



Doctrinal Statement from the Church Constitution of Calvary Bible Church, Columbus, Ohio

§1: The Triune God

We believe that there is one and only one living and true God,¹ Who eternally exists in three equally divine Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.² He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things,³ and He rules all things in holiness, wisdom, and love⁴ to bring about His eternal good purposes⁵ to redeem a people for Himself⁶ and restore His fallen creation,⁷ to the praise of His glorious grace.⁸

§ 2: Revelation

We believe that this God has graciously disclosed His existence in the created order,⁹ and has supremely revealed Himself in His Son, the incarnate Word.¹⁰ Moreover, He has revealed Himself in human words,¹¹ the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, which alone constitute the verbally inspired Word of God.¹² The Scripture is without error in the original writings,¹³ complete in its revelation of His will to us,¹⁴ sufficient for all that God requires us to believe and do,¹⁵ and final in its authority over every domain of knowledge to which it speaks.¹⁶ As we hear, believe, and do the Word, we are equipped as disciples of Christ and witnesses to the gospel.¹⁷

§3: Creation of Humanity

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in His own image.¹⁸ Men and women equally bear the image of God, but are not simply interchangeable.¹⁹ God designed marriage to be an exclusive, lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman in which the husband reflects the self-sacrificing love of Christ for His church and the wife reflects the loving submission of the church to Christ.²⁰ Any sexual activity outside of this relationship is forbidden by our Creator.²¹ In the church, both men and women are encouraged to serve Christ and develop their full potential in the manifold ministries of the people of God.²²

§4: The Fall

We believe that Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden distorted the image of God in humanity and forfeited his original blessedness for himself and all his progeny.²³ As a result, all human beings are alienated from God,²⁴ corrupted in every aspect of their being,²⁵ and condemned finally and irrevocably to death.²⁶ The supreme need of all human beings is to be reconciled to God,²⁷ under Whose just and holy wrath we stand.²⁸ The only hope of all human beings is the undeserved love of God,²⁹ Who alone can rescue us and restore us to Himself.³⁰

§5: The Plan of God

We believe that from all eternity³¹ God determined to save a great multitude of guilty sinners from every tribe and language and people and nation to the praise of His glorious grace.³² To this end He chose them before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before Him.³³ In

love God commands all people to repent and believe,³⁴ having set His saving love on those He has chosen³⁵ and having ordained Christ to be their Redeemer.³⁶

§6: The Gospel

We believe that the gospel is the good news of Jesus Christ,³⁷ Who lived the life we failed to live,³⁸ died the death we deserved to die,³⁹ and rose again to give us new life in Him.⁴⁰ All who turn from their sin and believe Christ are saved.⁴¹

§7: The Redemption of Christ

We believe that, moved by love and in obedience to His Father, the eternal Son became fully human without ceasing to be fully divine.⁴² For us and for our salvation, Jesus came down from heaven,⁴³ became incarnate of the virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit,⁴⁴ lived a sinless life,⁴⁵ was crucified under Pontius Pilate,⁴⁶ and was buried.⁴⁷ On the cross He canceled sin,⁴⁸ satisfied God's anger,⁴⁹ and reconciled to God all who believe in Him.⁵⁰ He arose bodily from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵¹ thus proving His innocence,⁵² breaking the power of death,⁵³ and bringing everlasting life to all His people.⁵⁴ He ascended into heaven,⁵⁵ where He sits on the right hand of the Father⁵⁶ to rule as King over all God's creation⁵⁷ and to serve God's people as their High Priest and Advocate.⁵⁸ He shall come again to judge the living and the dead,⁵⁹ and His kingdom shall have no end.⁶⁰

§8: The Justification of Sinners

We believe that Christ, by His obedience and death, fully discharged the debt of all those who are justified.⁶¹ By His perfect obedience He satisfied the just demands of God on our behalf.⁶² By His sacrificial death, He bore in our place the punishment due us for our sins, thus satisfying God's justice on our behalf.⁶³ Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved.⁶⁴ We believe that a zeal for personal and public obedience flows from this free justification.⁶⁵

§9: The Power of the Holy Spirit

We believe that this salvation is applied to His people by the Holy Spirit,⁶⁶ Who gives life to spiritually dead sinners,⁶⁷ awakening them to repentance and faith.⁶⁸ In Him they are baptized into union with the Lord Jesus⁶⁹ and adopted into God's family.⁷⁰ The Spirit gives believers gifts⁷¹ to build up the body of Christ,⁷² to bring the gospel to the lost,⁷³ and to magnify the glory of God.⁷⁴ The Holy Spirit is Himself the down payment of the promised inheritance,⁷⁵ and in this age indwells,⁷⁶ seals,⁷⁷ guides,⁷⁸ instructs,⁷⁹ equips,⁸⁰ revives,⁸¹ and empowers⁸² believers for Christ-like living and service.⁸³

