

1. The Scriptures

Scriptures contain God's revelation of himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. God is its author and salvation is its end. Scripture is trustworthy and totally true without any mixture of error. Scriptures reveal the principles by which God judges us. It is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center for understanding the Christian faith. Scripture is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is himself the focus of divine revelation. The Bible was written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16-36; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21

2. God

There is only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal being. He is the creator, redeemer, preserver, and ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; his perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of his free creatures. We owe God the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11-13; 20:1-7; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3; 43:15; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; John 4:24; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6

3. God the Father

God the Father reigns over the universe, his creatures, and human history. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. He is Father to those who become his children through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in his attitude toward all men.

Deuteronomy 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 6:9; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Hebrews 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17

4. God the Son

Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. In his incarnation, Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He took upon himself human nature with its demands and necessities, thereby identifying himself completely with mankind yet without sin. Jesus revealed and perfectly did the will of God. He honored divine law by his personal obedience. In his substitutionary death on the cross, Jesus made provision for the redemption of men

46 from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to his disciples as
47 the person who was with them before his crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now
48 exalted at the right hand of God. He is the only mediator, fully God, fully man, who bought
49 with his blood reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to
50 judge the world and to complete his redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as
51 the living and ever-present Lord.

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53 Psalms 2:7-12; Psalm 110; Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 53:1-12; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27;
54 14:33; 16:16, 16:27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6; 28:19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46;
55 John 1:1-18; 1:29; 10:30; 10:38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16; 16:28; 17:1-5, 21-
56 22; 20:1-20; 20:28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5; 9:20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21;
57 8:1-3; 8:34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8; 15:24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9;
58 Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1
59 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-
60 28; 9:12-15; 9:24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John
61 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16

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64 **5. God the Holy Spirit**

65 The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired men of old to write the Scriptures.
66 Through illumination, the Holy Spirit enables men to understand the truth. He exalts Christ.
67 He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior and
68 generates new birth. He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ at regeneration. He
69 cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which
70 they serve God through his church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption.
71 His presence in Christians guarantees that they will be brought into their promised
72 inheritance. He enlightens and empowers believers in worship, evangelism, and service.

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74 Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7-12; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32;
75 Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10; 1:12; Luke 1:35; 4:1; 4:18-19; 11:13;
76 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 2:38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3;
77 7:55; 8:17; 8:39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1
78 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11; 12:13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1
79 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8; 9:14; 2 Peter
80 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17

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83 **6. Man**

84 God created mankind in his image, male and female. Gender is part of the intended goodness
85 of God's creation. In the beginning, man was perfect and was given freedom of choice. By free
86 choice, Adam and Eve disobeyed God and brought sin into humanity. Humanity inherited a
87 nature and an environment inclined toward sin. As soon as a person is capable of moral
88 action, shortly thereafter, that person will choose transgression and be under condemnation.
89 Only the grace of God can bring man into his holy fellowship and enable mankind to fulfill
90 the creative purpose of God. Christ died for all the world; therefore, every person is worthy
91 of respect and Christian love.

92 Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5; 2:7; 2:18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah
93 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18; 3:23; 5:6; 5:12; 5:19; 6:6;
94 7:14-25; 8:14-18; 8:29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19; 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22;
95 Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11

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98 **7. Salvation**

99 There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord. Salvation is offered
100 freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Jesus Christ obtained eternal
101 redemption for the believer by his death. Salvation involves the redemption of the whole
102 person and includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

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104 Genesis 3:15; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 16:21-26; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14; 1:29; 3:3-
105 21; 3:36; 5:24; 10:9; 10:28-29; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; Romans 1:16-18;
106 8:1-18; 8:29-39; 10:9-13; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20;
107 Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; Colossians 1:9-22; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 1 Peter 1:2-
108 23; 1 John 1:8-2:6

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111 **8. Regeneration**

112 Regeneration, new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures
113 in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart brought about by the Holy Spirit through conviction of
114 sin. The sinner responds in repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
115 Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of regeneration. Repentance is a genuine
116 turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the
117 entire personality to him as Lord and Savior.

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119 Matthew 4:17; John 3:3-21; Acts 15:11; Romans 2:4; 8:1-18; 8:29-39; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2
120 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 2:8-22; Colossians 1:9-
121 22; Titus 2:11-14; 1 Peter 1:2-23

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124 **9. Justification**

125 Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal for any sinner who repents and believes in
126 Christ. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God.

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128 John 3:3-21; 3:36; 5:24; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 3:23-25; 4:3-8; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18; 8:29-
129 39; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; Colossians 1:9-22; 1
130 Peter 1:2-23

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133 **10. Sanctification**

134 Sanctification is the progressive work of the Holy Spirit, beginning with regeneration, by
135 which the believer is set apart to God's purposes. The believer progresses toward moral and

136 spiritual maturity through the indwelling presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Growth in
137 grace should continue throughout the regenerate person's life.

