



Paraklete Ministries

Doctrinal Statement

Section 1. Doctrine of the Scriptures

- ◇ We believe in the verbal (every word) and plenary (complete) inspiration of the Scriptures in the original manuscripts: that the Old and New Testaments are equally inspired and without error or contradiction: that the Scriptures are the believer's only rule of faith and conduct: that they are accurate and reliable in science, history, and every other matter they discuss: that we have the complete revelation to man in the sixty-six books of the Bible as it now stands: and that anyone who adds to or takes away from this completed revelation is cursed of God. (Psalm 19:7-11; 119:89, 105; Mark 13:31; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21).

Section 2. Doctrine of God

- ◇ We believe that there is but one living and true God: that the Godhead eternally exists in three Persons who are one in essence—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each equally deserving worship and obedience. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:4-7; John 17:3; I Corinthians 8:4; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14)

A. God the Father

- ◇ We believe that God the Father is Father only to those who receive Jesus Christ as Savior: that He is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, and measureless in power: that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men: that He hears and answers prayer: that He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent: and that He is the object of our worship and praise. (Psalm 65:2; Psalm 139:1-24; Matthew 5:45; Psalm 147:5; Matthew 6:24-34; John 14:6; I Timothy 2:5).

B. God the Son

- ◇ We believe that God the Son is the Creator and Sustainer of all creation: that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary: that He is God manifest in the flesh, very God and very Man: that He was sent by the Father for the purpose of being the perfect and sinless sacrifice for the sins of mankind: that He shed His blood, died in our stead, and was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures gaining victory over death for us: that He is the object of our faith: that He is the only way to the Father: that He will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords on earth for 1000 years: and that He will judge evil works of darkness at the end of time. (Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1, 14; John 3:13-17; John 14:6; Acts 16:31; I Corinthians 15:1-4, 55-57; Colossians 1:16-17; I Timothy 2:5; I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; Hebrews 4:14-16; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15).

C. God the Holy Spirit

- ◇ We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same nature: that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment: that He bears witness to the Truth: that He is the agent of the New Birth: that He baptizes all true believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sanctifying all of them unto the day of redemption: that He endues, guides, teaches and helps believers: and that it is the privilege and obligation of all the saved to be filled (controlled) with the Spirit, the evidences being love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, not speaking in tongues. In relation to the evil world, He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled. (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 5:18; John 3:5-7; 14:16-17, 26; 16:7-15; Galatians 5:2-23; I Peter 1:22-23; II Thessalonians 2:1-12).

Section 3. Doctrine of Creation

- ◇ We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process: that man (spirit, soul, and body) was created by a direct work of God. (Genesis 1:1-2:25; Colossians 1:16; John 1:3; Deuteronomy 6:5).

Section 4. Doctrine of Man

- ◇ We believe that man was created by God in His image, sinless and innocent, but that by disobedience to his Creator he incurred both physical and spiritual death: that all men through choice and an inherited evil nature are totally depraved, and if not saved after the age of accountability will endure eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Genesis 1:26, 27; 2:7-3:24; II Samuel 12:23; Psalm 51:5; Matthew 18:10-14; Revelation 20:14- 15).

Section 5. Doctrine of Sin

- ◇ We believe that sin is the transgression of the law of God. We believe in the universality of sin: that it separates man from God: that there is no remission of sin apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and man's repentance. (Ezekiel 18:4; Luke 24:46-47; Romans 3:10-26; 6:23; 7:23-24; I John 3:4).

Section 6. Doctrine of Salvation

- ◇ We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, a free gift of God in the Person of Jesus Christ: that salvation is received individually by a repentance from sin and a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ: that through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin. He honored the divine law with His personal obedience, and by the shedding of His blood in death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins. He is in every way an all-sufficient Savior. (John 1:12; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:24-25; 10:19; 12:24; I Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5).

A. Regeneration

- ◇ We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again: that the new birth is not a process: that, in the new birth through the Holy Spirit, the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God: that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and newness of life. (John 3:1-8; II Peter 1:4; Ephesians 2:1; Romans 6:23; II Corinthians 5:19-21; Colossians 2:13; Titus 3:5).

B. Justification

- ◇ We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares us to be righteous through faith in Christ Jesus: that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness: that it is bestowed, not by any work which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood sacrifice. (Acts 13:39; II Corinthians 5:18-21; Romans 3:21-4:8; 5:1, 8-9; 8:1; Ephesians 1:7).

C. Sanctification

- ◇ We believe that sanctification is an act and a process whereby God sets apart all believers unto holiness. He then transforms them into the image of Christ, completing the process of sanctification at the return of Christ for His saints. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:3-4; 4:11-13; I John 3:2).

D. Two Natures

- ◇ We believe that man is born with a sinful nature and at the time of his new birth he receives a righteous nature. These two natures are in constant conflict within every believer, the new nature will be victorious when we yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit in our lives. (John 3:1-12; Romans 6:11-14; 7:15-25; 8:1-29; I John 4:4).

E. Glorification

- ◇ We believe that when Christ comes for the church, all believers will be changed in the twinkling of an eye and will become like Christ at His appearing, that our corruptible bodies will become incorruptible. (I Corinthians 15:51-54; I John 3:2).

