

The Shepherd's Pasture For All Nations Doctrinal Statements



Doctrine means “teaching”. Our statement of doctrine basically is an explanation of what The Shepherd’s Pasture for all Nations believes and what we will hold to as truth that will be taught. Our doctrine is completely given directly from scripture and the Holy Bible is our Canon for what we will consider as our doctrine. We acknowledge that our doctrine (teachings) can change and can be added too. We say this not because there are any imperfections in the Holy Scriptures, we say this because there are imperfections in man and our understanding of scripture often can and will be enlightened by the Holy Spirit as we continue to learn more and understand more about the culture and history of the Bible and as we advance in understanding and knowledge as mankind (Dan. 12:8-9).

Our Doctrine is as follows:

The Church

It is our belief that the Church is an institution that Jesus established (Matt. 16:18) for the purpose of:

- a. Glorification of God (Eph. 3:21)
- b. Edification of its Membership (Eph. 4:11-12)
- c. Purifying its Membership (Eph. 5:25-27)
- d. Evangelizing the world (Matt. 28: 19-20)
- e. Slow the process of corruption in the world (Matt. 5: 13)

The Holy Bible (Scriptures)

We believe in the plenary verbal inspiration of the Bible and we hold that God is the author of the Bible (II Tim. 3:16). We believe in the literal interpretation of the entire Bible in all of its stories unless the Bible clarifies that a particular story is a parable or a metaphor is being used. We believe that the Bible is flawless and that because its author is flawless (Prov. 30:5).

The Trinity

We do acknowledge and believe in the tri-unity of God. We do not believe there are three Gods (polytheism). We believe that there is one infinite and perfect Spirit (Deut. 6:4, Ps. 83:18, Ps. 86:10, Isa. 45:18) but he exists in three Persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) all of whom being fully God (Gen. 1:26, Gen. 11:7). The Trinity is openly declared in the New Testament (Matt. 3:16-17, Matt. 28: 19, 2Cor. 13:14, John 14:16-17, Romans 9:5, Heb. 1:8, Acts 5:3-4).

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Triune God. We do not believe the Holy Spirit is a force or a power but a distinct person of the Trinity. We believe that the Holy Spirit to the believer is:

- a. Comforter (John 14:26)
- b. Guide (John 16:13)
- c. Intercessor (Rom. 8:26-27)
- d. Teacher (John 14:26)
- e. Commissioner (Acts 13:4)

We hold that all who believe that Jesus Christ is Lord of their life and the atonement for their sins has received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13-14). We believe that the individual can be and should live to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18). We also believe that the scripture makes it clear that one can receive subsequent experiences of the Holy Spirit. However we do not see in scripture any passages that support the belief that the evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. We do believe that it is an evidence that can a believer may experience but we hold that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit can be accompanied by any form of inspired speech. We hold to the belief that all of the Holy Spirits gifts and manifestations listed in the New Testament (Romans 12:5-8, I Corinthians 12:7-11, Ephesians 4:11) are very much in operation and are available for all believers.

Virgin Birth Of Jesus Christ

We believe that the conception of Jesus Christ was a miraculous birth as depicted in Luke 1:35. We believe that this miraculous was necessary so the messiah would be able to take away the sins of the world and also necessary so prophecy would be fulfilled (Isa. 7:14).

The Doctrine of Sin

We believe that Sin is falling short of the mark or standard that God has made for us. We believe that sin was brought into this world by man in spite of God's warnings (Gen. 3:6) we believe that all of the sickness and death that is in the world today is a result of sin (Gen. 2:16-17). We also believe that the earth and all of creations suffers because of sin (Rom. 8:20-22).

Satan

We believe that Satan is alive and is still causing problems for mankind. We hold that Satan was an anointed Angel of the Most High God (Ezek.28: 14), later rebelled against God (Ezek. 28:15), and was cast out of Heaven (Luke 10:18, Isa. 14:12). We believe that Satan is a possessor of a kingdom (Matt.12: 26) that eventually will be defeated for good by the most high God (Rev. 20:10).

Creation

We believe that creation happened as it was stated to have happened in the Genesis account. We have no reason to believe that there was ever any evolution of our species and even though evolutionist are reluctant to admit it there is more evidence that refutes the theory of evolution than supports it because it is an untested and unable to be proven theory. (See Gen. 2:2, Exod, 20:11, Job 38:1,4, Gen. 1:31)

Man

We believe that God intimately created man (Gen. 2:7). We believe that God created man in his image (Gen. 1:26-27). We do not believe man has a physical resemblance to God for God is a Spirit (John 4:24). We believe that God created man to be man and not to be anything else (i.e. Angels, Gods) because the Bible does not indicate otherwise. We do believe that because of mans sinfulness he is in need of atonement and at the resurrection of the dead we will receive glorified bodies (I Cor. 15:42-43).

Atonement and Salvation

We believe that man being sinful is in need of an atonement factor for their sins so that there would be peace with the father. The scriptures tell us that the only Jesus Christ is the only sufficient atonement for our sins I John 2:2. We believe that our salvation comes through faith and not works. In other words we believe that we are save because of what Christ has already done, not because of anything that we have to do by way of works.

Sacraments and Ordinances

The Shepherd's Pasture for all Nations will always attempt to stay away from sacraments that may become ritualistic and thus losing the true essence of the message of Christ. We will only participate in the two sacraments that the church of the New Testament participated in The Lord's Supper and Baptism.

The Lord's Supper is mentioned in each of the first three gospels and explained by Paul as a memorial observance of the sacrifice that Christ made for the world. We at the Shepherd's Pasture for all Nations will participate in what is referred to as open communion where any one that accepts Jesus as Lord and has examined their heart and found it to be true to Christ may participate in the Lord's Supper with us.

Baptism: We believe that Baptism is an ordinance given to the Church by Jesus for all believers (Matt. 28:19). We understand that baptism is never stated as mandatory for the believer, however it is commanded to be a part of the local Church. We understand Baptism as the believer's identification with the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 6:3-4, Col.2:12).

The Resurrection

We believe in the literal explanation of the Resurrection as explained in the Bible. The Apostle Paul stated this as being the focal point of our faith (I Cor.15). We believe that Christ had to resurrect so prophecy could be fulfilled and God could bring life back to the people who gave it up for death.

Repentance

We believe that the person that wants to have relationship with the father must have a repentant heart (Acts 20:21). Repentance means to change ones mind and we believe one must change their mind about sin and agree with God about sin so he can cleanse us from that sin (I John 1:8-9).

Women in ministry

We believe that women were created to be a helper to man so together they could more fully represent the image of God (Gen. 1:20). We believe that men and women are equal in worth in God's eyes but different in position (I Cor. 11:2-16). We see in the Bible it is taught that the women should not be teachers because of their position in as defined by God (I Tim.2:11-12). With that being said we must acknowledge a couple of things; 1.) God used women throughout the history according to Luke in the Book of Acts and throughout the history of the Church 2.) When we read Acts 2:17-18 we see a clear statement the Holy Spirit will also come upon women. Many hold that women are not to be teachers or leaders of men based on the teachings of Paul; however we must acknowledge that Paul also recognized female leadership in certain occasions. Many scholars and Bible interpreters are now realizing that Paul wrote what he wrote, prohibiting female teachers because of the context of the culture that he was in. So this is our resolution when it comes to female leadership. We will recognize all those whose calling has been made sure regardless of sex. We also consider women associate pastors as a shepherdess in the true biblical definition, we will acknowledge female teachers, ministers, elders etc. We will also recognize it if God is calling this ministry to be lead by a female Pastor.