

Christian Resource Center of New Hampshire
Doctrinal Statement - “What We Teach”

The Godhead (Holy Trinity)

We believe that there is only one true God (John 17:3) Who has existed for all eternity (Psalm 90:2) in a three Person form (Holy Trinity or Godhead) consisting of the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26, Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19, John 14:16). All three are perfect, unchanging and equal (Malachi 3:6). All three are both a single unified God (Jude 1:20-21) as well as three individual Persons (John 14:26).

God The Father

No one has ever seen God the Father (John 1:18). He needs nothing outside of Himself (John 5:26). He is omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10), He is omniscient (Acts 15:18, Deuteronomy 29:29), He is omnipotent (Jeremiah 32:17), He is holy (1st Peter 1:16), He is love (1st John 4:19, Romans 5:8, John 3:16), He is unchangeable (Hebrews 13:8), He is good (Matthew 19:17, Mark 10:18, Luke 18:19), and He is truth (Titus 1:2, Deuteronomy 32:4).

God The Son (Jesus Christ)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God the Father (John 3:16). He is fully man and fully God (John 1:1, 1:14, Colossians 2:9). He was conceived in a miraculous union of the Holy Spirit with the virgin Mary, without a human father (Matthew 1:18). He is the image of God the Father (John 10:30). He created everything visible and invisible (Colossians 1:15-20). Jesus lived a sinless life (2nd Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15, 1st John 3:5) and willingly gave His life for our sins (John 3:16). He went in Spirit and preached to angels in prison (1st Peter 3:18-20). He has been given the keys to Death and Hades (Revelation 1:18). He was raised by God the Father after three days (Matthew 16:21, Mark 8:31, Luke 9:22). He now sits at the right hand of God the Father (Psalm 110:1, 1st Peter 3:22). His return is imminent and will be similar in manner to His departure (Acts 1:9-12).

God The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a Person, is fully God, and equal to the Father and the Son (Acts 5:3-4). He came as a fulfillment of a promise from Jesus Christ to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement (John 16:7-13). He guides believers in truth and glorifies Jesus Christ (John 16:13-14). He indwells (1st Corinthians 6:19), empowers (Acts 1:8), seals (Ephesians 1:13-14), fills (Ephesians 5:18), instructs (Mark 13:11), helps (John 14:26), gives hope to (Romans 5:5), and comforts (John 14:16-26, 26, 15:26, 16:7) all believers. Believers should always strive to “walk in the Spirit” (Romans 8:1-4, Galatians 5:16,25). The Holy Spirit can be “grieved” (Ephesians 4:30) or “quenched” (1st Thessalonians 5:19) due to willing disobedience or sin.

The Holy Scriptures

We believe the holy scriptures (canon) consist of 66 books (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament). They were written by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit and are the supreme authority for truth and righteous living (Psalm 119:160, 2nd Timothy 3:16-17, 2nd Peter 1:19-21). They are alive, powerful, and convicting and can only be fully understood with the help of the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 4:12, 1st Corinthians 2:1-16). They are without error and perfect in their original Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek form; however, our current bibles are translations which all contain poorly chosen words and minor textual corruptions. We recommend several translations including the KJV, NKJV, NASB, and ESV.

The State of Mankind (man)

We believe that God created man in His own image (Genesis 1:26). Man (Adam), by his own choice, sinned against God and incurred immediate spiritual death as well as eventual physical death (Genesis 2:16-17, 3:1-6). Man is born with a sinful nature (Psalm 51:5). He is totally depraved and no one is righteous (Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 3:10-19). He is guilty before God and under His condemnation (Romans 3:23, 6:23). The imperfect man (Adam) can only be redeemed through the work of the perfect man (Jesus Christ) (1st Corinthians 15:21-22).

Salvation

We believe that all who trust in Jesus Christ, through faith alone, will be given forgiveness of all sins (past, present, and future) (Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13-14) and will receive eternal life (Matthew 25:46, John 3:15) as a free gift from God (Ephesians 2:8-9). At the moment of salvation, believers are born again (John 3:3), indwelt (baptized) by the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-17), and become children of God (John 1:12).

