

Doctrinal Statement

James Wright

1. I believe the Bible to be the final authority in doctrine and practice. (John 17:17, 2Tim. 3:15-17) The Scriptures are complete (plenary; containing 66 books in the Old and New Testament), fully inspired of God, word by word (verbal), without error or contradiction (inerrant). (2Pet. 1:19-21) The Word of God is forever settled, nothing to be added or taken away. It has been given to us by God that we might know Him, and live for Him. The word of God is what will judge us in the last day. (Prov. 30:5-6, Matt. 24:35, John 12:47-48; Rev. 22:18-19) The King James Bible is the preserved Word of God (Ps. 12:6,7). I reject all modern translations of the Bible for English speaking people. I believe the Bible is to be taken literally, unless stated so, contextually, historically, and grammatically. No scripture is of any private interpretation, but must be interpreted within the context of the entire Bible. (2Tim 2:15, 2Pet. 1:20)

2. I believe in one God manifesting Himself in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost (Matt. 3:16, 17: Rom. 1:7, Heb. 1:8, Acts 5:3,4). They are co-equal, co-existent, and co-eternal (Matt. 28:18-20, John. 1:1-4, 9, 14, Matt. 3:16, 17, John 17:5, 2Cor. 13:14, 1John 5:7). God is the creator of all things. I believe the creation account of Genesis 1 to have taken place literally in six, twenty four hour days. (Gen. 1:1-26) God is holy, love, light, merciful, and righteous. (Ps. 145:17, 1John 1:5, 4:16, John 3:16, 1John 1:5, Ps. 116:5) God is unchanging. (Mal. 3:6, Heb. 13:8, 2Tim. 2:13, James 1:17) He is Spirit and not bound by any physical laws of nature. (John 4:24, Col. 1:15, 1Tim 1:17) God is omnipresent (everywhere at all times; Ps. 139:7-10, Prov. 15:3, Jerm. 23:24). God is omniscient (all knowing from beginning to the end; Ps. 139:1-6, Ps. 147:4, Ezek. 11:4, Rev. 1:8). God is omnipotent (all powerful; Luke 1:37, Job 42:2, Matt. 28:18) God is approachable, has made Himself known to us (by the written and Living word), and given us the privilege to have a personal relationship with Him because of the finished work of Christ Jesus at Calvary. (Heb. 2:9, Heb. 7:25, 2Cor. 5:21, John 14:6). We come to know the character and perfection of God as they are revealed to us through his attributes.

3. I believe that God the Father, the First Person of the trinity, is infinite in His wisdom, perfect in all His ways, and matchless in His power. (Deut. 32:4) He loves the world and gave His only begotten Son that man could be forgiven and have a right relationship with Him. (John 3:16-17, 1John 2:1-2). The only way to know the Father is through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 6:45, John 14:1-7, 1Tim. 2:5)

4. I believe that Jesus, the Second Person of the Trinity, is the Son of God (John 20:31). He was begotten of the Holy Ghost, born of a virgin, Mary, is complete God and complete man (Matt. 1:20-23, 1Tim. 3:16, John 1:1, 14). He lived a perfect and sinless life (1Pet. 2:21-24, Heb. 4:15, James 1:13). Christ Jesus, as the promised Messiah died a substitutionary death for all men, was buried, and arose from the grave bodily. (1Cor. 15:1-8) Jesus, in the shedding of His blood at Calvary, was made sin for us that we might be righteous before God that believe upon Him. (Isa. 53:4-5, 2Cor. 5:21, Heb. 9:11-14, 9:22, 9:26). He later ascended into Heaven and is presently seated on the right hand of the Father, fulfilling His priestly ministry as Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Rom. 8:34, 1Tim. 2:5, Heb. 2:17, 4:14-16, 8:1, 7:25, 9:24, 10:12, 12:2, 1John 2:1-2)

5. I believe the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, is God (Acts. 5:3-5). The Holy Spirit convicts the sinner of sin (John 16:8-11). He also baptizes and seals the believer the moment he receives the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior (Acts 15:7-9, 1Cor. 12:13, Eph. 1:13-14, Gal. 3:26-29, Col. 2:10-13, Rom. 6:1-7). He lives in the believer to comfort, sanctify, teach, and convict that Jesus Christ might receive the glory He deserves. (John 14:16-18, 16:7,16:12-15, 1Jhn 2:27, Rom. 8:14-16, 1Cor. 6:19-20, Titus 3:5, 1Pet. 1:2) The indwelling Holy Spirit is given to empower us in service for Christ. (Acts 1:8, Acts 13: 2-4, 1Cor. 12) Believers are commanded not to grieve but be filled with the Holy Spirit, which is simply yielding completely to Him who already lives within (Eph 4:30, 5:18). This filling is manifested in our lives by the fruit of Holy Spirit. (Gal. 5:22-23, Eph. 4-6) The apostolic sign gifts (speaking in tongues, healings,) have ceased with the completed canon of scripture. (1Cor. 13:8-10, 1Cor. 14:22-33)

