentous Event*, W.J. Grier
- ***What is Hell?*, Christopher W. Morgan & Robert A. Peterson
- *Life Everlasting*, Dan C. Barber & Robert Peterson
- *Kingdom Come: The Amillennial Alternative*, Sam Storms



Marriage and Sexuality

Our Statement:

Marriage is an exclusive relationship in which one man and one woman commit themselves to each other in covenant for life. Husband and wife become “one flesh”. Marriage is for believers and non-believers but a believer should only marry another believer. Christ’s relationship to the church explains Christian marriage. The husband is to love, lead, and protect his wife, and the wife is to respect and submit to her husband. The differing roles do not mean that the wife is inferior to the husband since both are made in God’s image and Christ died for both. Although God made provisions for divorce because of sin, God hates divorce. The provisions for divorce are just that, provisions, and not commands. Reconciliation is always preferable. God made man, male and female, as sexual beings for the purpose of mutual enjoyment and procreation. However, sexual activity should only occur between a man and a woman and only within marriage.

Discussion Questions:

How does the Bible define marriage?

- ❖ Genesis 2:23-24
- ❖ Matthew 19:4-6
- ❖ Ephesians 5:31
- ❖ Romans 7:2-3

Should believers marry non-believers?

- ❖ 1 Corinthians 7:39
- ❖ 2 Corinthians 6:14

How ought a husband treat his wife?

- ❖ Ephesians 5:25-29
- ❖ Colossians 3:19
- ❖ 1 Peter 3:7

How ought a wife treat her husband?

- ❖ Ephesians 5:22-24
- ❖ Colossians 3:18
- ❖ 1 Peter 3:1-6

What is the husband/wife relationship a picture of?

- ❖ Ephesians 5:31-32

How does God view divorce?

- ❖ Malachi 2:14-16
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 7:10-11



Divorce is never commanded, but is it ever permitted?

- ❖ Matthew 19:7-9
- ❖ Matthew 5:31-32
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 7:12-16

What does the Bible teach about sex? Is sex really only for married people?

- ❖ Genesis 2:24-25
- ❖ Genesis 9:1
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 7:1-5
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 7:8-9
- ❖ 1 Corinthians 6:9
- ❖ Hebrews 13:4

Recommendations for further study:

- ***What Did You Expect?*, Paul David Tripp
- ***This Momentary Marriage*, John Piper
- ***The Meaning of Marriage*, Tim Keller
- ***The Exemplary Husband*, Stuart Scott
- ***The Excellent Wife*, Martha Peace
- ***Gospel Centered Marriage*, Tim Chester
- ***When Sinners Say I DO*, Dave Harvey
- ***Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage in the Bible*, Jay E. Adams
- *God, Marriage, and Family (Second Edition): Rebuilding the Biblical Foundation*, Andreas J. Köstenberger & David W. Jones