

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT – Unapproved draft revision – June 19, 2019
Harvest Bible Chapel Barrie

The Scriptures

We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments to be the full record of God's self-disclosure to humanity. The human authors, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, were supernaturally moved along by the Holy Spirit to record God's very words, without error in the original writings and fully reliable in what they communicate. Those who humbly apply themselves to the study of the grammatical-historical context within the various literary genres found in the Scriptures will come to a trustworthy understanding of God's Word, seeing it as the final and sufficient authority for all of life.

Psalm 19:7-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21

The Triune God

We believe in the one living and true God, eternally existing in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each member of the Godhead, while executing distinct yet complementary roles in redemptive history, has precisely the same nature, attributes, and being, and is equally worthy of the same glory and honour and obedience.

Genesis 1:1-2, 26; Isaiah 6:8; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 3:21-22

God the Father

We believe God the Father created all things in six days for his glory according to his own will, through his Son, Jesus Christ. He upholds all things by the word of his power and grace, exercising sovereign headship over all creation, providence, and redemption through which the Father demonstrated his deep love for the world by sending his only Son to offer salvation to humanity.

John 6:27; 10:29-30; 17:3; Romans 1:7; Romans 5:8; Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 4:11

God the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, moved by love in accordance with the will of the Father, took on human flesh. Conceived through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, he was born of the virgin Mary. Being fully God and fully man, he lived a sinless life and sacrificially shed his blood and died on the cross in our place, accomplishing redemption for all who place their faith in him. He rose visibly and bodily from the dead on the third day and, after being seen by many witnesses, ascended into heaven, where, at the Father's right hand, he is now Head of his Body the Church, the only Saviour and Mediator between God and man, and will return to earth in power and glory to consummate his redemptive mission.

John 1:1-4, 18; John 14:8-9; Colossians 1:17; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 2:17-18; Revelation 19:11-16

God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all he does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ during this age. He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He draws the unredeemed to repentance and faith, and at salvation imparts new life to the believer, bringing the convert into union with Christ and his body, his Church. The Holy Spirit baptizes and permanently indwells at salvation, seals, sanctifies, fills, guides, instructs, comforts, equips, empowers, produces fruit as evidence of genuine faith, and confers spiritual gifts for service in the life of the believer.

John 16:8, 13-15; Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:9-17; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 3:16; 6:19-20; 12:4-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Titus 3:5

Humanity

We believe that God created humanity—male and female—in his own image and likeness, free of sin, to glorify himself and to enjoy an intimate, personal, and unhindered relationship with him. Tempted by Satan, yet within the sovereign plan of God, the first man and woman freely chose to disobey God, bringing upon all of humanity the curse of sin and death. All human beings, therefore, are sinful by nature, rebellious by choice, and under the influence of a sin-marred world and the evil one himself. Every person is alienated from God without defense or excuse, subject to his righteous wrath, and in desperate need of the Saviour to reverse the curse and restore their relationship with the Father.

Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-6; Psalm 139:13-16; Romans 1:18-20; 3:10-19, 23; 5:12, 18-19; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Ephesians 2:10; 1 John 2:15-17

Salvation

We believe that salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ, who died in our place as the substitutionary atonement for our sins. Before the foundation of world, God chose those who would be saved based solely on his sovereign good pleasure. Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross paid for the sins of the world, fully satisfying God's righteous wrath against sin and evil. Those who turn from sin in repentance and faith become a new creation by the Holy Spirit, are declared righteous before God, and are eternally secured as an adopted child of the Father. Genuine faith is authenticated by a growing obedience to and love for Jesus Christ and with an evident eagerness to glorify God and persevere to the end.

Matthew 24:13; John 3:16-18; Acts 4:12; Romans 7:15-25; 8:29-30, 37-39; 10:9-13; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:4-9; 1 John 2:2-6

The Church

We believe that upon placing faith in the Lord Jesus, the believer is made part of the Body of Christ, the one universal Church, of which Christ is the Head. Additionally, believers are to assemble together for worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship, to practice the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Table, to serve one another through the use of spiritual gifts, and to carry out the mission to make disciples. The local church is to be lead and protected by a plurality of elders who shepherd and oversee members working together in humility, love, and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ.

Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 11:17-29; 12:7; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 10:24-25; 13:17; 1 Peter 5:1-5

Things to Come

We believe in and expectantly await the glorious, visible, imminent, and victorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. The blessed hope of his second coming and the culmination of God's redemptive plan for creation and humanity has vital bearing on the believer, producing an inward assurance of salvation and an outward zeal for service and mission. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost. The lost will be raised to judgment and experience eternal wrath in hell. The saved will be raised to eternal joy in the new heaven and new earth in the presence of God forever.

Daniel 7:9-14; 12:1-4; Matthew 10:28; 25:31-46; Luke 12:35-40; 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 19:11-16; 21:1-4; 22:7