

Society for Enlightening, Witnessing& Awakening (SEWA)

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

I. CONCERNING THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe and teach that the Bible is the written revelation of God, and the sixty-six books of the Bible thus constitute the plenary Word by the Holy Spirit. (I Corinthians 2:7-14, II Peter 1:20-21).

We believe and teach that the Word of God is an objective (Ex. 17:14), propositional revelation (I Thess. 2:13), verbally inspired (in every word) (II Tim. 3:16), in the original documents absolutely inerrant (Isa. 30:8), infallible, and God-breathed.

We believe and teach that it constitutes the only infallible rule of faith and practice (Matt. 5:18, 24:34; John 10:35, 16:12,13, 17:17, I Cor. 2:13; II Tim. 3:15-17; II Peter 1:20,21, 3:15,16; Heb. 4:12).

We believe and teach that God spoke in His written Word by a process of dual authorship, in which the Holy Spirit so superintended the human authors that through their individual personalities and different styles of writing, they composed and recorded God's Word to man (II Pet. 1:20-21), without error in the whole or in the part (Isa. 30:8, 40:8; Matt. 5:18; II Tim. 3:16).

We believe and teach that, whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is but one true interpretation, and it is to be found as one diligently applies the grammatical-historical method of interpretation under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit (John 7:17, 16:12-15; I Cor. 2:7-15; I John 2:20).

II. CONCERNING GOD

We believe and teach that there is but one living and true God (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:5-7; I Cor. 8:4), an infinite, intelligent Spirit (John 4:24), perfect in all His attributes, one in essence but eternally existing, and subsistent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19; Ps. 139:8; II Cor. 13:14) -- each equally deserving the same worship, and obedience (Acts 17:24-29; I Cor. 8:6; Rev. 19:10).

God the Father

God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace (Ps. 145:8,9; I Cor. 8:6). As the absolute and highest ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Ps. 103:19; Job 1:6; Rom. 11:33). He is the creator of all things (Genesis 1). His Fatherhood denotes a spiritual relationship, first of all within the Trinity; and secondly, within mankind, creatively in relation to all men, but spiritually only in relation to believers. He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass, and continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events (I Chron. 29:11). This He does so as in no way to be the author and approver of sin (John 8:38-44), nor to abridge the accountability of moral, intelligent creatures (I Peter 1:17). He has graciously chosen from all eternity those whom He

would have as His own (Eph. 1:3-6); He saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ; and He relates Himself to His own as their Father (Luke 3:38; John 1:12,18; Eph. 1:3-6; Heb. 12:5-9).

God the Son

Jesus Christ -- the second person of the Trinity -- possesses all the divine excellencies, and in these He is coequal with the Father, and He is consubstantial and coeternal with Him (John 10:27-30; John 14:9).

We believe and teach that in the incarnation He surrendered only the prerogatives of deity but nothing of the divine essence, either in degree or kind. In His incarnation Christ's divine nature united with a true nature in an indissoluble union, and so He became the God-man (Phil.2:5-8).

We believe and teach that Jesus Christ represents the fusion of humanity and deity into an indivisible oneness (Micah 5:2; Col. 2:9; John 14:9, 10; I John 5:20; Jude 25).

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ was virgin born (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:25; Luke 1:26-35), that He was God incarnate (John 1:1,3,14,18; I John 1:3), and that the purpose of the incarnation was to reveal God, redeem men, and rule over God's kingdom (Ps. 2:7-9; Isa. 9:6; Heb. 7:26; I Peter 2:22; John 1:29).

We believe and teach that in the incarnation the second person of the trinity laid aside His right to the full prerogatives of coexistence with God to assume the place of a Son and an existence appropriate to a servant; however, He did not divest Himself of His divine attributes (Phil. 2:5-8).

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross, that His death was voluntary, vicarious, substitutionary, propitiatory and redemptive (I Peter 2:24; Rom. 3:25, 5:8).

We believe and teach that, upon the basis of efficacy of His death, the believing sinner is freed from punishment, the penalty, power, and one day the very presence of sin, declared righteous, given eternal life, and admitted to the family of God (John 10:15; II Cor. 5:14,15; I Peter 2:24, 3:18; Rom. 3:25; 5:8).