§10: The Kingdom of God

We believe that God rules as King over His creation.⁸⁴ His kingdom is present since He rules everywhere at all times,⁸⁵ but it is not yet fully realized, since fallen humanity still rejects His authority.⁸⁶ But at redemption believers enter the kingdom of God⁸⁷ and delight in the blessings of the new covenant.⁸⁸ Since Christ calls us to be salt and light in the world,⁸⁹ believers should neither withdraw into seclusion from the world, nor become indistinguishable from it. Rather, we are to do good to the city⁹⁰ and to love our neighbors as ourselves.⁹¹ Through our witness God plunders Satan's dark kingdom,⁹² and regenerates and renovates the lives of individuals rescued through repentance and faith.⁹³

§11: God's New People

We believe that Jesus brings peace between alienated peoples through the gospel, creating in Himself one new humanity—the church.⁹⁴ This universal church is manifest in local churches⁹⁵ where the gospel is put on display by the power of the Spirit.⁹⁶ A true church is marked by her gospel message,⁹⁷ her sacred ordinances,⁹⁸ her discipline,⁹⁹ her great mission,¹⁰⁰ and, above all, by her love for God and by her members' love for one another and for the world.¹⁰¹ And as we live here, as believers, we are called to live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon our Savior and Lord and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God.¹⁰²

§12: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord Jesus ordained baptism and the Lord's Supper for the assurance of His people.¹⁰³ We believe that baptism is for believers,¹⁰⁴ serving as a visible sign of our participation with Jesus in His death and resurrection,¹⁰⁵ an entrance into the new covenant community,¹⁰⁶ and a pledge of future obedience to the Lordship of Christ.¹⁰⁷ We believe that the Lord's Supper is an ongoing covenant renewal for the people of God¹⁰⁸ in which we affirm our unity as the redeemed,¹⁰⁹ commemorate the covenant of redemption,¹¹⁰ and enjoy the presence of the Redeemer.¹¹¹

§13: The Restoration of All Things

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ with His holy angels,¹¹² when He will exercise His role as final Judge,¹¹³ and His kingdom will be consummated.¹¹⁴ We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust¹¹⁵—the unjust to judgment and eternal, conscious punishment in hell,¹¹⁶ and the just to eternal blessedness in the presence of God.¹¹⁷ The church will be presented faultless before God by the redemptive work of Christ,¹¹⁸ all sin will be purged¹¹⁹ and its wretched effects will forever be banished.¹²⁰ God will be all in all¹²¹ and His people will be enthralled by the immediacy of His ineffable holiness,¹²² and everything will be to the praise of His glorious grace.

Scripture

- 1 Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4
- 2 1Peter 1:2; John 1:1; Acts 5:3–4
- 3 Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3; Colossians 1:16
- 4 Colossians 1:17; Daniel 4:34–35; Psalm 103:13; 145: 9, 16; Isaiah 6:3; Romans 11:33
- 5 Genesis 45:5–7; Ephesians 1:11–12
- 6 Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:21; Revelation 5:9
- 7 Genesis 3:18–19; Romans 8:18–25; Revelation 21:5
- 8 Ephesians 1:3–14
- 9 Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:19–20
- 10 Hebrews 1:1–2; John 1:1, 14
- 11 Genesis 1:3; Psalm 33:9
- 12 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2Peter 1:20–21
- 13 John 10:35; Proverbs 30:5; Titus 1:2
- 14 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- 15 Luke 16:29–31; John 17:17; 1Peter 1:23
- 16 John 5:39; 17:17; James 1:22; 2 Corinthians 1:20
- 17 Matthew 28:18–20; Acts 1:8; 1Timothy 1:5
- 18 Genesis 1:26–27; 9:6; James 3:9