Eternal Security

We believe that once a person is saved through faith, they are kept by God's power and are eternally secure in Jesus Christ (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30, Romans 8:38-39, 1st Peter 1:4-5).

Creation

We do NOT believe in evolution or any theory that supports the accidental formation of life. We believe that God created the heaven and the earth "in the beginning" (Genesis 1:1). They were perfect, completely formed, and capable of supporting life (Isaiah 45:18). Something happened that made them become "formless and void" (probably the fall of Lucifer to Satan) (Genesis 1:2, Job 38:4-11, Isaiah 14:12-14, Jeremiah 4:23-27). This defines a gap of time between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 which we believe explains the apparent old age of the earth and universe (2nd Peter 3:5-7), the dinosaurs, the formation of gems and crystals, fossils, and fossil fuels. We believe that approximately 6,000 years ago, God re-formed the heavens and the earth and created all presently living life forms, including mankind (Genesis 1:3-31, Exodus 20:11).

Theology and Science

We believe that God created all of the physical universe (Revelation 4:11) and is therefore the creator of the physical constants, powers, and sciences that govern the functioning of everything (Isaiah 40:28, Job 38:4-11, Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:3). Because of this, excluding miracles, there is no reason why “true science” should ever contradict “true theology”. We believe that due to the pride of mankind (Psalms 31:20) and the lies of Satan (Revelation 12:9), that both “true science” and “true theology” have been clouded in various ways, creating unnecessary divisions among Christians and ultimately keeping many unbelievers from coming to the truth about the saving grace of Jesus Christ (Romans 1:22-23).

Good Spiritual Entities

We believe that there are several classes of good spiritual entities, all created by God, including Angels (sons of God) (Job 1:6, 2:1, 38:7), Cherubim (Genesis 3:22-24, Ezekiel 9:3, 10:1-20, 11:22, 28:14-16, 41:18-25), Seraphim (Isaiah 6:1-6), Archangels (1st Thessalonians 4:16, Jude 1:9), and Watchers (Jeremiah 4:16, Daniel 4:13-17). Angels are spiritual beings created by God before the creation of the heaven and the earth (Job 38:4-11, Colossians 1:16). They are sent to minister to those who are to inherit salvation (Hebrews 1:14). They can take on the form of men (Genesis 19:1-17) and secretly interact with unaware humans (Hebrews 13:2). They are interested in God’s plan for humankind (1st Peter 1:12). They also play a role in watching over and protecting people based on God’s will (Psalms 91:11, 103:20, Matthew 18:10).

Evil Spiritual Entities

We believe that there are several classes of evil spiritual entities, all created by God, including Satan (Lucifer) (Genesis 3:1-5, 13-15, Ezekiel 28:14-16, 2nd Corinthians 11:14, Revelation 12:9), Fallen Angels (sons of God) (Genesis 6:1-4, Job 4:18, 2nd Peter 2:4-5, Jude 1:6-7), Abaddon (Revelation 9:11), Evil Spirits (1st Samuel 16:14), Princes (Daniel 10:13, 20-21), Unclean Spirits (Zechariah 13:2, Matthew 10:1, 12:43), and Demons (Leviticus 17:7, Deuteronomy 32:17, Chronicles 11:15, Psalms 106:37, Matthew 4:24, 8:16, 28, 33, 9:32-33). All of these entities work to harm or kill men and keep the truth from being known, particularly the truth about Jesus Christ (Ephesians 6:10-18, 1st Corinthians 10:29). Satan and his fallen angels will all be permanently cast out of heaven (Revelation 12:9) and they will eventually be thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented for eternity (Revelation 20:10).

The Law vs. Liberty

We believe that in the Old Testament, the Israelites were bound to the law through the Mosaic covenant (Exodus 24:6-8) which included 613 social laws (judgements), ceremonial laws (ordinances), and moral laws (10 commandments) (Exodus 19-24, Leviticus, Deuteronomy). Jesus was the only perfect man who ever lived and was able to fulfill the law (Matthew 5:17). In the New Testament, Christians are not under the law but under grace (Romans 6:14, 7:1-14)

and liberty (Romans 8:1-21, Galatians 5:1). Christians are not under the ten commandments (the law), we are under the two great commandments:

1. “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind” (Matthew 22:37-38). This encompasses the first three of the ten commandments.
2. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:39). This encompasses the last six of the ten commandments.

