Revised 12/13/15

Parkside Community Church

Doctrinal Statement

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

This Doctrinal Statement does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired, inerrant and 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 this Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Pastoral Team and Elder Team is this Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

What We Believe About the Bible

We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God's will for salvation, and final in authority in all matters to which it speaks. [2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:16,17]

What We Believe About God

We believe in one God who is creator and sustainer of all things and who eternally exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that these are equal in every divine perfection and that they exercise distinct but harmonious functions in the works of creation, providence and salvation. [Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 139:8; Isaiah 45:5-7; Matthew 28:19 John 4:24; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:6]

What We Believe About Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, and has precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, we believe that He is both true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and lived a sinless life. We believe that though He was fully man, since He was also fully God, He was without sin as to nature, unable to sin in principle, and did not sin in fact.

We believe in His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, visible, premillennial return from heaven.

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between God and man, the coming universal King who will rule over the throne of David, and the final Judge of all who fail to believe in Him as their Savior from sin. [Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; 53:10; Matthew 28:6; Luke 1:31-33; John 1:1, 3, 14, 18, 29; 5:27-29; 8:46; 10:36; 14:6, 19; Acts 2:30,31; Romans 1:4; 4:25; 6:5-10; 1 Corinthians 15:20; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:22,23; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:18; 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1-3; 7:25; 10:5-10; 1 John 2:2; 4:10; Revelation 20:11-15]

What We Believe About the Holy Spirit

We believe that it is the work of God the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, to execute God's divine will within the world through the activity of creation, the incarnation of Jesus Christ, and the act of inspiration of the Bible. He also works in the universal body of believers known as the Church, which He originated at Pentecost. We believe that at the moment of salvation each believer is regenerated, baptized into the body of Christ, indwelt, and sealed by the Holy Spirit until Christ returns. We also believe that the filling or control of the Holy Spirit depends on the obedience of each believer and therefore is to be appropriated on a moment-by-moment basis, leading to the sanctification of each believer as his will is conformed to the will of God.

We believe that the Holy Spirit alone administers spiritual gifts to the church, not to glorify Himself or the gifts by ostentatious displays, but to glorify Christ and to fulfill His work of grace which includes salvation of the lost and edification of believers. Since these gifts are given by the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill specific purposes in God's program the use of all spiritual gifts will always be done with decency and in order in the effort to glorify God, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and edify the members of this Church. [Genesis 1:2; Matthew 1:18; John 3:5-7; 14:16,17; 15:26; 16:7-9; Acts 1:5; 2:4; Romans 8:2; 12:3-8; 1Corinthians 6:19; 12:4-13, 27-31; 14:1-40; 2Corinthians 3:18; 11:14,15; Galatians 5;16; 22,23; Ephesians 1:13,14; 2:22; 4:8-13,30; 5:18; Hebrews 2:3,4; James 5:13-15; 2Peter 1:20,21]

What We Believe About Man

We believe that God created man as male and female in His image and free from sin. God created man with a rational nature and a moral responsibility to Him. God created man with the divine intention that he should glorify God, enjoy fellowship with Him, and fulfill His purpose on earth. Man fell into sin by the willful act of personal disobedience. As a consequence, man is a sinner by nature and choice and is therefore spiritually dead. Furthermore, he is lost apart from salvation that can only come as an act of divine grace. [Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-19; Isaiah 43:7; John 3:36; Romans 3:23; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3]

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, this Church will only recognize marriages between a birth-origin biological man and a birth-origin biological woman. Further, the Pastoral Team members and staff of this Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of this Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

What We Believe About Salvation

The sole condition for receiving salvation is trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died a substitutionary death on the cross for man's sin and rose from the dead. We believe that when a person trusts Jesus Christ a change of mind automatically takes place. This change of mind is sometimes referred to as repentance. No works, preceding or following faith in Jesus Christ, such as baptism, sorrow for sin, submission to the Lordship of Christ, or the exercise of obedience can be considered as part of saving faith.

