

Attachment A: Personal Doctrinal Statement

Bibliology

I believe general revelation is the way God reveals Himself through His created world. This is expressed in Romans 1:20 where it states that God's divine attributes can be clearly seen so that Man cannot reasonably deny the existence of God. However, this general revelation usually falls short in bringing people to a saving knowledge of God. Special revelation is how God reveals himself through supernatural means. Biblical scholars consider Jesus Christ a special revelation. His perfect life showed us who God is. Also, the Bible is considered a special revelation. I believe this is also why John refers to Jesus as the Word. God's Word in the form of the Bible and Jesus Christ's life on earth reveal to us who God is.

Another area of special revelation is through miracles, dreams, visions, angels and other supernatural events. Although rare in this present time there are multiple accounts of how Jesus has revealed Himself especially to Muslims through dreams during this current time. I believe special revelation will not contradict Jesus' life or the Word of God.

I believe the original text of the Bible is the inspired or God-breathed word of God. (II Timothy 3:16) It is inerrant in its original form. I believe God has preserved His word through the ages and all the essential doctrines and beliefs can be easily understood from our current English translations. I believe there is not a single English translation that is perfect and there is value when interpreting scripture in reviewing multiple translations if a person is not an ancient Greek or Hebrew scholar.

I believe that the Canon of Scripture is closed at the book of Revelation.

I believe the Bible is the best source for interpreting the Bible. As previous elders have taught at Cornerstone, the basics of Bible interpretation is to review the questionable parts of verses in light of the nearby clearer verses. I also believe the Bible should be interpreted holistically and we need to be very careful not to base doctrine and decisions off a single verse in the Bible. The Bible consists of different styles of literature and some areas should be interpreted literally and others figuratively.

Theology Proper

God has always existed and transcends all creation. Our singular God reveals himself as three distinct persons; God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. God is good. God's attributes of holiness, justice, and righteousness are balanced with His love, mercy and grace. God is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipresent (everywhere). God's laws and decrees are right, true, and just.

Christology

I believe Jesus is the Christ, Son of God, and is God. Jesus has always existed and has always been perfect and sinless. He was with God in the beginning during creation. During his physical earthly ministry, he was without sin. Jesus' life, sacrificial death and resurrection provided a way for us to draw near to God. Jesus' death not only demonstrate's God love but also satisfied God's righteous judgment of sin. Jesus' ascended to the right hand of God where His present ministry is to rule over creation, peoples, and the church.

Jesus is fully God and fully man. He is a physical flesh and blood person miraculously conceived by God in Mary. During His life on earth, He experienced all of our human emotions and temptations and yet lived a sinless life.

Pneumatology

The Holy Spirit is fully God. He was with God in the creation account. The Holy Spirit points people to Jesus and does not overshadow Christ. Yet, He is still every bit as much God as Christ is God.

He indwells believers at the point of conversion. This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was not given to all believers prior to the day of Pentecost but was in select people of the Old Testament (OT). The Holy Spirit is called a friend or comforter for believers. John 16 says his role is to convict the world of its lack of righteousness.

This indwelling makes all things new in a believer's life. It is through the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit that we are sanctified. A believer gets all of the Holy Spirit at salvation but usually the Holy Spirit does not get all of a believer. It is this ongoing work of the Holy Spirit that leads to a more and more Godly life (Sanctification).

The Holy Spirit empowers believers to speak of Jesus. This supernatural strength and words to speak come from Him and not just from a believer's imagination. The Holy Spirit gives certain gifts to believers. Some of those gifts are enhancements of natural abilities and some of them are brand new talents and abilities that did not exist in a believer before the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Soteriology

God is perfect, righteous, and holy. All men are separated from God by man's sin. There is no way for him to have a relationship with God in a sinful condition. For man to be close to God there must be a cleansing of sin. The Bible says without the shedding of blood there can be no remission of sin. God has set up as a rule of the universe that only by a blood sacrifice of a perfect lamb can there be forgiveness of sin. This shedding of blood was accomplished by the perfect sacrifice of the only sinless human, Jesus. Jesus died a substitutionary death for our sins. He also took upon himself the wrath of God toward sin and evil and was punished not for

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his sin for he had none, but for my sin. This sacrifice provides a way for us to be brought near to God. (Romans 5:8).