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6. I believe that man was created by God, in His image, in an innocent state. (Gen. 1:26-27, 2:7) The first man (Adam) sinned by choice, and thereby passed the sin nature on to all of mankind. (Gen. 3, Rom. 5:12) All mankind are sinners and in need of the new birth, which comes by way of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Isa. 53:6, Rom. 3:10-12,19,23, John 3:3,5,7, Eph. 2:1-3) Since man is created in the image of God, man is made of body, soul, and spirit. (Heb. 4:12) Man's spirit, like God, means that it will be somewhere for all eternity. (Heb. 9:27, Ecc. 12:7) Those that have trusted Christ for their salvation are eternally saved to live in heaven immediately following the passing of the body in death. (Phil. 1:21, 2Cor. 5:6-8) Those that are dead spiritually or unsaved upon death will immediately spend eternity in a literal lake of fire or Hell, forever separated from God. (Luke 16:18-31, Rev. 20:11-15) God has created man with a free will giving man the ability to choose right and wrong. (Joshua 24:15, Gen. 3, Gal. 6:7,8)

7. I believe sin originated in heaven with Lucifer/Satan. (Is. 14:12-17, Ezk. 28:12-19, John 8:44). Sin is going against, or rebelling against God's law. (1Jhn. 3:4) Every man, except Jesus, has sinned against God (Rom. 3:23). The punishment of sin is death physically and spiritually. (Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:1, Rev. 20:11-15). God neither created sin nor temps man to sin. Man is tempted when drawn away of his own lust. (James 1:13-15)

8. I believe that salvation from the penalty and bondage of sin is only thru the Lord Jesus Christ. (Acts. 4:12, John 14:6, John 1:12-13, Acts 13:38-39, 1Pet. 1:18-23) God completely forgives sin because Jesus Christ shed His blood, satisfying the righteous demands of God, and arose the third day from the grave, bodily for our justification. (Rom. 4:24-25, 1Cor. 15:1-4, Heb. 9:22-24, Rev. 1:5). Salvation is completely by grace through faith in what Jesus has done, apart from any works. (Acts 16:30-31, Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 3:21-28) Jesus Christ died for every man. (Heb. 2:9, John 3:16, 1John 2:2) Repentance of sin is as much a part of salvation as faith. They cannot be separated for salvation. (Lk 13:3,5; Acts. 20:21, 2Pet. 3:9) Both repentance and faith are results of the Holy Spirit's work in the heart of the respondent believing sinner. (Acts 2:37-41, 2Cor. 7:9,11, 1Thess. 1:8-10) I believe in the eternal security of the believer. Once a sinner is born again, he is forever saved, and cannot become lost again. (John 6:37, John 10:27-30, John 3:16, Eph. 1:13,14, 2Tim. 1:12) Though a sinner can be saved forever (his standing and position in Christ are perfect), yet he must deal and live with his fleshly nature. No Christian is perfect in everyday living, though he should desire and strive to be like Christ in all manner of conversation. (Col. 2:10, Gal. 5:16-17, 1Pet. 2:21-23)

9. I believe the second coming of Christ is comprised of two parts; the rapture of the church and His revelation for all to see. (John 14:1-3, Acts 1:11, 2Thess. 2:1-2, 1Thess. 4:13-18, Rev. 1:7) The rapture, the believer's blessed hope, can be at any time which Christ will gather all of the saved that have fallen asleep ("died" in the Lord), then those that are alive (saved) will be caught up unto Himself in the clouds. (1Cor. 15:51-57, Tit 2:13, 1Thess.4:13-18, Rev. 22:20) The rapture of the church will be before the tribulation period, or Daniel's seventieth week. (Dan. 9:24-27, Jerm. 30:7, 2Thess. 2; Rev. 1-4). There is a coming judgment seat for the believers, where our works, not sin, will be judged and rewarded or the good works burnt up. (2Cor. 5:10, 1Cor. 3:12-15) After the rapture of the church, there is a seven year period of great tribulation upon the earth, and ending with the Battle of Armageddon. (Matt. 24:21, Dan. 9:24-27, Rev. 6:19) Jesus will then set up His millennial kingdom, a literal 1000 year reign here on this earth. (Rev. 20:4-6) Satan afterward will finally be destroyed forever. (Rev. 20:7-10) The unsaved will be judged at the great white throne and cast into a lake of fire forever. (Rev. 20:11-15) I believe this earth will be consumed by fire and God will establish a new heaven and a new earth. (Rev. 21-22, 2Pet. 3:10-13)

