

Doctrine Statement

Elwood Bible Baptist Institute

The Bible: We believe the Holy Scriptures, the Bible, of the Old and New Testaments containing 66 books to be the Bible, "as it is in truth, the Word of God..." (I Thessalonians 2:13). We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the scripture in the original writings as the verbally inspired Word of God, and God's preservation of His pure words to every generation (II Timothy 3:16, Psalms 12:6-8). It is infallible and is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and life. (II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:20, 21; Psalm 119:89). The Masoretic Text of the Old Testament and the Received Text of the New Testament (Textus Receptus) are those texts of the original languages we accept and use; the King James Version of the Bible is the only English version we accept and use. We believe that God has preserved His Word for the English-speaking peoples in the King James Version. The Bible is our sole authority for faith and practice.

The Triune God: We believe in one Triune God, existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy. 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14; I John 5:7)

Creation: We believe that in the beginning, the heavens and the earth were created by God, thus displaying His eternal power, wisdom, and goodness. The creation of Genesis 1 was done in six literal days thus denying the possibility of evolution. (Genesis 1:1-2)

The Depravity of Man: We believe that man was originally created upright and sinless, but by the act of disobedience by our first parents, Adam and Eve, the whole of mankind is fallen into a state of sin and condemnation, separated from God, and that man is totally unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26; Romans 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3)

Salvation by Free Grace: We believe that salvation is a gift of God's free grace and cannot be merited nor secured in any part or in whole by any virtue or work of man, but is received only by repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Acts 20:21; Titus 3:5)

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Eternal Security: We believe that those sinners who have been convinced of their sin and who have found peace and pardon with God through the blood and righteousness of Christ, will most certainly persevere unto the end and can never fall finally from grace. (John 10:27-30; Romans 8:28-39; I Peter 1:5)

Separation: We believe that every Christian should live a life that is separate from the world. As a citizen of Heaven, the Christian should abstain from all worldly practices, which would defile the mind or body and bring reproach upon the Lord. We believe in personal and ecclesiastical separation. (Romans 12:1, 2; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1)

The Church: We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is a living spiritual body of which Christ Himself is the head and consists of all born-again people. The New Testament teaches the importance of the local church. (Mt. 16:18; Acts 2:41-47; Ephesians 1:22, 23)

Baptism: We believe that baptism is a public testimony of a person's previous salvation experience. Baptism symbolically declares our death, burial, resurrection, and identification with Christ. This ordinance shall be done by immersion. (Matthew 3:16; 28:19, 20; Acts 8:12)

The Lord's Supper: We believe the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of the Church which commemorates the death of Christ, anticipates the coming of Christ, and is always preceded by solemn self examination. (Luke 22:19, 20; I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Spiritual Gifts: We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all gifts. He has given abilities and graces to each believer for the building up of the Body of Christ. We further believe that the "Miraculous Gifts," such as speaking in tongues and healing gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established. We also believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accordance with His own will, for the sick and afflicted. (Titus 2:11-13; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-57; Revelation 19:14, 15; Revelation 20:4-6)

The Lord's Day: We believe that the first day of the week (Sunday) is the Lord's Day; that it is to be kept sacred for Christian purposes by the devout observances of all means of grace, both private and public. (John 20:19; Acts 20:7)

The Second Coming: We believe that the Christian's blessed hope is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ and the believers

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constant attitude and prayer shall be, "Even so come Lord Jesus." We believe in the personal, pretribulational, premillennial return of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Titus 2:11-13; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-57; Revelation 19:14, 15; Revelation 20:4-6)

The Resurrection: We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead, the saved to eternal life and blessedness in Heaven, the unsaved to eternal, conscious, suffering in Hell. (John 5:28,29; Rev 20:11-15)

Apostasy: We believe that in the end time some shall depart from the faith. This is known as apostasy. The Bible warns us not to cooperate with organizations, churches, or individuals that have apostasized and rejected the historic doctrines of the Christian faith. (II Timothy 3:3-4; II John 9-11; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1)

Civil Government: We believe that God instituted Civil Government for the benefit of man. We are admonished to obey the "Powers that be" and to pray for those in authority over us. (Romans 13: 1-7)