We believe and teach that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead, that He is now ascended to the right hand of the Father where He is now ministering as our Advocate and High Priest (Matt.28:6; Luke 24:38,39; Acts 2:30,31; Heb. 7:25, 9:24; Rom. 4:25).

We believe and teach that in the resurrection of Christ from the grave, God confirmed the deity of Christ; God accepted the atoning work of Christ on the cross, and His bodily resurrection as the guarantee of a future resurrection life for all believers (John 14:19; Rom. 1:4, 4:25, 6:5-10; I Cor. 15:20,23; John 5:28,29).

We believe and teach that He will return to receive the Church, which is His Body, unto Himself at the Rapture, and, returning with His Church in glory, will establish His kingdom in its millennial manifestation (Acts 1:9-11; I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 20).

We believe and teach that the Lord Jesus Christ is the one through whom God will judge all mankind (John 5:22-23):

- a. Believers (II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:10-15);
- b. Living inhabitants of the earth at His glorious return (Matt. 25:31-46);
- c. Unbelieving dead at the Great White Throne (Rev. 21:11-15).

As the mediator between God and man (I Tim. 2:5), the head of His Body the Church (Eph. 5:23, 1:22; Col. 1:18), the coming universal King who will reign on the throne of David (Isa. 9:6), He is the final judge of all who fail to place their trust in Him as the only Savior (Luke 1:31-33; Acts 17:30,31; Matt. 25:14-46; Heb. 7:25).

God the Holy Spirit

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, eternal underived, possessing all the divine excellencies, and that in these He is coequal with the Father and the Son, and is consubstantial with them (Acts 5:3,4; also:

- a. Compare Isa. 6:8,9 with Acts 28:25,26;
- b. "Intellect" -- I Cor. 2:10-13, "emotion" -- Eph. 4:30, "will" -- I Cor. 12:11;
- c. Compare Jer.31:31-34 with Heb. 10:15-17;
- d. Coequal -- Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I Cor. 12:4-6;
- e. Eternal -- Heb. 9:14;
- f. Omnipresent -- Ps. 139:7-10;
- g. Omniscient -- Isa. 40:13, 14;
- h. Omnipotent -- I Cor. 12:11;
- i. Truth -- John 16:13.

We believe and teach that it is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to the world of men. We recognize His sovereign activity in creation, the incarnation, the written revelation, and the work of salvation (Gen. 1:2; Matt. 1:18; John 3:5-7; II Peter 1:20,21).

We believe and teach that the work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost when He came from the Father, as promised by Christ (John 14:16,17, 15:26), to initiate and complete the building of the Body of Christ, which is His Church (I Cor. 12:13). The broad scope of His divine activity

includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; of glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ, and transforming believers into Christlikeness (John 16:7-9; Acts 1:5, 2:4; II Cor. 3:18; Eph. 2:22).

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit is the supernatural and sovereign agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13), indwelling, sanctifying, instructing, empowering for service, and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; II Cor. 3:6; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13).

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher who guided the apostles into all truth, as they submitted to God's revelation in Scripture. Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from salvation on, and it is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 5:18, I John 2:20-27).

We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit alone bestows spiritual gifts upon every believer in Christ, not to glorify Himself or the gifts by ostentatious displays, but to glorify Christ and implement His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the faith (John 16:12-14; Acts 1:8; I Cor. 12:4-11; II Cor. 3:18).

In this respect, we believe and teach, that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts for the perfecting of the saints today. He may sovereignly choose to bestow any gift at any time, but the gifts must meet the Biblical tests as outlined in Scripture before they can be accepted as authentic (I Cor. 14; Acts 2).

We believe and teach that the gift of speaking in tongues is a spiritual gift. It means speaking with words or in a language one doesn't know in order to edify both oneself and others. Jesus foretold of speaking in tongues: "And these signs will follow those who believe... they will speak with new tongues." Mark 16:17. The first time anybody spoke in tongues was on the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles, as related in Acts 2:1-12. The apostles spoke the gospel to the crowds in Jerusalem, and what they said could be understood by people speaking many different languages: "... we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." Acts 2:11. Later Paul also writes about the gift of speaking in tongues, in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14. However, here he writes that the person speaking in tongues doesn't speak in an understandable language: "no one understands him; however in his spirit he speaks mysteries." 1 Corinthians 14:2.