There is no way for man's righteous acts to be good enough to earn God's forgiveness for sins. Humans are justified or made righteous through faith in Jesus Christ. There is no way for us to earn our way to right standing with God. We are made new creations at the time of salvation. I believe we can be assured of our salvation as I John 5:11-13 states, "God has given us eternal life and this life is in His son. He who has the Son has life, he who does not have the son, does not have life. I write these things to you so that you may know that you have eternal life." God will persevere believers.

The issue of election and free will is an area of debate amongst believers. God chooses us and we are responsible to respond to that calling in faith. I lean more toward the idea that God enables people to believe and to confess Jesus Christ is Lord than men through their intellect or emotions chose to follow God.

Anthropology and Hamartiology

I believe man was created by God. Adam and Eve were without sin until they disobeyed God. All humanity has had the curse of the original sin from then on. All people are now sinful from conception. There is no good in man in and of himself. All goodness in man is from God. Man can only be good through the righteousness of God. People are instantaneously saved and made new at the point of salvation. If anyone is in Christ the old is gone, the new has come. However, being made more like Christ is a process and sin is still present in a believer because of their imputed sinful nature. However, by the Holy Spirit's strength and power working in us, godliness can occur sometimes almost instantaneously and sometimes over the course of decades.

Ecclesiology

I believe that all believers are part of the universal Church. I believe all Christians should strive to be part of a local church for fellowship, encouragement, accountability and to participate in worldwide evangelism. The church is called the bride of Christ. We want our local church to be a pure, unblemished, radiant bride through the Holy Spirit's working in our members for whom Christ is proud to return.

The church is to be led by God through local elders who serve the church. The elders are held to a high standard of conduct.

I believe the ordinances of the church, baptism and communion, are to be participated in by believers. All believers can partake of communion regardless of their church affiliation. Baptism should occur after a profession of faith by an individual. Baptism is an outward expression of an internal changed life and does not in any way contribute to a person's salvation.

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I believe the OT and the NT are complimentary and are equally valid parts of the Bible. Jesus has fulfilled the OT Law. Israel is God's chosen people and has a place now and in the end of times. There are many prophecies about Israel that have yet to be fulfilled. As I researched the question of the relationship between Israel and the Church from a theological perspective, I came to the discovery that there were two major interpretations, Covenant Theology and Dispensationalism. I do not have a strong belief either way because both end up in the same place: Salvation is by grace alone, through faith in Christ alone.

Eschatology

I believe in a real heaven and real hell. I believe dead believer's souls are with God in heaven. I believe dead unbelievers souls are separated from God. I believe all will be judged in the last days and believers will have a resurrected body and live in heaven. I believe unbelievers will be judged and they will be eternally condemned to hell.

I believe Jesus will return to earth and will rule for 1,000 years and then after Satan is judged and thrown into hell, a new heaven and earth will be created.

I believe the timelines for all of this are open to great debate but I do not believe that Christ's 1,000 year rule has begun.

Paragraph on the essential doctrines and other doctrines that Bible believing Christians can agree to disagree.

I believe the doctrine of the triune God shown in God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit and the doctrine of sin and salvation declared in the inerrant Bible are essential doctrines.

I believe there are some doctrines especially from the OT that are open for disagreement and interpretation from Bible believing Christians such as dietary restrictions and how the Sabbath is to be observed. I believe the timing and exact interpretation of the events of Revelation are not clear.

I believe the relationship between God's sovereignty and man's free will is an area of debate that Christians can agree to disagree.

I believe we should focus on the majors of that people are lost and need a savior. Jesus not only solves our ultimate problem of sin but provides for a life of hope. I believe the application of these essential doctrines are all that is needed for people to live a life that is pleasing to God and a light to unbelievers. I believe the primary way of lives being changed is through relationships which lead to evangelism and discipleship.

Attachment B: Spiritual Gifts Statement

I believe God gave me spiritual gifts at the time of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at salvation. I believe the Holy Spirit not only gives supernatural gifts but also works through our natural talents and abilities which ultimately were given by God.

I believe my primary gifting is in administration. This is shown in the ability to organize events, activities, and to keep things in line financially. At Cornerstone, I have used this gift as a Life Group (LG) leader for 10 years and to lead a "Be-The-Church" event for several years. In previous churches, I have led the mission committees.

I believe my wife and I have the gift of hospitality. We readily welcome people into our home regardless of how it looks. We normally met in our home for LG. We do not entertain but are hospitable.

I believe God has given me some gifting for teaching.

I do not believe I am a natural leader but through God's gifting He has given me leadership skills. I am comfortable being in the lead or being a supportive helper. I love to lead small group discussions.

I love to share the gospel. I am not sure that I have the gift of evangelism, but I certainly feel the fire for evangelism and have been trained to be able to share the gospel in various ways and circumstances.

Attachment C: Family Leadership Statement

I believe that as a husband and father, I have been given by God the leadership of my family. I believe the husband and wife are to mutually submit to God and through that mutual submission, the husband is to lead. I believe a husband must foremost seek God's direction for his family. I believe that a husband is to love his wife more than his own body and desires. I believe a wife is to willingly submit to her husband. I believe a husband must not demand submission and is a recipe for disaster. I believe when husbands and wives step outside of their God given roles, they remove themselves from the protections God has put in place.

I believe there are separate roles for men and women in the family. Our family is a very traditional family with me having an outside job and my wife staying at home with our children. My wife was primarily responsible for homeschooling our older three children. Our youngest son is currently homeschooled but has also been in a private Christian school. We are former foster care parents and had foster care babies in our home for about seven years. Our chores around the home are jointly shared but the lion share go to my wife.

Our home is a Christ-centered home. We are very careful about the media and other influences we have in our house. Our home school curriculum is Christ based. We have tried to surround our children with the truths of Christ. I have tried to train, discipline, and equip our children based upon biblical values.

That being said, my greatest challenge has been spiritually leading my family. I have not been the spiritual leader that God has wanted me to be. I have at times been very intentional about teaching spiritual truths but at other times I have not. We have tried to make a focus of daily readings during Lent and Advent but this has not always been carried through the year. However, during the past year we have carried through with this.

The greatest disappointments have been discovering my adult children's unbiblical decisions. This has humbled me more than anything else.

My wife is the greatest example of a Christian I know. She faithfully prays for our family and is willing to put Jesus before anything else. Being married for 30 years is God's greatest success in our lives.

My greatest honor was baptizing two of my children. We have also seen spiritual fruit in being foster parents, adopting our son when we could have been empty nesters, and seeing our adult children put relationships before materialism.

Attachment D: Teaching Aptitude Statement

I believe God has given me some gifting for teaching. I have been a Sunday School teacher for at least ten years, I taught at our LG, I have led Every Man a Warrior Studies, and I enjoy leading devotions for the men's prayer time on Wednesday. I have taught in various settings in previous churches.

I am most comfortable teaching in a small group setting. I enjoy preparing to teach almost as much as teaching itself. I like to try to ask questions of the people I am teaching so that they can discover the truth themselves. I find prepared lesson plans and study guides helpful when used in small group settings to help me be more creative in presenting the Word of God in a manner which will resonate with the people I am teaching.

I try to approach teaching times by preparing ahead of time as much as possible. I do not enjoy "just winging it" and I do not believe God is honored by this. The more time I spend alone with God interacting with the scripture, the more I am able to share.

I love to share biblical truths as God reveals them to me.

Though I do not have the gift of prophesy or exhortation, I have preached at previous churches I have attended and could do it again at Cornerstone if needed. I am comfortable teaching and preaching on topics which I am well prepared. I would be most comfortable teaching from a section of scripture rather than a topical theme. I have led communion at our LG and during mission trips.