19 1 Corinthians 11:7–12; Galatians 3:26–29
20 Malachi 2:14; Ephesians 5:22–33
21 Genesis 2:21–24; 1 Corinthians 6:9–10, 18–20
22 Luke 10:38–42; 1 Corinthians 11:2–6; 1 Timothy 3:1–13
23 Genesis 3:16–19, 9:6; James 3:9; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22
24 Ephesians 2:1–3, 12
25 Romans 1:18–3:18
26 John 3:18; 1 John 5:12; Revelation 20:15
27 Romans 3:19–20
28 John 3:18, 36; Romans 1:18, 3:24; 1 John 2:2
29 John 3:14–17; Ephesians 2:4–7; 1 John 4:8
30 Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 5:10–11
31 Ephesians 1:3–6; Revelation 13:8
32 Revelation 5:9–13; Ephesians 1:6, 12, 14
33 Ephesians 1:4; Acts 13:48
34 Acts 16:31; 17:30–31
35 John 6:44, 65; 15:13–14; 17:20, 23
36 Psalm 2; 2 Samuel 7:11–15; Acts 3:17–26
37 Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18–24
38 Romans 5:12–14, 18–19
39 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 1:29
40 1 Corinthians 15:21–22; Ephesians 1:18–2.6
41 Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; John 3:16
42 John 1:1, 14; 17:24–26
43 Galatians 4:4–5
44 Luke 1:30–35
45 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15
46 Matthew 27:11–50
47 Matthew 27:57.61
48 Colossians 2:13–15
49 Romans 3:25–26; 1 John 2:2
50 Romans 5:10–11
51 John 20:1–18
52 Isaiah 53:7–9; Romans 1:1–6
53 Hebrews 2:14–15
54 John 3:16, 36
55 Acts 1:6–11
56 Acts 2:33
57 Acts 7:56; 15:12–21
58 Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1–2
59 2 Timothy 4:1; Titus 2:11–14
60 Isaiah 9:6–7; Luke 1:33
61 Galatians 4:4–5; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 3:22–24
62 Matthew 3:16; Romans 5:18–19; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22; Hebrews 10:5–10
63 Isaiah 53:4–6; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 10:11–12; Romans 3:25–26; 5:1–10; 1 John 2:1–2
64 Acts 4:12
65 Ephesians 2:10; 5:1–7; Titus 2:11–3.8; James 2:14–26
66 Ephesians 1:13–14
67 Ephesians 2:1–7; John 3:1–7
68 Acts 20:21; 2 Timothy 2:24–26; 1 John 5:1
69 1 Corinthians 12:13
70 Romans 8:14–16; Galatians 4:4–6
71 1 Corinthians 12:4–11; Ephesians 4:7
72 1 Corinthians 14:1–5; Ephesians 4:11–16
73 1 Corinthians 14:22–25; Ephesians 4:11
74 Ephesians 3:10, 20–21; 1 Peter 4:10–11

75 Ephesians 1:14
76 1Corinthians 6:18–20
77 Ephesians 4:30
78 John 16:13
79 John 14:26
80 1 Corinthians 12:4–11
81 Acts 4:7–31; 13:9, 49–52
82 Acts 1:8
83 2 Corinthians 3:18
84 Psalm 115:3
85 Colossians 1.13–14
86 Ephesians 5:3–14; Hebrews 2:8
87 John 3:3, 5; Colossians 1:13–14
88 Jeremiah 31:31–34; 1 Corinthians 11:23–24; Hebrews 8
89 Matthew 5:13–16
90 Luke 10:25–37; Jeremiah 29:7
91 Matthew 22:36–40; Galatians 6:10
92 Matthew 11:12; Mark 3:27
93 Ephesians 2:11–21; John 17:20–21
94 Ephesians 2:14–18
95 Matthew 16:18; Galatians 1:2
96 Ephesians 3:10, 14–21
97 Romans 1:16–17; 2 Corinthians 4:1–6
98 Matthew 28:18–20; 1 Corinthians 11:17–26
99 Matthew 18:15–18
100 Matthew 28:18–20
101 Matthew 22:34–40; John 3:16
102 Romans 12:1–2; 1 John 2:15–17; 2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1
103 Matthew 28:18–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26
104 Acts 2:39; 16:31–34
105 Romans 6:2–3; Galatians 3:27
106 1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 2:11–12
107 Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4
108 1 Corinthians 11:23–26
109 1 Corinthians 11:17–22; Ephesians 2:11–18
110 1 Corinthians 11:23–26
111 1 Corinthians 10:14–17; 11:27–34
112 Titus 2:13; Matthew 24:29–31
113 2 Thessalonians 1:5–10; Matthew 25:41–46
114 1 Corinthians 15:20–28; Daniel 7:13–14
115 Daniel 12:2; Revelation 20
116 Luke 16:19–31; Revelation 14:9–11
117 Matthew 25:21, 23; Psalm 23:6
118 Jude 24–25
119 Matthew 1:21; 1John 3:2–3
120 Revelation 21:3–4
121 1 Corinthians 15:28
122 Isaiah 6; Revelation 4:5