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10. I believe the church is the body of Christ, comprised of all born again believers. (1Cor. 12:12-13, Eph. 4:4-5) They are baptized into the body of Christ by His Spirit at salvation. (Eph. 1:13-14, 1Cor. 12:13, Col. 2:10-13, Rom. 6:1-7, Gal. 3:26-28) This Body is called the Bride of Christ. (2Cor 11:2, Rev. 19:7, Rev. 21:9) The local assembly, the church, is a self governing and visible body of believers ordained by God to proclaim and practice the truth of God's Word free from external authority or control of whom Christ is the head. I believe in the autonomy of the local church. (Col. 1:18, 24, 1Tim. 3:14-15, Jude 1:3-4, Acts 13:1-4, 15:19-31, 1Cor 5:4-7, 13, Eph. 5:23-32) Membership and faithfulness into the local assembly should be apart of every believer for his obedience to God (initially by following the Lord in believer's baptism), his own growth, service, and encouragement. (Acts 2:41, 47, Heb. 10:23-25, Eph. 4:11-14) There are only two ordinances of the church, baptism and the Lord's Supper (Matt. 28:19, 1Cor. 11:23-34). Baptism, which has no part in our salvation, is in obedience to His command and is done by immersion signifying our identification with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Matt. 28:19, Matt. 3:13-16, Rom. 6:1-5). The Lord's Supper also plays no part in our salvation but is a time of remembering what the Lord has done for us and a time of selfexamination. (1Cor. 11:24-32). There are 2 offices of the church, pastor (also called elder or bishop) and deacon. (1Tim 3:1-15, Tit. 1:5-9, 1Pet. 5:1-5, Eph. 4:11). The scriptures give us the qualifications of both pastor and deacon. (1Tim. 3:1-15, Acts 6:1-7, Tit. 1:5-9) The pastor is to lead the church, teach and preach the word. The deacons are to help and serve under the pastor. (2Tim. 4:1-2, 1Pet. 5:2-4, Acts 20:28-29). The purpose of the church is to edify believers (Eph. 4:11-14, Heb. 10:25), spread the gospel to every creature (Matt. 28:19,20;), and to worship and praise God in holiness. (Ps. 42:4, Heb. 13:15) The church also has a responsibility to care for its own and to keep itself pure. (Jude 1:3-4, Heb. 13:15-16, 1Tim. 5, 1Cor 12:15-31, Matt. 18:17).

11. I believe the angels are innumerable created beings of God. (Col. 1:16, Heb. 12:22) They were created with the purpose to worship and serve God. (Ps. 148:1,2,5; Col. 1:16). There are good angels (those that are holy and obedient to God Matt. 25:31) and there are evil angels (those that have rebelled against God, and follow after Satan or Lucifer. (Ezek. 28:14,15; Is. 14:12-15; Matt. 25:41) The fallen angels cannot be redeemed as man, they are reserved unto everlasting punishment. (1Pet. 1:12, Matt. 25:41, Jude 6).

12. I believe the word of God teaches that a believer, for blessings from God, is to live a separated (not worldly), and godly life unto God. (Matt. 6:24, 1Pet. 1:14-16, Rom. 12:1-2, 1Cor. 6:19-20, 2Cor. 6:14-18, 2Cor. 7:1, Tit. 2:11-13, James 4:4, 1John 2:15-17) The believer is also warned and commanded to separate from apostate teaching, and disobedient believers. (1Tim. 6:3-5, 2Tim. 3:1-14, Rom. 16:17, Eph. 5:1-11, 2John 8-11. 2Thess. 2:15, 3:6, 3:14) I also reject the modern contemporary movement in worship, associations and practices that try to blend or ignore biblical separation from the world. (John 4:24, 1Tim. 3:15, 1Cor. 14:33, James 4:4).

13. I believe that God has ordained and created three basic institutions of authority: The Home, The Church, and The State. Every person is subject to these authorities, and these authorities are subject to God and to be governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities. God has balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14)

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14. I believe that God has commanded that no sexual activity is to be engaged in outside of marriage which is to be between one man and one woman. I believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, pornography, to be sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. I believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Genesis 2:24; 13:30, 18:20, 19:5-24;, 2Pet. 2:6, Jude 7, Gen. 26:7-11, Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

15. I believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is adultery, which is sin. I believe the Bible teaches that if it is impossible to live in peace; they may separate and remain unmarried, or be reconciled to the spouse. I believe that divorced and remarried persons are disqualified to serve in the office of Pastor or Deacon. (Malachi 2:14-16; Mark 10:1-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:10-11; 1 Timothy 3:1-12)

16. I believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion, the taking of unborn human life is murder, which is sin. I reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical and mental wellbeing of the mother are acceptable. (Psalms 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5; Exodus 20:13, Matt. 19:18, Luke 1:44)