

WOODCREEK CHURCH DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

We Are Related Through Common Convictions

Members at Woodcreek Church embrace the same purpose, priorities and basic philosophy because such agreement is necessary for allowing God to accomplish His plan for us and through us as a local church. For the same reason it is important that we have unity with regard to our basic doctrinal beliefs. The following doctrinal statement expresses the beliefs of the elders and pastoral staff of the church and are important in guarding the unity and orthodoxy of this ministry.

CORE DOCTRINAL BELIEFS

CONCERNING GOD

We believe there is but one living and true God who is one in essence while existing in three distinct co-eternal and co-equal persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Though each person of the God-head possesses the same nature, each functions differently in respect to God’s dealings with man. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 6:27; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:8)

CONCERNING GOD THE FATHER

The first person of the Trinity orders and directs all things according to His own purpose, pleasure and grace. He has decreed all things that come to pass for His glory. He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Matt. 6:9; John 5:19-24; Eph. 1:3-6)

CONCERNING GOD THE SON

We believe that God the Son became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, who was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and who is true God and true man. We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood. (Matt. 1:18-25; Mark 10:45; John 1:14; John 11:33, 8:40; Rom. 3:24-26; Rom. 5:8-9; 2 Cor. 5:14; Heb. 1:8, 2:14; 1 Pet. 3:18, 26:38)

CONCERNING GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, possessing all the distinctively divine attributes. He is God. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates, seals, and sets apart the believer to a holy life. At regeneration He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ and comes to indwell him permanently. (Psa. 139:7; John 3:5-7; 14:16-17; 16:8; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; 12:11; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Thess. 2:13; Titus 3:5)

CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present ministry there for us. Jesus now serves as high priest, intercessor, and advocate on our behalf with the Father. (John 20:25-27; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 1:4; Heb. 7:25; Heb. 8:1-2, 10:12; 1 John 2:1)

CONCERNING SALVATION

We believe that whoever by faith receives Jesus Christ as their Savior becomes a child of God. This salvation is not the result of any human effort or merit. (John 1:12; Rom. 3:28; Eph. 2:8-9)

CONCERNING THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as verbally inspired of God and without error in the original writings. The exact meaning of the Scriptures is essentially unchanged in any important respect in the widely accepted English translations. The Scriptures are authoritative and without error in any category of knowledge, including science and history, and are of supreme and final authority in all matters about which they speak. We believe the Scriptures are to be interpreted in a normal and literal way and that they are understood as the believer is guided by the Spirit of God. (Matt. 5:18; John 10:35; John 16:12-15; 1 Cor. 2:13; 14-16; 1 Tim. 5:18; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:21)

CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST'S RETURN

We believe in the personal, bodily, visible return of Jesus Christ in the glory of His Father to set up on the earth a kingdom in which He shall reign in righteousness and peace. (Isa. 9:6-7, 11:2-5, Matt. 24:30, Luke 21:28, Acts 1:11, Rev. 19:11-21)

IMPORTANT DOCTRINAL BELIEFS

CONCERNING BELIEVERS' BAPTISM

We believe that believer's baptism by immersion in water is an ordinance that Christ commanded us to observe and is a testimony for the church in this age. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48)

CONCERNING THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial instituted by Jesus as a symbolic expression of faith and obedience. In the Lord's Supper we proclaim the Lord's substitutional and sacrificial death on our behalf and affirm His certain return. Communion is open to all who claim a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and can be practiced by a believer at any time and in any location. (Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-20; 1 Cor. 11:7-34)

CONCERNING SATAN

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, and when given the opportunity, he attempts to defeat Christians. However, we believe Christians can overcome Satan's schemes by applying Scriptural truth and relying on the Holy Spirit. (Job 1:6-12; Luke 10:18; John 8:44; Eph. 6:10-19; Rev. 12:11)

CONCERNING MANKIND

We believe that man and woman were created in the image of God, and that they sinned and consequently experienced not only physical death but also spiritual death (which is separation from God). The consequences of this sin affect the entire human race. All human beings are born with a sinful nature and sin in thought, word, and deed. (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:17, 3:6; Mark 7:20-23; John 2:24-25; Rom. 3:23; 5:12-19; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:18)

CONCERNING A BELIEVER'S SECURITY

We believe that all true believers are kept eternally secure by the power of God through the new birth, the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit, and intercession of Christ. (John 10:28-30; 14:16-17; Rom. 8:38-39; Eph. 4:30; 1 Pet. 1:23; 1 John 2:1)

CONCERNING THE RESURRECTION OF THE BELIEVER

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people. Believers will be resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God. Unbelievers are resurrected to experience judgment and then eternal suffering apart from God. (Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thes. 4:16; 2 Thes. 1:7-9; Rev. 20:4-6,11-15; Rev. 21:1-8)

CONCERNING THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe that in accordance with God's purposes and in His timing, God will establish a new heaven and a new earth where He Himself will dwell with us, wiping away our every tear, and removing forever all death, pain, mourning, and crying (Revelation 21:1-4).

CONCERNING THE CHURCH

We believe that the church in its invisible form is universal, the true body of Christ. All believers from the day of Pentecost are members of the universal church regardless of organizational affiliation. (Eph. 4:4-6; Col.1:18; Acts 1:5; 11:15-16; 1 Cor. 12:13; Matt. 16:18)

CONCERNING CHRISTIAN LIVING

We believe that all believers, although they are born again, still possess a sinful nature in this life, but that God has made provision for believers to overcome this sinful nature and to live for God through identification with Christ, a knowledge of the Scriptures, and by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Rom. 7:15-21; 6:1-11; 8:11-13; Gal. 5:16-24; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

CONCERNING CHRISTIAN MATURITY

We believe it is the responsibility of every believer to develop qualities of Christian maturity as described in God's word. (1 Cor. 2:15; Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 2:6-7; 3:1-4; Heb. 5:13-14; 2 Pet. 1:5-11)

CONCERNING SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We believe God has given every believer at least one spiritual gift for the purpose of building up the Body of Christ, the Church. We also believe that biblical and historical evidence indicates that the sign gifts such as healing and tongues may no longer serve the same need and function in establishing the authenticity of the Church and the gospel in our culture as they did in the first century. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-31; 13:8; 14:22-25; Eph. 4:7-13; Heb. 2:3-4; 1 Pet. 4:7-11)

CONCERNING HEALING

We believe that God heals with or without means in answer to prayer offered in faith and in accord with His sovereign will. Healing cannot be claimed on the same unconditional basis of faith as salvation is claimed. (2 Cor. 12:7-10; James 5:14-15; 1 John 5:14-15)

CONCERNING THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD

We believe that the purpose of the church, in addition to building up every believer, is to make Christ known to the whole world. Every member of the church shares in this purpose. In relation to the world, believers are sent by Christ to communicate to unsaved people that God is reconciling the world to Himself in Christ. (Isa. 45:22; 49:6; Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 17:18-20; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:12-15; 2 Cor. 5:18-20)

CONCERNING THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH

We believe in the imminent, pre-tribulational, visible return of Christ for the church. All members of the body of Christ, living or dead, will at that time be caught up or be resurrected to be with the Lord forever. (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thes. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10)

CONCERNING THE MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

We believe that at the end of the tribulation, Jesus Christ will return and rule an earthly kingdom for 1,000 years (a Millennium) before the final defeat of Satan and the judgment of all humanity. (Revelation 20:1-6). This will be followed by the eternal state (mentioned under Core Doctrinal Beliefs) where there is a new heaven and a new earth, and where God dwells with us, wiping away our every tear, and removing forever all death, pain, mourning, and crying (Revelation 21:1-4).