

BCF Doctrinal Statement (2019)

THE TRINITY

We believe in one God who is Spirit, personal, infinite in holiness and in all other perfections, creator and sustainer of all things visible and invisible; that He exists eternally in three Persons as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who commune together in an eternal, loving fellowship; that these three Persons are one God, one Being, having the same essence, attributes, and perfections, and worthy of the same worship, trust, and obedience. (*Exodus 34:5-7; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 4:24; 17:5, 24; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 8:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2*)

GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, the Almighty, who is the Creator of heaven and earth, from whom are all things and for whom we exist; that he provides, sustains, and shows fatherly care to all of his creation; that he orders and guides all things according to his own wise purpose and gracious will; that he planned our salvation and sent his only Son into the world to be our Savior; and that we who trust his Son may know and call upon God as our Father. (*Genesis 1:1; Psalm 103:13; Matthew 6:6-9; John 3:16; 5:19-20; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 15:24; Galatians 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:3-12; 1 Timothy 6:15-16; 2 Peter 1:17; Revelation 4:11; 19:6*)

GOD THE SON, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is God and man in one person; that he has existed eternally as God the Son, and taking on a human nature, he became incarnate and was born of the virgin Mary; that he lived a sinless and righteous life, and by his death on the cross atoned for our sin as our substitute, bearing guilt, removing sin, and defeating death and the power of the devil; that he was buried, and on the third day he arose bodily and gloriously from the dead, ascended to the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for us and rules as head over the church, having been given all authority in heaven and earth; and that he will personally and visibly return one day with great power and glory. (*Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 9:1-7; Matthew 24:30; 28:18; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1, 14; 5:21-24; 10:30; 20:27-28; Romans 1:4; 3:24-25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Philippians 2:5-8; Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 2:13-15; Hebrews 1:1-4; 4:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24; Revelation 1:7*)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit, in his deity and personhood, who was sent to us from God to apply the benefits of Christ's work of salvation; that he convicts us of sin and gives the new birth, which is essential for salvation; that he baptizes, seals, and indwells all believers, empowering them to live godly lives for the glory of God; that he inspired the Scriptures and illumines its meaning to us; and that he gives spiritual gifts to believers for the building up of the church, which is the body of Christ; and that he gives boldness for our witness to the world. (*Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 42:1; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29; John 3:3-8; 16:8-14; Acts 1:8; 4:31; Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:3-13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13, 17; 4:11-14; 2 Peter 1:21*)

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, to be the Word of God; that God has taken the initiative to reveal himself and to preserve for us this written record; that he himself is the infallible Author behind the human authors of Scripture; that neither tradition, nor culture, or human reason has greater authority to us than what God has revealed; that the Bible is fully inspired, inerrant in the original writings, of absolute authority in faith and life, complete in its revelation, final in its content, and sufficient for all matters of belief and practice. (*Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 19:7-11; 119:89, 105; Proverbs 30:5; Jeremiah 23:28-30; Matthew 5:18; Mark 13:31; John 10:35; 14:26; 16:13; 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; Revelation 22:18-19*)

HUMANITY

We believe that human beings were created in the image of God, created male and female, being made without sin, yet with freedom to obey God or not; that through disobedience the first man Adam fell and brought guilt upon the human race, incurred a sinful nature, suffered spiritual death, ceased from communion with God, and became subject to the authority and power of the devil; that this guilt and depraved nature has been transmitted to all his natural descendants, who are therefore born into the world under the condemnation of God, spiritually dead, and incapable of producing any act worthy of God's acceptance; and yet, that all people, having been created in the image of God, have great dignity and worth before God from conception to death. (*Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7-25; 3:1-19; 9:6; Psalm 8:1-9; 14:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 15:18-20; Romans 3:23; 5:12-21; 6:23; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:1-3; James 3:9; 1 John 1:8-10*)

