

Dr. Tony A. Rogers

Doctrinal Statement

The Word of God: The Word of God, comprised of the God-breathed Scriptures of the Old and New Testament is inerrant, and infallible. This divinely inspired Word is our only authority for the content of our faith and is given that mankind might know how to conduct our lives to glorify God and be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ.

Theology Proper: There is only one living and true God, who is transcendent in power and glory and, simultaneously, imminent and able to be known through natural revelation and, specifically, through His self-revelation in His Word. Perfect in all His attributes, God is One in essence and, eternally exists in three separate, yet co-equal, Persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

God the Father: God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to His own purpose. As Creator He is Father to all men, but He is spiritual Father only to believers. All the Father does is for His own glory and is according to the counsel of His own perfect will. He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ; He adopts as His own all those who come to Him; and He becomes, upon adoption, their spiritual and eternal Father.

God the Son: Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, is ‘God of very God’, having existed as such from eternity past. Through His Incarnation, Jesus walked this earth being fully God and fully man, yet without sin. Jesus, Himself, actively holds all things together through His power. Due to His sinlessness, He was able to purchase mankind’s redemption required by God’s justice. The Father’s acceptance of Christ’s sacrificial death was declared through His bodily resurrection. Then Jesus ascended into Heaven and sat down at the right hand of the Father and, one day, He will return, bodily, in full glory, to set up His millennial reign on earth.

God the Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity, is a divine Person, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity. In all the divine attributes He is coequal with both the Father and the Son. His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ, transforming believers into Christ’s image, and sealing them unto the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church. However, the gifts of the Spirit in the New Testament church, referred to as ‘sign gifts’, such as speaking in tongues and the working of miracles; in the beginning days of the church, those gifts were for the purpose of authenticating the apostles as revealers of divine truth and were never intended to be characteristic in the life of the church.

Man: Man is the special creation of God, made in His image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the goodness of God’s creation. In the beginning man was innocent, by his choice he sinned against God, brought sin to humanity, fell from his original state and now, his seed inherits a nature and an environment inclined toward sin. Due to the pervasive nature of sin, only God’s grace can bring him into His holy fellowship and enable them to fulfill God’s creative purpose. The sacredness of humanity is

clear in that God created man in His own image and Christ died for all mankind; therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

Salvation: Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ, alone, as Lord and Savior through faith. The blessed grace of God is, in no way, obtained through works. Jesus, by His own blood, obtained redemption for the believer. Salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Regeneration is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ. Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal, based on His righteousness, of all sinners who repent and believe. Justification brings the believer into a relationship of peace and favor with God. Sanctification, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress in maturity through the power of the indwelling Spirit. Growth in grace should continue throughout one's life. Glorification is the culmination of salvation in eternity.

Eternal Security: Because of the eternal purpose of God toward the objects of His grace and love, because of His exercise of that grace toward man, solely on the grounds of the redeeming work of Christ, all who are truly saved shall be kept secure by Christ for eternity.

The Church: The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous congregation of believers, associated by their mutual faith in the Gospel. The church observes the two ordinances of Christ (Baptism and the Lord's Supper), governed by His Word, exercise the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and mutually seek to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Each congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ. The offices of the church are pastor (elder, overseer), and deacon as defined and qualified in Scripture. The church is the Body of Christ which includes all the redeemed from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation.

Eternity: At death the souls of those who placed their faith in Christ for salvation enter instantly into His presence until the resurrection of the glorified body when Christ comes for His own, to dwell eternally with Him. The souls of those outside of Christ, after physical death, will exist in conscious despair and torment until the final judgment at the close of the millennium, when soul and body will be reunited and cast into the lake of fire. This final state will not lead to annihilation, but to eternal punishment and everlasting destruction.

Statement on Family and Marriage: God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of society. God, being the Creator of marriage, is the supreme authority regarding its constitution and He has declared, in His Word, that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Marriage is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord.