

The Bible

The Bible is the Word of God, supernaturally inspired; it is inerrant in the original manuscripts and preserved by God in its verbal (every letter of every word), plenary (all parts of the Bible) inspiration; and it is a divinely authoritative standard for every age and every life.

Psalm 19:7-8, Matthew 5:18, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 4:12, 2 Peter 1:20-21

God

The Godhead exists eternally in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — and these three are one God.

Matthew 28:19, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Hebrews 9:14

God is absolute and sole creator of the universe, and creation was by His spoken command.

Genesis 1 & 2, Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:15, 2 Peter 3:5

God, by His sovereign choice and out of love for mankind, sent Christ into the world to save sinners.

John 3:16, Romans 8:14, 1 John 4:14

Jesus Christ in the flesh was both God and man; He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life, in which He taught and performed mighty works and wonders and signs exactly as revealed in the four Gospels; He was crucified, died as a penalty for our sins, and was raised from the dead bodily on the third day. Later He ascended to the Father's right hand where He is head of the church and intercedes for believers, and from where He is coming again.

Luke 1:35, John 1:1,14, John 14:1-6, Acts 1:9-11, 1 Cor.15:3-19, 1 Pet. 2:24, 1 Pet. 3:18

In His death by His shed blood, the Lord Jesus Christ made a perfect

atonement for sin, redeeming us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Mankind is saved and justified on the simple and single ground of the shed blood.

Hebrews 9, 1 Peter 2:24, 1 Peter 3:18

Humanity

Every person is a sinner and separated from God until repenting of his sins and receiving God's gift of eternal life by trusting in Jesus Christ alone as Savior and Lord. This salvation with its forgiveness of sins gives us a new nature. It is entirely apart from good works, baptism, church membership — or man's effort — and is of grace alone.

Acts 4:12, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Peter 1:18-21

A true believer enjoys God's provision and protection for time and eternity even though sin may interrupt the joy of his fellowship with God and bring the loving discipline of his Heavenly Father. A true believer will bear the fruit of genuine faith by a life of good works.

John 3:16, John 10:27-29, Romans 8:38-39, James 2:14-17, Hebrews 12:5-11

The Holy Spirit is a person*, is God, and possesses all the divine attributes. He indwells all believers, baptizes and seals them at the moment of their salvation, and fills them in response to confession of sin and the yielding of his/her life.

The Church

The church is the living body of Christ on earth comprised of all believers in Jesus Christ and is manifested through local assemblies which are devoted to worshiping God, maturing believers and reaching unbelievers with the Gospel.

Matt.16:18, Matt. 28:19-20, 1 Cor. 12:27, Eph.1:22-23, Eph.4:11-13, Heb. 10:25

Eternal Life

The future life of believers is a blessed eternity with God in heaven, but unbelievers face eternal suffering in hell apart from God.

Matthew 25:46, John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:8, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 20:11-15

*Traditional, historical, orthodox Christian doctrine has called the Holy Spirit a “person” or “entity” from the beginning of the early church...there is One God in Three Persons. But this terminology is understandably confusing to some as we can easily think “human” when we hear the word “person”. Obviously the Holy Spirit has never been, and never will be “human”. But it is technically true and biblical that the Holy Spirit is a person. What we mean by that is that a person (in this case the Holy Spirit) is a living, intelligent being (but not human), with a mind, feelings, and emotions. By person we mean that He is not some impersonal “force” or simply a “personification”, He is a distinct and unique “being”, or “entity”, the third “Person” of the Trinity. This statement of faith was developed by River Valley Church, Grants Pass, OR.