

Bryan Tanner – Abridged Doctrinal Statement

For a copy of my full doctrinal statement, please contact me at tanners2ma@gmail.com.

The Scriptures

The Bible is the complete and final Word of God. The Bible consists of 66 books that were written by 40 different authors over a period of two thousand years. Although each author did put their own personality into the text, all scripture is inspired by the Holy Ghost and there are no contradictions or errors in the Bible.

Every letter in the Bible was designed by God (Matthew 5:18). Because the Bible is God's own word, God breathed (2 Timothy 3:16), it is without contradiction, infallible and without error. (John 17:17). The Bible is complete and needs no additions, nor subtractions. (Revelation 22:18-19)

The Godhead

There is only one God. However, God manifests himself in three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is found in the very first verse of the Bible: Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." God is also referenced in the last verse of the Bible, Revelation 22:21, "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."

Deuteronomy 6:4 gives an example of the tri-unity of God. The LORD (Yahovah) our God (Elohiym, plural) is one LORD (Jehovah, the one true God). As does 1 John 5:7, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."

Creation

God created the heaven and the earth in six literal 24-hour periods (Genesis 1&2; Exodus 20:10). All creation was created by the word of God (Psalm 33:6-9).

Man

Man is created in the likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6). God formed Adam from the dust of the ground and breathed life into him, making man a living soul (Genesis 2:7). Man has three parts (1 Thessalonians 5:23), the body/flesh (the physical, Galatians 2:20), the soul (our inner nature, Proverbs 4:23), and the spirit (our life/the eternal part of man, James 2:26).

Man was given free will in the garden in Eden. Adam was told he could eat of every tree of the garden except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 2:16-17). However, Adam choose to disobey God. When Adam and Eve ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil they knew they had sinned. The Bible says that, "their eyes were opened" (Genesis 3:6-7).

Because of the fall of man, sin entered into man, and everyone is born a sinner separated from God (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12-21). Man has only two choices:

1. Accept Christ and receive Salvation and spend eternity with Him (Matthew 25:31-34; Revelation 21)
2. Reject Christ and face eternal separation from God and spend eternity in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:31-32, 41; Revelation 20:11-15)

Sin

Sin is anything contrary to the character of God (1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 John 3:4). At the end of creation there was no sin. At the end of the sixth day of creation, God called the creation "very good" (Genesis 1:31)

Sin originated in Satan (Ezekiel 28:15). Satan must have sinned after the completion of creation, as Satan is a created being, but before the temptation of Eve. The exact time is not known, nor is the time between the end of creation and the fall of man.

Satan tempted man in the garden in Eden and man choose to sin (Genesis 3). This is the origin of sin in man. Because of Adam's sin, sin entered into the human race (Romans 5:12).

Remedy of Sin

Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8-21) is the remedy for sin. His righteousness is imputed to all believers (2 Corinthians 5:21). Through Jesus we can fellowship with God (Hebrews 4:14-16). The Holy Spirit can give victory over sin (1 John 5:4-5)

Salvation is a gift (Ephesians 2:8) from God that can be accepted or rejected (John 3:18). Salvation brings a total change in an individual (2 Corinthians 5:17) as well as to their eternal destination (John 10:28–29). To be saved, man must acknowledge they are a sinner (Romans 3:23), repent of their sins, and call upon the Lord. Those who are saved put their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and the finished work that He completed on the cross as a perfect sacrifice in place of our sin (Romans 10:9-10).

Eternity

Man will spend eternity in one of two places, Heaven or Hell.

At the moment of physical death, the spirit of the believer goes to the place the Lord is preparing for His followers (Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8). At the point of the Rapture, all believers who are alive are taken to Heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:17).

Hell is a temporary holding place of torment for all those who have rejected Christ until after the Great White Throne Judgement, when death and Hell are cast into the lake of fire for all of eternity (Psalm 9:17; Matthew 25:31-33 & 40; Revelation 20:14).

Ecclesiology

The church is all believers in the dispensation of grace of that have accepted Jesus as their Savior. Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:18). The church – the body of Christ – is removed from Earth at the rapture of the saints prior to the tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17). A local New Testament Church is a group of believers, who have been baptized by immersion, that come together for the purpose of serving God and doing His will (Acts 2).

Separation

As individuals, believers should live a life that is separate from the ways of the world. We should live our lives daily as a living sacrifice unto the Lord (Romans 12:1–2; 16:17; 2 Corinthians 6:14).

The church is to be separate from the world. The church should not bring things of the world into it to try to attract the world. The church should depart from those who do not hold the same doctrine. (Romans 16:17; 2 Thessalonians 3:14; 2 John 7-11)