

My Purpose and Beliefs

Purpose Statement

My purpose is to glorify God in all I do by following the Holy Spirit's leading in:

- Loving others and building up families:
 - My Family (*Psalm 78:1-8, Deuteronomy 4:9, John 13:34-35, 1 Timothy 5:4, 8, Genesis 13:8, Ephesians 5:28, Colossians 3:20-21*)
 - Church Families (*1 Corinthians 14:12, 2 Thessalonians 1:4, John 13:34-35*)
 - The Family of God (*John 13:34-35, Ephesians 3:14-19, Galatians 6:10*)
- By committing to the Lord's plan to build His Church
 - The Local Church (*Ephesians 4:11-13, Romans 14:19, Ephesians 4:29*)
 - The Global Church (*1 Corinthians 14:12, 2 Corinthians 13:10*)
- By growing closer to Him
 - Through the study of His Word (*2 Timothy 2:15, Joshua 1:8, James 1:21, 2 Peter 1:2-11*)
 - Through a lifestyle of prayer (*1 Timothy 2:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Romans 12:12, Philippians 4:6*)
- By enjoying God
 - His creation and all its beauty (*Isaiah 66:2, 1 Timothy 4:4, Isaiah 37:16, Acts 4:24*)
 - His Word as living (*Hebrews 4:12, Psalm 37:4*)
- Teaching and learning from each other
 - Sound Biblical doctrine (*2 Timothy 1:13, 1 Timothy 4:6, Titus 1:9*)
 - Mentoring (*2 Timothy 2:2, Proverbs 9:9*)
 - Seeking those older and wiser (*Job 8:8-10, Titus 2*)
- Sharing Christ as His ambassador (*Matthew 28:18-20, John 20:21, Acts 26:19-23*)
 - To my "Neighbors" those closest to me
 - To my "Community" those in my area
 - To my "World" all those who are lost (*John 17:18*)

My Worldview & Statement of Belief

The following areas have shaped what I believe and how I see God working in this world and in this age. My worldview is based on what is stated in the Bible and how the Bible views the world I live in; therefore giving me a Biblical Worldview.

My worldview begins with my belief in the one and only true God. I believe in a triune God; one God in three persons. I believe the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are three Persons in One. All are eternal in their nature, all functioning as One, with unique roles in this world and our lives. (*Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 42:1, 48:16; John 1:1-3, 1:10-14; John 17:20-26; Matthew 28:19*)

- **God the Father** is all-powerful, all knowing, all sufficient, Creator, and perfectly good in every way. He is a spiritual being, eternal in His Nature. He is active in the lives of those He created. (*Exodus 3:13-14, 1 Timothy 1:17*)

- **Christ** is the Son of God, the second person of the Trinity. He was born of a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit. He is both one-hundred percent God and one-hundred percent man. When God became man in the form of Jesus Christ, He did not cease to be God. He lived on this earth as man, and lived a perfect, sinless life. Christ, although He had a beginning as man on this earth, has always been and will always be God. He came in order to reveal God and redeem sinful man. (*John 1:1-2, Romans 9:5, 1 Timothy 3:16, Isaiah 9:6, 1 Timothy 2:5, Luke 1:35*) Christ has ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our high priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate (*Acts 1:9,10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1,2*).
- The **Holy Spirit** is a divine person of the Trinity. He is eternal in His nature. He indwells believers in this age. He is the source of strength and guidance. He is the mediator between the saints and God the Father. He convicts the world of sin, and does the work of regeneration. (*John 14:17; 26, 15:26, 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, 12:11*)

God has left for us **His Word, the Bible**, which is God breathed. Men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote it over many centuries. The Bible is inerrant in its original manuscripts. It is the source of teaching, correction, and truth. It remains unchanging, living, and active in our lives. It is the final authority for our lives. I believe that the Scripture should be read, understood, and interpreted in a literal sense. (*John 16:13-15, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:19-21*)

I believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined **dispensations** or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these (the age of law, the age of the Church, and the age of the millennial kingdom) are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (*John 1:17; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 1:24-25; Hebrews 7:19; Revelation 20:2-6*).

As I interpret Scripture literally I see and believe that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, **created all things**. (*Genesis 1:1*). In six literal days, God created everything, and on the seventh day God rested as an example to mankind. God originally created all things perfect without sin as a reflection of Himself. (*Genesis 1:31-2:3*)

- On the sixth day God created man and woman. Mankind was created by God for God and in His image and likeness. **Humanity** is different from any other creation in that we have a soul; God breathed life into man. (*Genesis 1:26, 27, Genesis 2:7*)
- At creation God instituted the **marriage** union for mankind. Marriage was intended to be between one man and one woman. This began with Adam and Eve. Any intimate sexual activity outside of that union is sin. I believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's holy standard (*Genesis 2:24, 19:5-13; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4*).

