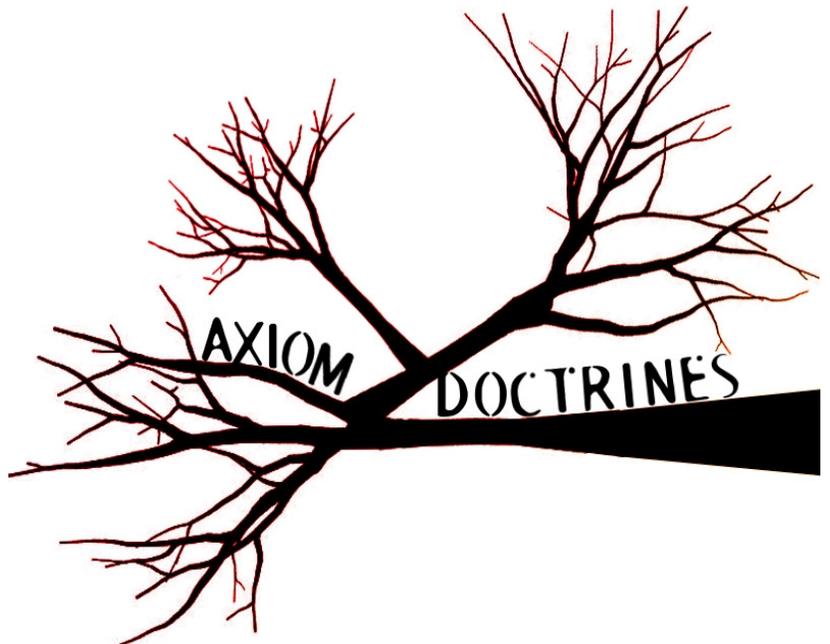


## Doctrine: The Character of God and the Church\*

*We believe the life and witness of the church should be thoroughly shaped by its participation in the mission of God to reconcile the world to Himself in Jesus Christ.* God eternally exists as the perfect love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1,26; Matthew 28:19;) The subsequent fall of human beings threatened the pleasure, quality, and benefit of God's divine purposes for creation, but it did not erase nor destroy these purposes entirely. God's continued desire to pursue His creatures, now in rebellion against Him, is demonstrated throughout human history, and it is climactically revealed in the sending of his Son to provide the only sufficient and appropriate means of reconciliation between God and human beings. We affirm that God loves all whom He has created, that He desires all to be rescued, and that Christ died for all people (1 Tim 2:4; 1 Jn 2:2). Jesus is fully God and fully man. He came to earth, was conceived in the virgin Mary and lived a sinless life. He died and rose again to reconcile all people to God and to free them from the power of sin and the devil. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13). We believe the Father's sending of the Son, the Son's obedience, and the subsequent sending of the Spirit to reconcile the world to Himself, provides the essential purpose of the church's existence and that this missional pattern should thoroughly shape our life and witness.



## Doctrine: The Primacy of Scripture for Christian Faith and Life\*

*We believe Scripture is inspired by God and as such is infallible and authoritative for the life and witness of the church throughout history and across cultures.* We affirm the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God and believe the Bible is true and without error in all that it affirms. We also affirm the power of God's Word to accomplish His purposes. The message of the Bible is addressed to all men and women, and through it the Holy Spirit still speaks today. He illumines the minds of God's people in every culture to freshly perceive its truth through their own eyes; and thus the Spirit discloses to the whole church even more of the multifaceted wisdom of God. We are also aware of the limitations of our finiteness and our cultural presuppositions that prevent us from a full discovery of God's truth. This awareness does not undermine our confidence in the authority of God's Word. Rather, we are humbled and made more cognizant of our dependence on the work of the Spirit and the need to subject even our best efforts at interpretation to the wisdom and counsel of the Christian community past and present.