III. CONCERNING MAN

We believe and teach that man was directly and immediately created by God in His image and likeness. He was created free of sin with a rational nature, intelligence, volition, self-determination, and moral responsibility to God (Gen. 1:26-28, 2:15-25; I Thess. 5:23; James 3:9).

We believe and teach that the purpose of man's creation was with the divine intention that he should glorify God, enjoy His fellowship, live his life in the will of God, and by this accomplish His purpose for man in the world (Gen. 1:26-30; Isa. 43:7; Col. 1:16; Rev. 4:11).

We believe and teach that in Adam's sin of disobedience to the revealed will and Word of God, he

lost his innocence; incurred the penalty of spiritual and physical death; became subject to the wrath of God; inherently corrupt, and utterly incapable of choosing or doing that which is acceptable to God, apart from divine grace. With no recuperative powers to enable him to recover himself, he is hopelessly lost, apart from the salvation which is in the redemptive word of the Lord Jesus Christ (Gen. 2:16,17, 3:1-19; John 3:36; Rom. 3:23, 6:23; I Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:1-3; I Tim 2:13,14; I John 1:8).

We believe and teach that all men were in the loins of Adam, and that the consequence of that sin has been transmitted (imputed) to all men of all ages, Jesus Christ being the exception. All men thus are sinners by divine declaration, by nature, and by choice (Ps. 14:1-3; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:9-18, 23, 5:12-10; James 2:10).

We believe and teach that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Ps 139.)

IV. CONCERNING SALVATION

We believe and teach that salvation is wholly of God by grace, through the redemption of Jesus Christ, the merit of His shed blood; not on the basis of human merit, or works (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; I Peter 1:18,19).

Regeneration

We believe and teach that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are communicated (John 3:3-7). It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God (John 5:24), so as to secure voluntary obedience to the Gospel. Regeneration will be manifested by repentance, faith, and righteous living. Good works are its proper evidence and fruit (I Cor. 6:19,20; Eph. 2:10), and will be experienced to the extent that the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life through faithful obedience to the Word of God (Eph. 5:17-21; Phil. 2:12b; Col 3:16; II Peter 1:4-10). This obedience causes the believer to be increasingly conformed to the image of the Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor. 3:18). Such a conformity is climaxed in the believer's glorification at Christ's coming (Rom. 8:17; II Cor. 5:17; I Peter 1:23; II Peter 1:4; I John 3:2-3).

Election

We believe and teach that election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves and sanctifies (Mark 13:27; Eph. 1:4-11; II Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 2:10; I Peter 1:1-2; Romans 8:28-33).

We believe and teach that election is consistent with responsibility of man, because it comprehends all the means in connection with the end achieved (John 6:37,44; Acts 13:48).

We believe and teach that election should not be looked upon as based merely on abstract sovereignty. God is truly sovereign, but He exercises this sovereignty in harmony with His other

attributes, especially His omniscience, justice, holiness and wisdom (Rom. 9:11-16). This sovereignty must never exalt the will of God as separate and apart from His character, as revealed in the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 11:25-28; John 1:13; II Tim. 1:9).

Justification

We believe and teach that justification before God is an act of God by which He declared righteous those who believe in Christ (Rom. 8:33). This righteousness is apart from any virtue or work of man (Rom. 3:20), and involves the imputation of our sins to Christ (Col. 2:14; I Peter 3:18), and the imputation of Christ's righteousness to us (Rom. 4:6; I Cor. 1:30; II Cor. 5:21). By this means God is enabled to "be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus" (Rom. 3:20,26; 4:3-5).

Sanctification

We believe and teach that every believer is "set apart" (sanctified) unto God by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every believer is therefore declared to be holy and identified as a saint. This is not a progressive sanctification; this sanctification has to do with the believer's standing, not his present state (Acts 20:32; I Cor. 1:2,30, 6:11; II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:2; Heb. 2:11, 3:1, 10:10,14, 13:12; Jude 1).