The fourth commandment demanded physical rest for the Israelites every Saturday (7th day) and was a “shadow” of the true rest that would come through Jesus Christ (Colossians 2:16-17). As Christians, we do not need to physically rest on a particular day...We rest every day in the work that Jesus Christ did for us...Jesus Christ is our Sabbath rest (Matthew 11:28, Luke 6:5).

Festivals, Feasts, and Sabbaths

We believe that since Christians are not under the law, there are no special days (festivals, feasts, or Sabbaths) commanded for us to observe (Colossians 2:16-17). Sunday is the first day of the week and should not be called the Lord’s day which is actually synonymous for the Day of the Lord. We may worship God on the first day of the week to follow the tradition started by the Apostles and the early Church (Acts 20:7) or we may worship on any day we see fit. If a Christian wants to observe a day as special (i.e. Sunday, Christmas, Easter, etc.) he is at liberty to do so and if he does not want to observe any days, that is fine as well (Romans 14:5-6).

The Local Church

We believe the local Church is a congregation of baptized believers who come together to be instructed about the Word of God and to enjoy fellowship in unity with brothers and sisters in Christ. This is done in order that we may become mature disciples of Christ and that we are equipped to go out into the world to fulfill the great commission (Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 2:37-47, Romans 6). We are all a part of a single body of which Christ is the head (Ephesians 5:23).

Church Ordinances

We believe in two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Neither of these ordinances play any role in salvation.

1. Baptism must be full immersion done in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Baptism must only be done once to new believers who have already been saved and “baptized” with the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:36-38, 10:44-48). Baptism does not result in the speaking of tongues, as was necessary in certain instances, for the spread of the Gospel in the early Church years. Baptism is simply a public profession of faith in obedience to the command of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4, Matthew 22:37-40).

2. The Lord's Supper consists of eating bread and drinking juice in remembrance of the sacrifice Jesus Christ made for us with His body and blood (1st Corinthians 11:23-29). The bread and juice are only symbolic and do not become real flesh and blood. The Lord's Supper should only be observed by believers. Before participating in the Lord's Supper, a believer must be sure to examine himself for unrepentant sin and should never participate in an unworthy manner (1st Corinthians 11:27-29). If the Lord's Supper is taken in an unworthy manner, God may punish the individual with weakness, sickness, or even death (1st Corinthians 11:30).

Church Leadership

We believe that there are only two leadership positions defined within the scriptures, they are Bishop and Deacon. A Bishop must be a man and can be described as an "Overseer" because that is what he does...he oversees the local church body. He can be described as an "Elder" because that is what he is...he is an older man. He can be described as a "Pastor" because that is the way in which he shepherds the local church...he tends it, feeds it, and cares for it as his flock (1st Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9). Bishops must desire the position and must therefore come forth on their own and should not be hand-picked by other leaders (1st Peter 5:1-3). All Bishops must teach because it's a requirement to become a Bishop (1st Timothy 3:2, Titus 1:9), teaching is a spiritual gift (Romans 12:7, Ephesians 4:11, 1st Corinthians 12:28), and spiritual gifts are for the edification of others (Romans 12:6-8, Ephesians 4:12).

Deacons may be a man or a woman (Romans 16:1) and play a ministerial role based on their gifting and the needs of the local church. A Deacon must meet the requirements set forth in (1st Timothy 3:8-13). They may come forward on their own accord or they may be chosen by the current leaders to fulfill a ministerial need.

Spiritual Gifts

We believe that once a person is saved by grace through faith and indwelt with the Holy Spirit, they are granted spiritual gifts according to the grace given to each person (Romans 12:6-8). These gifts are the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1st Corinthians 12:4-11) and for serving one another (1st Peter 4:10-11). They are for the equipping of the Saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:7-13). They are also for the support and leadership of the Church (1st Corinthians 12:27-31). We believe that the four gifts of speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, miracles, and healing are extremely rare today but God may still use them in extreme situations as His will dictates.