Angels, Heaven, and Hell were also created by God and exist in a spiritual realm. **Heaven** is a place being prepared for the Saints. It is a place, filled with the Glory of God, where the Saints will exist with God for eternity. (*Revelation 2:26-27, 2 Timothy 2:12*) **Hell** was created for Satan and his demons and will be the place where all mankind who refuse the free gift of Jesus Christ will spend eternity. It is described as a place of complete separation from God, complete darkness, anguish, and gnashing of teeth. (*Matthew 3:12; 13:41-42, Mark 9:43, Revelation 20:11-15*)

Angels are spiritual beings created by God for Himself. **Satan** is a fallen angel, the author of sin and the cause of the original fall. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man. He will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. Satan took one third of the angelic beings with him (**demons**) in this war against God. (*Job 1:6, 7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:13-17; Isaiah 14:14; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 12, 20:10*)

Angels have an active role in this age unseen. They are at war in a spiritual realm not visible to us, and they fight on behalf of all the saints and serve as God's messengers. Angels are spiritual beings created by God for himself. (*Genesis 2:1, Nehemiah 9:6, Colossians 1:16,*)

While God's original creation was perfect, after **sin** entered the world all humanity and creation was cursed. In Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Mankind is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (*Romans 3:22, 23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12*). This separation was spiritual death. There is no part of man's nature that is not affected by sin. However, humanity does have a free will to choose the gift of salvation. (*Romans 5:12-19, Genesis 3:1-24, 1 Corinthians 15:45*)

Salvation is freely given to all who choose to believe and place their Faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ alone. It is by believing that Jesus Christ's death (payment), burial, and bodily resurrection (conquering) paid the penalty for our sin that we may have eternal life. Jesus Christ could do this because He is one-hundred percent God and one-hundred percent man, who came and lived a sinless life we were not able to live and paid the wages for our sin. Humanity in their deprived state cannot earn Salvation, nor does mankind seek God. It is for all to have and enjoy. It is what provides hope. It is a gift. No amount of works can pay for its purchase. The blood of Jesus Christ, the pure and spotless lamb, purchased our salvation. (*John 3:16-17; Romans 3:24-25, 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5, 2:24*)

Every believer possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. All claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. **Sanctification** is an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit that will be completed when we get to heaven. I believe the work of sanctification happens at salvation in our standing or position in Christ. However, the believer still has an old sin nature that is at battle with his new nature. We are called to grow in our faith allowing the Holy Spirit to have victory in our life. This is a progressive process. (*Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9*)

A saint can stray from the faith. However, salvation is not earned, rather it is the finished work of Jesus Christ, and therefore our Salvation is based on Christ and not ourselves. (*John 3:16-17; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Corinthians 15:4*) As Saints we need to be continually taught, encouraged by, and held accountable to the Scripture in order to avoid straying in our relationship with Christ. This is one reason we have the church.

The Church began at Pentecost, and Christ at His ascension was established as head of the Church. The church is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, the global and local spiritual organism left to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ to all nations in this present age. Christ has stated that He will return for His Bride, the Church, and that she should be ready.

Christ has commissioned the Church to make disciples and proclaim His Word throughout the world. The establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures and the way we are to go about making disciples. (*Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-11*) The church is made up of all born-again persons of this present age (*Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 1:1, 11:2; Matthew 16:18, 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, 9:31; Revelation 21:9, 19:7*) The church has the authority and obligation to correct, instruct and encourage. God established the role of Elder to lead and oversee His Church. (*Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1-4; I Corinthians 3:9,16; 5:4-7, 13; I Peter 5:1-4*).

The Lord Jesus Christ left two **ordinances** for the church to follow; Baptism and the Lord's Supper. These ordinances are a means of testimony for the Church age (*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; I Corinthians 11:23-26*).

- *Baptism* is an act the believer follows after salvation to show the internal change that has taken place. Water baptism symbolizes Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. The believer is proclaiming to those who witness the baptism their belief in the finished work of Jesus Christ as a public testimony.
- *The Lord's Supper* is to be observed in remembrance of what Jesus Christ did at Calvary. The bread symbolizes His body, which was broken for us. The drink symbolizes the blood of Christ shed for us, given as an atonement for our sin.

We as the church are to live as Christ lived. As the body of Christ we should live in such a manner so not to bring reproach upon our Savior and Lord. There needs to be a **separation** from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations as commanded by God in Scripture. (*2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:11*).

The Holy Spirit gives **Spiritual Gifts** to the believers at Salvation. These gifts are given for the purpose of building up the body of Christ, the church. God is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts, that the permanent gifts are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today, and that the temporary gifts (tongues, the working of signs and miracles) gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and its authority became established (*I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12; Hebrews 2:3,4*). God does hear and answer, in accordance with His will, the prayer of faith for the sick and afflicted (*John 15:7; I John 5:14, 15*).

Jesus Christ is coming back for His church. I believe in the bodily resurrection of humanity and in the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. Jesus Christ will then return to earth with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom. This kingdom will be everlasting. (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1:10; 5:9; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 3:10*).

God has already known since the beginning of time those who will follow Him and those who will reject Him. He has made Himself available to all, dying for all, knowing not all would receive Him and apply the blood of His atonement. It is His divine authority for Him to decide this. As the church we are not to make this decision. We are called to share Christ with all not knowing who will choose Him and who will not. (*John 3:16; Ephesians 1:4; Romans 8:6-8, 33; John 6:32-33, 6:51, 17; Romans 8:28; John 12:32, Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Peter 2:1; 1 John 2:2*)