Section 7. Doctrine of the Church

- ◇ We believe that the church exists in two aspects:

A. Organism

- ◇ We believe that the church as an organism is the body of the bride of Christ, His fullness, composed of all the redeemed. We believe that Christ gave Himself for the church: that He is its only true head. (I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:20-23; 3:3-11; Colossians 1:18).

B. Organization

- ◇ We believe that the establishment and continuation of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament. We believe that the church as an organization is an assembly of baptized believers, voluntarily associated by covenant in faith for fellowship, worship and service: that its mission is the spread of the gospel to all men and to earnestly contend for the faith. We believe that its officers are Pastor and Deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of a hierarchy of individuals or organization, religious or governmental: and that its only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit: that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel: and that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and methods of its cooperation. On all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 14:27; I Corinthians 3:9-17; 16:19; II Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:2; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11; Revelation 2:1-3:22).

Section 8. Doctrine of Church Ordinances

- ◇ We believe that there are two Christian ordinances and that they are symbolical, not sacramental: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

A. Baptism

- ◇ We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: that it sets forth in picture the essential facts in redemption - the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that it gives testimony to what has taken place in the heart of the believer - death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life. Baptism after salvation is an act of obedience and is a prerequisite for local church membership. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:4; Acts 2:41; 8:12, 26-39).

B. Lord's Supper

- ◇ We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death to be observed till He comes: that the elements - the bread and the fruit of the vine - are only symbols of His broken body and shed blood, and that our observance of it is a pictorial testimony of the believer's fellowship with the crucified Savior and should be preceded by solemn heart-searching and self-judgment. (Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 10:16-21; 11:17-34).

Section 9. Doctrine of Satan

- ◇ We believe in the personality of Satan, the fallen Lucifer, the Devil: that he is the author of sin, and the cause of man's temptation and ultimate fall. We believe that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man: that his final doom along with his hosts shall be eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 12:12-17; Matthew 4:1-11; 25:41; Revelation 12:9-10; 20:1-2, 7-10).

Section 10. Doctrine of Spirit Beings

- ◇ We believe that angels and demons are spirit beings. Angels were created as heavenly hosts, but some through choice are now the hosts of Satan and will share in his ultimate doom. The angels of heaven, ministering spirits, are sinless and pure and are forever seeking to praise God in their ministries for Him and His people. Their ministries, ranks, and orders differ, and their strength, appearance, travel, etc. are not bound by natural human laws. They are immortal and do not marry. Their abode is in heaven. (Matthew 18:10, 22:30; Mark 5:2; 8:38; Colossians 1:16; I Thessalonians 4:16; Hebrews 1:14; Jude 6, 9).

Section 11. Doctrine of Future Events

- ◇ We believe that God has disclosed the general order of future events in His Word. We believe that sin will wax worse until the imminent return of Christ for His saints. This event will be followed by a seven year period of tribulation on earth with the judgment seat of Christ and the marriage feast of the Lamb of the Lord and His church in heaven. Then the Lord will return to earth with His saints to put down the forces of evil and to cast Satan bound into the bottomless pit for a thousand years. The Lord will at that time set up His millennial kingdom of righteousness on earth. We believe that at the conclusion of this period, Satan will be loosed for a short while and deceive the hearts of many. The Lord will then bring forth Satan's final and everlasting defeat. Eternal damnation is ushered in with the Great White Throne judgment for the wicked. The righteous will enter their eternal state of bliss. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28.29; II Corinthians 5:10; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28.29; II Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Thessalonians 2:1-10; Revelation 1:1, 19; 19:9-13; 20:1-22:6).

Section 12. Doctrine of Missions

- ◇ We believe that God's love has been extended to sinners for their salvation and that He has commissioned us, His people, to publish this good news throughout the world, giving opportunity for others to become His disciples: that we are to be diligent and zealous in our evangelistic efforts both personally and as a church, also giving prayer and material support to faithful mission endeavors around the world. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 9:1-15; I Timothy 2:3-6; II Peter 3:9).

Section 13. Doctrine of Stewardship

- ◇ We believe that stewardship is the active recognition of the Lordship of Christ over all believers, and that it is our joyous privilege to give back to the Lord our tithes and offerings of our money, our talents, and our time. (Malachi 3:10; Genesis 28:22; I Corinthians 4:1-2; 16:1-3; II Corinthians 8:2-9).

Section 14. Doctrine of Security

- ◇ We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for the flesh. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 13:13-14; I Corinthians 1:4-8; Galatians 5:18; Titus 2:11-15; I Peter 1:5; I John 5:11-13).

Section 15. Doctrine of Separation

- ◇ We believe that we are mandated by God in the Scriptures to separate ourselves unto Christ and, as much as is possible, from any participation in or endorsement of sin: from ecclesiastical organizations and religious personalities that deny the faith or compromise its message: from brethren that walk disorderly or who unrepentantly continue in sin or engage in the compromise aforementioned. Believers are not to enter marriage, partnerships, or other bonds with unbelievers, which create an unequal yoke. We, therefore, urge every participant of Paraklete Ministries to abstain from every questionable thing, keeping himself/herself from even the appearance of evil in religion, dress, conversation, amusement, business, habit, etc. according to the teachings of God's Word. (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 4:1-32; 5:8-11; Philippians 2:12-16; II Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 3:1-11; James 4:4; I John 2:15-16; II John 9-11; II Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6-15).