We believe and teach that there is, by the work of the Holy Spirit, an experiential sanctification, by which the state of the believer is progressively brought closer to the standing the believer enjoys through justification. Through obedience to the Word of God and the empowering of the Holy Spirit, the believer is able to live a life of increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God, becoming more and more like the Lord Jesus Christ (John 17:17,19; Rom. 6:1-22; II Cor. 3:18; Eph. 5:26; I Thess. 4:3,4, 5:23).

In this respect, we believe and teach that every saved person is involved in a conflict -- the new creation in Christ is set against the flesh -- but adequate provision is made for victory through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The struggle stays with the believer all through this earthly life and is never completely ended. All claims to the eradication of sin in this life are unscriptural. Eradication of sin is not possible, but the Holy Spirit does provide for victory over it (Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:9,10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9; Phil. 3:12).

Security

We believe and teach that all the redeemed once saved are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 5:24, 6:37-50, 10:27,30; 17:15,20; Rom.. 5:9,10, 8:1,31-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 7:25, 13:5; I Peter 1:5; Jude 1:24).

We believe and teach that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion for sinful living and carnality (Rom. 6:15-22, 13:13,14; Gal. 5:13,25,26; Titus 2:11-15).

Separation

We believe and teach that the doctrine of separation from sin is clearly evident throughout the Old and New Testaments, and that the Scriptures clearly indicate that in the last days apostasy and

worldliness shall increase (II Cor. 6:14-7:1; II Tim. 3:1-5).

We believe and teach that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and that separation from all religious apostasy, and worldly and sinful practices is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1,2; 14:13; II Cor. 6:14-7:11; II Tim. 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; I Cor. 5:9-13).

We believe and teach that believers should be separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ (Lev. 19:2; John 15:1-5; Gal. 5:16; I Thess. 2:11,12; II Thess. 1:11,12; Heb. 12:1-2).

V. CONCERNING THE CHURCH

We believe and teach that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body -- the Church (I Cor. 12:12,13), of which Christ is the Head (Eph. 1:22, 4:15; Col. 1:18), and which is His espoused Bride (II Cor. 11:2; Eph. 5:23-32; Rev. 19:7,8).

We believe and teach that the formation of this Body began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21, 38-47), and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own in the Rapture (I Cor. 15:15-47; I Thess. 4:13-18).

We believe and teach that the Church is, then, a unique spiritual organism (Matt. 16:18) made up of all born again believers in this present age (Eph. 2:11-22, 3:1-6). The Church is distinct from Israel (I Cor. 10:32), a mystery not revealed until this age (Eph. 3:1-6, 5:32).

We believe and teach that the establishment and continuity of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:23,27, 20:17,28; Gal. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; I Thess. 1:1; II Thess. 1:1), that the members of this one spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies (I Cor. 11:18-20; Heb. 10:25).

We believe and teach that the one, the supreme authority for the Church is Christ (I Cor. 11:3; Eph. 1:22; Col. 1:18), and that the order, discipline, and worship are appointed through His sovereignty. The biblically designated officers serving under Christ and over the assembly are elders, also referred to as bishops and overseers. (Acts 20:28), and deacons who must fit biblical qualifications (I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-5).

We believe and teach that these leaders lead or rule in the place of Christ (I Tim. 5:17-22) and have His authority in directing the Church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership (Heb. 13:7,17).

We believe and teach Church discipline in accordance with the standards of Scripture (Matt. 18:15-22; Acts 5:1ff.; I Cor. 5:1-13; II Thess. 3:6-15; I Tim. 1:19,20; Titus 1:10-16).

We believe and teach the autonomy of the local church, free from any external authority or control, with the right of self-government and freedom from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations (Titus 1:5). It is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other for the presentation and propagation of the faith. However, each local church through its elders and their interpretation and application of Scriptures is the sole judge of the measure and method of its

cooperation as well as on all matters of membership, policy, discipline, benevolence, and government (Acts 15:19-31, 20:28; I Cor. 5:4-7,13; I Peter 5:1-4).

