

Doctrinal Statement

Create Hope

God's Revelation -

The Revelation of God is both the written Word of God (Heb. 1:1-2), or special revelation, and general revelation, or creation (Rom. 1:19-20). The Word of God in all forms is divinely inspired by God (2 Tim 3:16). The Word (the Bible) was spoken by God through men, and it is without error, in the original writings, in everything that it affirms and asserts (Psalm 119:160; John 14:6; 2 Peter 1:21). While the exact process that took place remains a mystery, we know that God carried along and guided the writers (2 Peter 1:21).

God -

God is spirit (John 4:24); eternal (Rom 1:20); infinite (Psalm 139:7-10); everlasting, creator, omnipotent, and omniscient (Isaiah 40:28). While God exists in three persons, there is one God (Ex 20:2-3, 20:4; Deut 6:4-5; Deut 6:13-14; Rom 3:30; 1 Cor 8:4,6), sovereign over everything (1 Chronicles 29:11-12). The Trinity is three distinct persons, Father, Son, Spirit, that are all one God. Yet within the one God, there are three distinct persons that are each fully God (John 1:1-2; John 17:24; 1 John 2:1; John 14:26; Rom 8:27; John 16:7).

God The Father -

God the Father has the specific role of Father to the nation Israel (Exodus 4:22), to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:17), to all believers in Christ (Galatians 3:26), and, more generally, to all mankind (Acts 17:29). He is the initiator of the plan for the salvation of mankind (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:3-8), as well as for the overall Messianic role of Christ (Psalm 2:7-9; Ephesians 1:9-10).

God the Son -

The eternal Son of God became a sinless man in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3, 14; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 2:52). He was born supernaturally to the virgin Mary and was then and forever will be the God-man (1 Timothy 2:5), fulfilling all the Messianic prophecies of Scripture.

God the Holy Spirit -

The Holy Spirit, the third member of the Godhead, convicts of sin (John 16:8-11), regenerates sinners (John 3:3-7, Titus 3:5), indwells believers (1 Corinthians 6:19), baptizes them into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13), seals them until the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30), and fills for godly living those yielded to God's purpose (Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 12:1-2, 8:14).

Angels, Demons, and Satan -

Angels were created by God to be His servants (Jude 6; Hebrews 12:22). However, in eternity past many chose to rebel against God, following a leader we know as Satan. Satan and other fallen angels (demons) have been allowed by God to reside on earth until their final judgment (Isaiah 14:12-20; Ephesians 6:11-12; Matthew 13:38-39; Revelation 20:12).

Mankind -

Mankind was made in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1:27). While Adam and Eve were created in a sinless state, they fell into sin by eating the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:6-7). Because of their sin, all of humanity was plunged into sin (Rom 5:12), condemned to eternal separation from God (Romans 1:18-3:23), and in desperate need of a savior (Rom 6:23).

Salvation -

Because of our sin (Rom 3:23, 6:23) we are incapable of achieving the standard that is set by God (Rom 3:23) and are in need of someone to save us (Rom 5:8). Salvation comes by the unmerited grace of God and is received by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). Christ died in the place of all sinners and rose again (Matthew 20:28; 1 John 2:2; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8) to reconcile holy God and sinful mankind (2 Corinthians 5:19) and to redeem mankind from the eternal consequences of the fall (Colossians 1:14, 20-22). However, Christ's death is only effective for those who believe (John 3:16-18). All true believers are eternally secure in Christ (John 10:28-30; 1 John 5:11-13).

Sanctification -

Sanctification is conforming to the image of the Son (Rom 8:29), and being transformed from one degree of glory to another (2 Cor 3:18). Every believer has put on his account the righteousness of Christ at salvation (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21). However, this ultimate sanctification, to be fully realized only in heaven itself (1 John 3:1-3; Jude 24), may be progressively realized as the Christian grows spiritually (Romans 8:29; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:13, 15; 2 Corinthians 3:18) by being transformed through renewing his mind

through the Word (Romans 12:1-2) and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his life (Galatians 5:16, 22-23).

The Church -

The church, started at Pentecost (Acts 2:42), is the body of believers both globally and universally, and is tasked with exercising the spiritual gifts (Eph 4:7-8, 11-13), and administering sacraments (Matt 28:18-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26). It will continue being formed until Christ returns to gather the final members at the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13- 18). The local church is an organized group of believers voluntarily joined together to act on Christ's behalf and so to honor God (Galatians 6:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12).

Spiritual Gifts -

The Holy Spirit sovereignly gives personal spiritual gifts for the purpose of enabling members of the Body of Christ to function effectively (1 Peter 4:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12).

Christian Responsibility -

Christians are responsible to live a life that is under the control of the Holy Spirit so that their honest relationships with others will be an example to believers and a testimony to unbelievers (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:13-2:10).

Ordinances -

The two ordinances to be practiced by the church are believer's baptism by immersion (Matthew 28:18) and communion for all believers (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Final Events -

The imminent coming of Christ to rapture the living members of the church and to resurrect those dead in Christ (2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) will immediately precede the seven-year tribulation (Revelation 5-19). The physical return of Christ to the earth (2 Peter 3:3-10; Revelation 22:7) will end the tribulation period and will usher in His 1000-year reign over the earth (Revelation 20:1-6). His reign is followed by the final judgment of mankind, Satan, and the fallen angels (Revelation 20:7-15), the creation of a new heaven and a new earth, and the ushering in of the eternal joys of heaven for all those who have ever believed in God for salvation (Revelation 21:1-22:5).

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct -

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and the infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Create Hope's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our board of directors is Create Hope's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.