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is the gift of God's grace, having been accomplished by the perfect life, atoning death, and glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ; that this gift is received by faith in the person and work of Christ, apart from any works of human merit or effort; that the sinner, being unable to initiate any turning to God, is dependent on the work of the Holy Spirit to enable him to believe the gospel and to receive Christ as Savior and Lord; and that being justified before God the believer is also preserved by the power of God through faith for the salvation to be revealed at the return of Christ. (*Genesis 3:15; 15:6; Ezekiel 36:26-27; John 1:12-13, 29; 3:3-8, 16; 5:24; 6:35-40; Romans 3:27-28; 6:23; 8:28-39; 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 1:3-14; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 7:25; 10:12-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 22:17*)

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

We believe that the totality of life for the Christian should be lived under the authority and grace of God; that, being united to Christ in his death and resurrection, we follow him in the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God our Father; that in joyful gratitude for his love and mercy we believe God's Word, trust his promises, obey his commandments, and submit to the ethical standards of Scripture; that by faith,

prayer, and obedience we pursue not only growth in knowledge but growth in virtue, denying ourselves and following Christ, bearing fruit in every good work; that we love God whole-heartedly, and our neighbors as ourselves; that we seek the good of our world by proclaiming the gospel, and also by protecting life, providing for the poor, working for justice, and doing good to all; and that we desire above all else to be transformed to the image and character of Christ. *(Deuteronomy 6:5; Nehemiah 8:10; Micah 6:8; Matthew 22:36-40; 28:18-20; Luke 9:23; John 8:31-32; 14:21-24; 16:24; Acts 1:8; Romans 6:5-14; 12:1-2, 9-21; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 2:10, 20; 5:14, 22-23; Colossians 1:9-12, 21; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 2:2-3, 21; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 John 1:9)*

MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God ordained marriage to reveal the glory of his covenantal love and to bring blessing to the human race; that marriage reflects the relationship of Christ and the church; that marriage unites one man and one woman in a lifetime commitment to each other, providing companionship, an exclusive sexual relationship, and as he wills, the good gift of procreation; that it is God who creates us male or female, and ordains distinct roles for each in marriage and in the church; and that God has commanded that we do not engage in any sexual activity outside of God's design for marriage. *(Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-19; Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 5:15-21; Matthew 5:27-30; 19:4-6; Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9-11; 7:1-5; 11:1-12; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-6)*

THE CHURCH

We believe in the church universal, in its invisible form, comprised of all true believers in Christ, who are made members of the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit, a dwelling place of God, and a holy priesthood of believers; that it is God's will for every Christian to be involved in a local church, a visible fellowship of believers organized locally for worship, teaching, accountability, mutual love and service, and witness to our world; that the oversight of the church will be committed to a plurality of elders, men raised up by the Holy Spirit and qualified to lead, to serve, and to teach the Word; and that the local church is called to observe two ordinances, which the Lord instituted: the baptism of believers and the Lord's Supper. *(Matthew 16:16-18; 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42; 4:32-37; 14:23; 20:17-35; 1 Corinthians 11:28-32; 12:13; Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:21; 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 2 Timothy 2:2; 3:16-17; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 2:5-9)*

SATAN

We believe that Satan is a personal, created, spiritual being, who is the author of sin and the avowed enemy of God and man, who seeks by cunning and deceptive means to restrain men from coming to a saving knowledge of Christ and to hinder God's people through deception and temptation; that he and his spiritual forces of wickedness, though having great power, are not all-powerful, and act only within the limitations imposed by God; and that Christians are called to live with watchfulness and discernment, that by the strength of the Lord they may resist the schemes of the devil and stand firm to the end. *(Genesis 3:1-7, 15; Job 1-2; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Matthew 4:1-11; John 8:44; Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 10:3-6; 11:3, 14; Galatians 1:8; Ephesians 6:10-20; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 12:10-11)*

LAST THINGS

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will return at the end of the age to judge the living and the dead, resurrecting believers to eternal life and the unrepentant to eternal condemnation; that he will remove all evil and will establish his eternal kingdom of righteousness in a new heaven and a new earth filled with his glory; and that believers will joyfully see the Lord, reign with him, and be with him forever. *(Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 25:46; John 5:21-29; Acts 17:31; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Titus 2:13; Revelation 21:1-8; 22:3-5)*