We believe and teach that the purpose of the Church is to glorify God (Eph. 3:21) by building itself up in the faith (Eph. 4:13-16), by instruction of the Word (II Tim. 2:2,15, 3:16,17), by fellowship (Acts 2:42; I John 1:3), by keeping the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38-42), and by advancing and communicating the Gospel to the entire world (Matt. 28:19; Acts 1:8, 2:42).

We believe and teach the calling of all saints to the work of the ministry (I Cor. 15:58; Eph. 4:12; Rev. 22:12).

We believe and teach the accomplishment of God's purpose in the world. For the accomplishment of that purpose, He has given the Church spiritual gifts. First, He gave gifted men for the purpose of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry (Eph. 4:7-12), and He also gives unique and special spiritual abilities to each member of the Body of Christ (Rom. 12:5-8; I Cor. 12:4-31; I Peter 4:10,11). At the moment of spiritual birth every believer receives such a gift or gifts (I Cor. 12:4-13). These gifts are sovereignly bestowed and cannot be sought (I Cor. 12:11). It is essential that every believer discovers, develops, and employs his spiritual gift or gifts for the edification of the Body and the accomplishment of the work of Christ in the world (Rom. 12:3-8; I Peter 4:10,11).

We believe and teach that there are two kinds of gifts: speaking gifts and serving gifts (I Peter 4:10-11). With the New Testament revelation at last complete, certain gifts seem to no longer be necessary (I Cor. 13:8-12) criteria for evaluating the validity of a man and his message, since they can be counterfeited by Satan so as to deceive even believers (I Cor. 13:13,14; Col. 2:18; Rev. 13:13,14). If a believer today says he has these "sign" gifts, they must meet the Biblical tests for such gifts in order to be authentic.

We believe and teach that two ordinances have been committed to the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Acts 2:38-42). Christian baptism is the testimony of a believer, showing forth in solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and our union with Him in death to sin, and resurrection to a new life (Rom 6:1-11; Acts: 8:36-39). It is also a sign of fellowship, identification with the visible body of Christ (Acts 2:41,42). The Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination (I Cor. 11:23-38). We also believe and teach that while Christ's flesh and blood is not present actually, the Lord's Supper is an actual communion with the risen Christ who is present in a unique way, fellowshiping with His people (ICor. 10:16).

VI. CONCERNING ANGELS

Holy Angels

We believe and teach that angels are created beings, and therefore are not to be worshipped, although they are a higher order of creation than man, created to serve God and to worship Him. (Luke 2:9-14; Heb. 1:6,7,14, 2:6,7; Rev. 5:11, 19:10, 22:9).

Fallen Angels

We believe and teach that Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment

of God by rebelling against his Creator, involving numerous angels in his fall (Job 1:6,7; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19), and introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve (Gen. 3:1-15).

We believe and teach that Satan is the open and declared enemy of God and man (Matt. 4:1-11, 25:41), and the prince of this world who was defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Rom. 16:20), and he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire (Job 1:6, 7; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Rev. 20:10).

VII. CONCERNING LAST THINGS (Eschatology)

Death

We believe and teach that physical death (Rev. 6:9) involves no loss of consciousness (Rev. 6:9-11; Matt. 10:28), that the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ (Luke 23:43; Phil. 1:23), that there is a separation of soul and body (II Cor. 5:8), and that such separation will continue until the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6), when spirit, soul, and body will be reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (I Thess. 4:16,17; Phil. 3:21; I Cor. 15:35-44, 50-54). Until that time, the souls of the redeemed in Christ remain in joyful fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ (II Cor. 5:8).

We believe and teach the bodily resurrection of all men (Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:11-15; John 5:28,29), the saved to eternal life (Rom.8:10,11, 19-23; II Cor. 4:14; John 5:29; Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:6), and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Dan. 12:2; John 5:29; Rev.20:6,13-15).

We believe and teach that the souls of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades (Job 3:13-19; Luke 16:19-26), where they are kept under punishment until the second resurrection (Luke 16:19-26; Rev. 20:1-15), when the soul and a resurrection body are united (John 5:28,29). They shall then appear at the Great White Throne judgment (Rev. 20:11-15) and shall be cast into the lake of fire (Matt. 25:41-46) cut off from the life of God forever (II Thess. 1:7-9; Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:41-46).