The assurance of eternal salvation is based only on the promise of the Scripture that everyone who trusts in Jesus Christ alone possesses eternal life. We believe that good works are not the proof of salvation; rather they are the evidence and expected result of it. [John 3:16-18; 4:10; 5:24; 6:47; Acts 16:31; Romans 4:5; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; 1 John 5:9-13]

Everyone who has trusted in Jesus Christ is kept secure in Him forever because of the free exercise of grace by God. All the members of the Godhead (the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit) give eternal security to the believer; therefore, the keeping of that salvation cannot be a motivation for godly living. However, the Bible presents several incentives for obedience in the Christian life. First, a powerful motivation for living the Christian life is gratitude to God for saving by grace. Second, believers in Jesus Christ should be motivated by the knowledge that God blesses obedience and disciplines disobedience in His children. Third, every believer will stand before the judgment seat of Christ, not to determine eternal destiny in heaven or hell, but to evaluate the quality of Christian life on earth. Anticipating this judgment seat should motivate believers to endure and to be faithful to God's Word. [John 6:35-44; 10:27-29; Romans 8:29-30, 33-39; 1 Corinthians 3:10-17; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 1:4,5,13; 4:30; James 5:8,9; 1 John 2:28; Revelation 22:12]

What We Believe About Angels

We believe that angels are created spirit-beings, most of whom are good and presently worship and serve God. One of the angels fell through the sin of pride and influenced a large company of angels to follow him. These fallen angels are commonly referred to as demons. The Bible usually calls their leader Satan or the Devil. He and his demons work at hindering and destroying the work of God. Satan helped to cause the moral fall of the first two humans of the human race and thus subjected them and their posterity to his own power. Satan was judged at the cross, though the sentence was not then executed. He and his demons will be sentenced to the lake of fire after the Millennium. [Genesis 3:1-7; Job 1:12; Psalm 148:2-5; Isaiah 14:12-23; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 25:41; John 8:44; Ephesians 2:2; Hebrews 1:1-14; James 2:19; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 12:9; 20:10]

What We Believe About the Church

We believe that the church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. We believe that only those people who have trusted Jesus Christ compose the true church. This universal church of true believers expresses itself in local assemblies whose members have gathered for the purpose of worshipping, building themselves up in the faith by instruction of the Word, sharing in fellowship, and observing the two ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. The primary function of the church to and in the world is the communicating of the Gospel of grace. [Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41,42; Romans 15:6,9; Hebrews 10:25]

These local assemblies have been given freedom from interference by any convention or any other ecclesiastical or political authority. Therefore, the church and the state must be kept separate, each having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictation or patronage of the other. [Luke 20:25; Acts 5:29; 6:3-6; 15:2, 22-31]

These local assemblies are composed of biblically designated officers. These officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are Pastoral Team members and Elders who have been given the needed authority for administering order, worship, and discipline. [Matthew 18:15-18; Acts 6:1-6; 1 Corinthians 14:40; Ephesians 4:11, 12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9]

Each member of this universal body and its local expression is a priest before God and therefore possesses the privilege and responsibility of offering prayer and giving of spiritual sacrifice. [1 Peter 2:5-9; 5:1-5; Revelation 1:6]

What We Believe About Last Things

We believe, at death, those who have been saved pass immediately into the presence of Christ and remain there in joyful fellowship until the first resurrection, which is their bodily resurrection. The unsaved at death descend immediately into Hell (or Hades) where they are punished until the second resurrection, that is their bodily resurrection to the eternal damnation of the lake of fire. [Daniel 12:2; Luke 16:22-23; 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-26; 3:11, 21; Revelation 20:11-15]

We believe that God will pour out a series of judgments on the world. This seven year period is referred to as the tribulation period and is also known as the seventieth week of Daniel. These judgments will culminate with the return of Christ in glory, at which time He will destroy His enemies and restore Israel to her land. [Daniel 9:27; 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:15-31; 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 16:1-19, 21; 19:1-21]

We also believe that the Word of God teaches that the Lord will remove the church from the earth and reward its members according to their works. We believe the Bible does not clearly state whether the removal or "rapture" of the church will take place before, in the middle, or toward the end of the tribulation period. We do not believe that church membership should rest on which rapture theory a person accepts. [John 14:2,3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Revelation 3:10]

After the tribulation period, Christ will establish His messianic kingdom in which the resurrected saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the world. After this 1,000 year period, the unsaved dead will be raised and go into eternal punishment, and the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God. [Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:1-16; 65:17-25; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Revelation 19:11, 14; 20:1-6, 11-15; 21:1-4; 22:5, 11]