

National School Project: Doctrinal Statement - adopted December 17, 2021

1. **There is one God eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** This one God is the creator of all things visible and invisible.
2. **Jesus is the eternal Son of God who took on flesh and became a man, without compromising or shedding His Deity.** He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He alone accomplished our salvation through His perfect life and sacrificial death on the cross for our sins. There is salvation in no one but Him. God raised Him physically from the dead. He ascended to Heaven and He will come again to judge the living and the dead. (*Isaiah 53:4-6; John 1:1-3; 13:13; 14:6; Acts 4:12; I Corinthians 15:3-6; Philippians 2:11; Hebrews 10:12-14*)
3. **The Holy Spirit is a divine person of the Godhead.** He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and truth, and draws men and women to faith in Christ. He is given to all true believers to indwell them. He empowers and equips believers for service and enables growth in their walk with God. He purifies them from sin and the deeds of the flesh. He produces in them the fruit of the Spirit and assures them of their salvation. (*John 3:6-7; Acts 1:8; 2:4; I Corinthians 2:14-15; 12:11-13; II Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-23; I Peter 1:2, I John 4:13*)
4. **The Bible is the inspired and authoritative Word of God.** It is our only authority in faith and practice. Because every word is inspired by God, it is without error in the original manuscripts. It is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness. Believers study it diligently so that they may be good servants who are equipped for lives of fruitful ministry. (*II Timothy 2.15; 3:16-17, II Peter 1:21*)
5. **Mankind was created by God in His image but willfully chose to sin.** All men and women are now born under sin and live their lives as sinners deserving judgement from God. All those who believe in Jesus will be saved from this judgement. All others will consciously receive their due punishment by the righteous wrath of God forever in Hell. (*Isaiah 53:6; Mark 9:43-44; Luke 16:23-24; John 3:36; Romans 3:9-12; 5:12*)
6. **God saves those sinners who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ.** They are justified freely and exclusively by God's grace, through faith in Christ, and apart from works. They are forgiven of all their sins, born again as new creatures, and adopted as children of God. The gospel is the message that God, the holy creator and ruler of the world, sent His only Son to live a perfectly righteous life, die as an atoning sacrifice for our sins, and rise from the dead, so that sinful men and women who repent of their sins and trust in Christ as their Savior and Lord, though deserving death and hell, can be forgiven and have peace with God and eternal life as children of God. (*John 5:24; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:23-26; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:11-14*).
7. **The church is composed of those who are called by God and have received Jesus as their savior and Lord.** God has entrusted the church with the mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to people everywhere and to make disciples who obediently follow Christ. God has called the church to be the people of God, the body of Christ, and the temple of the Holy Spirit. Believers are called to a life of good works in service to God as committed participants in a local church where believers are baptized, study the word, pray, and worship God together. (*Matthew 18:20; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42; I Corinthians 1:2; 12:3, 27; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 10:24-25, I Peter 2:9-10*)
8. **Believers must honor God's plan for life, gender and sexuality.** Because mankind was made in the image of God, all human life is sacred and must be treated accordingly. Life is a precious gift that begins at the moment of conception. God created humanity as man and woman and ordained marriage between a man and a woman with the gift of sexual intimacy exclusively in this context. Therefore believers are commanded to run from temptations that pervert that good gift, including lust, adultery, homosexuality, fornication, and pornography. Self-conception as male or female should be defined by God's holy purposes in creation and redemption as revealed in Scripture. Accordingly, adopting a homosexual or transgender self-conception is not consistent with God's holy purposes in creation and redemption. Believers are under no obligation to speak in such ways that dishonor God's design of his image bearers as male and female but rather have a duty to speak the truth in love, including when we speak to or about one another as male or female. (*Genesis 1:27; 2:24; 19:4-7, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Psalm 139:13; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 5:22-23, I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4, *portions adapted from the Nashville Statement 7,11*)