The Rapture of the Church

We believe and teach the personal bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Thess. 4:16; Titus 2:11-13), to translate His Church from this earth (John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:15-5:11), and to reward them according to their works (Rom. 14:10-12; I Cor. 3:11-15; II Cor. 5:10), with sufficient time elapsing between this event and His glorious return with His Church to allow for the judgment of believers' works and the marriage supper of the Lamb, and that this period includes the 70th week of Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27; Matt. 24:15-31,25:31-46).

The Tribulation Period

We believe and teach that immediately following the removal of the Church from the earth (John 14:1-3; I Thess. 4:13-18), the righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 9:27, 12:1; II Thess. 2:7-12; Rev. 16:1-21). These judgments will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory to the earth (Matt. 24:15-31, 25:31-46; II Thess. 2:7-12; I

Tim. 6:14), at which time the Old Testament and tribulation saints will be raised and the living will be judged (Rev. 20:4-6; Daniel 12:2-3; Rev. 6:9-11).

The Second Coming and the Millennial Reign

We believe and teach that, after the tribulation period, Christ will come to earth to occupy the throne of David (Matt. 25:31; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 1:10,11, 2:29,30), and establish His Messianic kingdom for a thousand years on the earth (Rev. 20:1-7). During this time the resurrection saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the earth (Ezek. 37:21-28; Dan. 7:17-27; Rev. 19:11-16). This reign will be preceded by the overthrow of the antichrist and the false prophet, and by the removal of Satan from the world (Dan. 7:17-27; Rev.20:1-7).

We believe and teach that the kingdom itself will be the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel (Deut. 30:1-10; Ezek. 37:21-28; Zech. 8:1-17), to restore them to the land which they forfeited through disobedience (Deut. 28:15-68, 30:1-10), with the result that Israel was temporarily set aside (Matt. 21:43; Rom. 11:1-26), but who will once again be awakened through repentance (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:22-32; Rom. 11:25-29), to enter into the land of blessing (Rev.20:4-6).

We believe and teach that this time of our Lord's reign will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, righteousness and long life (Isa. 11:1-16; 65:17-25; Ezek. 36:33-38), and will be brought to an end with the release of Satan (Rev. 20:7).

The Judgment of the Lost

We believe and teach that following the release of Satan after the thousand year reign (Rev. 20:7), Satan will deceive the nations of the earth and gather them to battle against the saints and the beloved city (Rev. 20:9), at which time Satan and his army will be devoured by fire from heaven (Rev. 20:9). Following this, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10), whereupon Christ, who is the judge of all men (John 5:22), will resurrect and judge the great and small at the Great White Throne judgment.

We believe and teach that this resurrection of the unsaved dead will be a physical resurrection, whereupon receiving their judgment (Rom. 14:10-13), they will be committed to an eternal conscious punishment (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:11-15).

Eternity

We believe and teach that after the closing of the millennium, the temporary release of Satan, and the judgment of unbelievers (II Thess. 1:9; Rev. 20:7-15), the saved will enter the eternal state (Rev. 22:14) of glory with God; that the elements of this earth are to be "dissolved" (II Peter 3:10) and replaced with a new earth wherein only righteousness dwells (Eph. 5:5; Rev. 20:15, 21 & 22); that the heavenly city that comes down out of heaven (Rev. 21:2) is to be the dwelling place of the saints where they will enjoy forever fellowship with God and one another (John 17:3; Eph. 2:11-16; Rev. 21 & 22). The Lord Jesus Christ having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will then deliver up the

kingdom to God the Father, (Eph. 1:18-23; I Cor. 15:24-28), that in all spheres the triune God may reign forever and ever (I Cor. 15:28).

VIII-CONCERNING MARRIAGE, GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Gender

We believe and teach that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27.) Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

Marriage

We believe and teach that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:18-25.) We believe and teach marriage between one man and one woman for life uniquely reflects Christ's relationship to His Church (Eph. 5:21-33). We believe and teach that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4.) We believe and teach that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

Sexuality

We believe and teach that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10.)

God's Offer and Our Responsibility

We believe and teach that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11.)

We believe and teach that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Christian Family Chapel.

***The Board
April, 2010***