

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the original texts of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, which the Church historically accepted as the Holy Bible, are God-breathed. These Scriptures are truth, written by holy men who were chosen and equipped by God for this special task. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20:21)

We believe the Scriptures, errorless in the original documents, are divine authority in all matters which they address. Their truthfulness is not negated by the occurrences of such things as irregularities of grammar or spelling, intended and conventional generalizations or approximations, various literary devices, observational descriptions of nature, or reports of false statements made by evil persons. Since God the Holy Spirit is the source of the message as well as the mover and supervisor of those who recorded it, the Bible is reliable in what it communicates and is the supreme authority for faith and practice. Nothing may be taken from it and nothing may be added. (Revelation 22:18-19)

GOD

We believe in the one and only true God who is Spirit. He is self-existent, infinite, personal, unchangeable, and eternal in His being. He is perfect in holiness, righteousness, love, justice, goodness, wisdom and truth. He is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. He is the creator and sustainer of all things both visible and invisible. He is both immanent in and transcendent to the creation. The one triune God exists and reveals Himself as three persons, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that all we know about God is by revelation. Now we know only in part, but we look for the day when we will know as we are known.

A. GOD THE FATHER

- His nature - We believe in God as our Father. In His nature and in His relationships, we understand Him best as Father. While a human father imperfectly loves and cares, the heavenly Father perfectly loves and cares. He is good in all He does and in everything He gives, including His discipline. (2 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 4:6-7)
- His unity with Christ - The Son came into the world to make the Father known. Jesus affirmed that He and the Father are one. (John 14:6-7)
- His relationship to believers - The Father loved the world enough to send the Son, Jesus Christ, as the Savior of the world. Anyone who knows the Father also knows the Son. Through a personal relationship with Christ, we come to know God as our Father and can say, "Abba, Father." (John 3:16; Galations 3:26)

B. GOD THE SON (JESUS CHRIST)

- His nature - We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was made in the likeness of men. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, thus blending organically and permanently His divine nature with human nature in one, unique person without a third nature being formed. (John 1:14; Philippians 2:7c-8a)
- His mission - The purpose of the incarnation was to reveal God and to redeem man. This redemption was accomplished by Christ's death and resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Peter 1:18-19)
- His glorification and continuing ministry - He ascended into heaven and is now at the right hand of God interceding for us. (Luke 24:51; Hebrews 8:1; Romans 8:34; Colossians 3:1; 1 John 2:1; 1 Peter 3:22)
- His position in the Church - He is the head of the Church which is His body. (Colossians 1:18)
- His lordship - He has an exalted position. Ultimately every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord. (Philippians 2:9-11)

C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

- His nature - We believe the Holy Spirit is God, eternal in existence. (Acts 5:3, 4; Hebrews 9:14)
- His ministry - His ministry, since His coming on the day of Pentecost, is broad and varied. At some time every person in the world is touched by His work. (For a more detailed statement on the ministry of the Holy Spirit, visit our conference (Fellowship of Evangelical Churches) - www.fecministries.org.)

MAN

His creation -

- We believe that man was created by an immediate act of God. (Genesis 2:7)
- He was created in the image and likeness of God. He was without sin, enjoyed fellowship with God and was capable of full obedience to his will. (Genesis 1:27)
- He was created in order that he might glorify God and enjoy Him forever. In so doing, man finds his greatest measure of blessedness and true enjoyment. (Ephesians 1:5-6; Ephesians 1:18)

His fall -

- We believe that man was confronted with a moral choice in the garden. (Genesis 2:15-17)
- By voluntarily transgressing God's command and yielding to the enticement of Satan, man lost his original condition, became physically, morally, intellectually and spiritually depraved and was alienated from God. (Romans 5:12, 18; Genesis 3:1-6)
- In consequence of this act of disobedience, the entire human race became guilty before God with the result that each one of us possesses a sin nature. Both our sin nature and our acts of sin make us deserving of the righteous judgment of God. (Romans 3:10-12; Isaiah 53:6; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:19-32; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 1 John 1:8-10)
- Therefore all men are sinners and guilty before God, are dead in their sins, and are unable to save themselves. (Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1)

His eternal destiny -

- We believe that there are two eternal, conscious destinies for man--heaven for the righteous and hell for the unrighteous. (John 5:28-29; Psalm 9:17; John 14:1-3)

**For a more detailed doctrinal statement and papers of position on abortion, credentialing divorced persons, homosexuality, marriage, divorce and remarriage, the role of women in the Church, etc. visit our conference (Fellowship of Evangelical Churches) website at www.fecministries.org.

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