The Rapture

We believe that the Church, consisting of all true believers, both dead and living, will be caught up (raptured) into the clouds to meet Jesus (John 14:3, 1st Thessalonians 4:15-18). At the moment of the rapture, all believers will be given an incorruptible body (1st Corinthians 15:50-53). We believe that the rapture is imminent and can occur at any moment; therefore,

Christians should be living holy and righteous lives and should understand the extreme importance of helping non-believers to come to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

The Tribulation Period

We believe that there is a final seven-year period (Daniel 9:27) remaining as part of a 490-year judgement declared against true Jews and their holy city, Jerusalem (Daniel 9:24-27). This period is known as the tribulation period or the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7). We believe this period is to punish true Jews and non-believers but not Christians. We believe many people will come to saving faith during this time and most will be martyred (Revelation 20:4).

The Millennial Kingdom

We believe Jesus will return to the earth with all believers and set foot on the Mount of Olives (Acts 1:11, Revelation 19:11-14). The beast (anti-Christ) and false prophet will be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20) and Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit for 1000 years (Revelation 20:1-2). Jesus will then rule the earth for that 1000-year period known as the Millennial Kingdom (Revelation 20:4-6).

The End of Evil

We believe that after the 1000-year Millennial Kingdom, Satan will be released for a short period to deceive the nations (Revelation 20:7-8). Satan's army will be devoured by fire from Heaven (Revelation 20:9) and he will be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity (Revelation 20:10). Then will come the Great White Throne judgement for non-believers (Revelation 20:11). They will all be judged based on their works (Revelation 20:12-13) and if their name is not found written in the Book of Life, they will be thrown into the Lake of Fire with Death and Hades to be tormented for eternity (Revelation 20:14-15).

Eternity

We believe God will burn up the existing heavens and earth with fire (2nd Peter 3:7) and there will be a new heaven and earth (Revelation 21:1). God will re-create the tree of life and allow the nations to eat from it (Revelation 22:2). There shall be no more curse (Revelation 22:3) and no more night (Revelation 22:5). All believers will live in peace with the Lord for eternity (1st Thessalonians 4:17, Revelation 22:5).

Civil Government

We believe that God has created and appointed all governing authorities (Romans 13:1, 1st Peter 2:13-14). We are subject to follow all laws to both avoid wrath and to keep our conscience clear (Romans 13:2-5). We must always pay all due taxes (Matthew 22:21, Mark 12:17, Romans 13:6-7). If an ordinance or governing authority commands us to go against God's will, we must always follow God's will (Acts 4:19-20, 5:29).

Tithes, Offerings, and Vows

We believe that in the Old Testament; the Israelites were bound to the Mosaic Law which required several types of tithes, offerings, and vows. Because we are not under the law, we are not commanded to tithe (give one tenth). Our sin offerings have been covered by the body of Jesus Christ (Hebrews 10:10). We should offer ourselves as a living sacrifice for the service of Jesus Christ every day (Hebrews 13:15-16, Romans 12:1). We need to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted us with (Luke 16:10-11). We should give sacrificially without causing ourselves undue burden (2nd Corinthians 8:8-14). We will reap what we sow and should always give with a cheerful heart (2nd Corinthians 9:5-7). We should never swear but let our “yes” be “yes” and our “no” be “no” (Matthew 5:33-37). We should avoid vows, oaths, and pledges but if we take one, we must follow through with it (Ecclesiastes 5:6, Numbers 30:2).

Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is a setting apart to God and that it is a threefold process. First is positional sanctification, also called justification, in which the believer is viewed by God as already completed “in Christ” being united with Him through saving faith (Acts 20:32, 1st Corinthians 1:2, 30, 6:11). Second is progressive sanctification, in which the believer retains his sin nature throughout this life, growing in grace and continually becoming more and more conformed to the image of Jesus Christ through obedience to the Word of God and the work of the Holy Spirit (John 17:17, 19; Romans 6:1-22, 2nd Corinthians 3:18). Third and finally is ultimate sanctification, also known as glorification, in which the believer is fully sanctified in his state as he already is in his position, which will only occur when the believer sees the Lord and will be like Him (Romans 8:29, 1st Thessalonians 5:23, 1st Peter 5:1).