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139 John 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18; 8:29-39; 13:11-14; 1
140 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; 5:22-25; Ephesians 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians
141 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 12:1-6; 12:14;
142 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:8-2:6

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145 **11. Glorification**

146 Glorification completes the saving work of God; it is the final blessed and abiding state of the
147 redeemed.

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149 John 3:3-21, 3:36; 5:24; Romans 6:1-23; 8:1-18; 8:29-39; Colossians 1:9-22; 1 Peter 1:2-23;
150 Revelation 21:1-22:5

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153 **12. The Gracious Purpose of God**

154 Salvation began in the eternal purpose of God: his determination to regenerate, justify,
155 sanctify, and glorify sinners. Election is from the gracious will of God. It is consistent with
156 free agency and the personal responsibility of each person. Grace is a glorious display of
157 God's goodness and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes all boasting and
158 promotes humility, prayer, praise, and trust in God.

159

160 All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ and sanctified
161 by his Spirit never fall away from the state of grace but persevere to the end. Believers may
162 sin through neglect and temptation. When believers sin, they grieve the Holy Spirit, impair
163 their blessings, bring reproach to the church, and cause temporal judgments upon
164 themselves. Yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

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166 Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7; 8:19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31-34;
167 Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22; 24:31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-
168 48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45; 6:65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6; 7:12; 7:17-18; Acts 20:32;
169 Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7; 11:26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28;
170 Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy
171 1:12; 2:10; 2:19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5; 1:13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9;
172 2:19; 3:2

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175 **13. The Church**

176 The New Testament speaks of the church as the body of Christ; it includes all the redeemed
177 from all ages, believers from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation. The local church of the
178 Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers. These believers
179 are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. They observe the two
180 ordinances of Christ, exercise spiritual gifts, seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth,

181 are governed by his laws, and minister to each other. Each congregation operates under the
182 Lordship of Christ.

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184 Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42; 2:47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23; 14:27; 15:1-
185 30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 9:12; Ephesians
186 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11; 3:21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14;
187 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3

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190 **14. Baptism**

191 Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son,
192 and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing: the believer's faith in a crucified,
193 buried, and risen Savior; the believer's death to sin; the burial of the old life; and the
194 resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. Baptism is a church ordinance that is
195 prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

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197 Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22

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200 **15. The Lord's Supper**

201 The Lord's Supper is an act of obedience. The believer by partaking of the bread and the fruit
202 of the vine celebrates the body and blood of Jesus Christ, remembering the death of the
203 redeemer and anticipating his second coming. Since every person is personally accountable
204 to God, each one should examine himself before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

205
206 Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-
207 33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12

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210 **16. Evangelism and Missions**

211 It is the duty and privilege of every believer and church of the Lord Jesus Christ to make
212 disciples of all nations. The new birth of a believer by the Holy Spirit includes the birth of
213 love for all persons. Missionary effort is repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ.
214 The Lord Jesus Christ commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of
215 every child of God to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness supported and affirmed by a
216 Christian lifestyle.

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218 Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 13:37-43;
219 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8; 15:16;
220 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1
221 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation
222 22:17

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226 **17. Cooperation**

227 Believers should organize associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for
228 the Kingdom of God as occasion requires. These organizations have no authority over one
229 another nor over the churches. They are voluntary and serve as advisory bodies to elicit,
230 combine, and guide the energies of believers in the most effective manner. New Testament
231 churches should cooperate with one another to carry forward the missionary, educational,
232 and benevolent ministries that extend Christ's Kingdom. Christian unity is spiritual harmony
233 and voluntary cooperation for common ends by groups of Christ's people. Cooperation is
234 desirable between Christian denominations when such cooperation involves no violation of
235 conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ or scripture.

236
237 Exodus 17:12; Ezra 1:3-4; 2:68-69; Nehemiah 4; 8:1-5; Matthew 10:5-15; 22:1-10; 28:19-20;
238 Mark 2:3; Luke 10:1-20; Acts 1:13-14; 4:31-37; 13:2-3; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:10-17; 3:5-
239 15; 12; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-10; Ephesians 4:1-16; Philippians 1:15-18

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242 **18. The Family**

243 God established the family as the foundation of human society. It is composed of persons
244 related to one another by marriage, birth, or adoption.

245
246 Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime.
247 Marriage is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and his church. Marriage
248 provides for a man and a woman the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of
249 sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the
250 human race.

251
252 The husband and wife are of equal worth before God; both are created in God's image. The
253 marriage relationship models the way God relates to his people. A husband is to love his wife
254 as Christ loves the church. The husband has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to
255 protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit graciously to the leadership of her husband
256 even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She has the God-given
257 responsibility to respect her husband and help him in managing the household and nurturing
258 the next generation.

259
260 Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents
261 are to be models to their children of God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their
262 children spiritual and moral values. Parents lead their children to make choices based on
263 biblical truth through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline. Children are to
264 honor and obey their parents.

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266 Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel
267 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4;
268 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6; 22:15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15; 29:17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes
269 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-
270 32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8; 5:14;
271 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7