

Jamie Canter's Doctrinal Statement

I attest to hold all of these beliefs and can defend why I believe they are true. Adapted from Parkway Bible Church, where I am a member.

The Bible

I believe the 66 books of the Old and New Testament, comprising the Holy Bible, are the inspired Word of God. I believe the Holy Spirit supervised the writers of the Scriptures in what they wrote so that, using their own personalities, the very words recorded in the original manuscripts are the inerrant revelation of God. I believe the Bible not only contains the Word of God but actually is God's Word and, therefore, is the complete and final authority for belief and behavior. I believe this inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of Scripture: historically, poetically, doctrinally, and prophetically. (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13; John 17:17.)

God

I believe there is one and only one true and living God, an infinite Spirit who is the Maker and Supreme Ruler of the universe. I believe the Scriptures reveal Him to be holy, sovereign, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal, immutable, and full of love, justice, goodness, mercy, and truth. Although there is only one God, I believe that in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and coequal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. I believe these members of the Trinity are the same in substance, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections, but are distinct in subsistence, executing different but harmonious functions. (Mark 12:29; John 4:24; Matthew 3:16-17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14.)

Jesus Christ

I believe Jesus Christ is the pre-existent and eternal Son of God who became man in order to reveal God and redeem humanity. I believe He was supernaturally conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. In His person, I believe the Lord Jesus combined forever full and undiminished deity with true and perfect humanity to become the God-man. I believe Christ died on the cross as a substitute for sinful humanity, was buried, arose bodily from the tomb, ascended into Heaven where He ministers on behalf of the saints, and will someday come again for His own. (John 1:18; 8:58; Matthew 1:23; Colossians 1:15-17; 1 Timothy 1:15; 3:16.)

Holy Spirit

I believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, fully coequal with God the Father and God the Son in terms of divine being, but distinct from the Father and the Son in His personhood. I believe the Holy Spirit actively ministers to the world. This ministry includes restraining evil, convicting the unsaved of sin, and bestowing God's goodness on mankind. I also believe He ministers to every believer in Jesus Christ in numerous ways: regenerating, sealing, indwelling, baptizing into the Body of Christ, and giving spiritual gifts. Other ministries to believers include filling, assuring, teaching, guiding, and comforting. (Acts 5:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-9; John 16:7-11; Matthew 5:45; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:13; Ephesians 3:20; 1 Corinthians 14; James 5:14; Ephesians 5:18; Romans 8:14, 16; John 16:7, 13.)

Angelic Beings

I believe God created an order of spirit beings (without physical bodies) known as angels, before the formation of the world and for the purpose of worshipping and serving Him. Angels possess individual personalities and are intelligent and powerful. They are inferior to God but superior to humans. These angels (also known as elect or holy angels) carry out the will of God by ministering to humankind. (Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:6; 2 Peter 2:11; Isaiah 14:12-15; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 1:14.)

Satanic Beings

I believe Lucifer was one of the highest-ranking of all the angelic beings, but he sinned through pride and rebelled against God, thereby becoming Satan (or the adversary.) I believe that Satan's declared purpose is to oppose the plan of God and promote his own evil designs by deceiving and attacking humanity. In carrying out his work, Satan is aided by other fallen angels known as demons or evil spirits. I believe these demons can influence and tempt people, exerting a greater degree over unbelievers (Isaiah 14:12-20; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:3; Acts 5:3; Ephesians 6:11-12; Matthew 4:24.)

Creation

I believe the Triune God, according to His sovereign will and for His own glory, created the heavens and the earth without the use of pre-existent material. I also believe all living things came into being by a direct creative act of God and not by random process. Creation has an existence distinct from Him and yet is always dependent on Him. (Genesis 2:4; Proverbs 16:4; Acts 17:24; Colossians 1:16-17.)

Man/Woman

I believe God fearfully and wonderfully created each person as male or female. These two, distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Having been made in God's image, each human life, from conception to natural death, is precious to God. Each human is deserving of equal dignity, value, and worth. Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God fully and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves. This command has no qualification and extends to each person regardless of gender, culture, ethnicity, or socio-economic status (Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 10:17-19; Psalm 139:13-16; Luke 10:25-37; Acts 17:26; Galatians 3:28; James 2:1-13; Revelation 5:9-10; 7:9.)

Humanity

I believe each person was created in the image and likeness of God in a state of innocence. Through deliberate disobedience, I believe humanity fell from a sinless state and as a consequence, lost their fellowship with God and became subject to spiritual and physical death. I believe that through Adam's transgressions, the entire human race has inherited a corrupt nature which is essentially evil and unable to please God. (Genesis 1:26-27; 3:24; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3.)

Sin

I believe sin is anything contrary to the character of God. Every person, I believe, is alienated from God because of his depraved nature as well as personal acts of sin. I believe each person born into the world is separated from God and completely incapable of meriting salvation and avoiding the judgement of God. The sin nature, I believe, is never eradicated, even for those who are born into the family of God, but it remains until the end of life on earth. However, I believe God has made provision for forgiveness of sin through the blood of Jesus Christ and victory over sin through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Romans 3:10, 23; 6:23; Ephesians 4:18; 1 John 1:8-10; Galatians 5:16-17.)

Heaven & Hell

I believe heaven is a real place of eternal blessedness prepared by God for those who have been saved by grace through the shed blood of Christ. I believe hell is a real place of eternal suffering for those whose names are not written in the Book of Life. There is no intermediate state in which the unsaved can atone for his own sins. (John 14:1-6; Revelation 7:13-17; 20:11-15; 21:22-27; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Luke 16:19-31.)

Salvation

I believe that salvation from the penalty and power of sin is provided only through the blood of Jesus Christ, which He shed on the cross when He was made sin for us and died in our place. There is nothing a person can do, I believe, to attain this salvation through good works, moral achievement, or religious status. I believe the one and only condition for salvation is personal faith in Jesus Christ as one's own substitute for, and Savior from, sin. At the time of salvation, I believe a person is spiritually regenerated, his sins are forgiven, God's righteousness is imputed to him, and he is declared righteous in the sight of God. This salvation is complete and a present possession of all believers, which remains theirs forever. All who have trusted Christ as Savior are kept secure and will never lose their salvation. (1 Peter 1:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 4:32; Romans 5:1; 8:38-39.)

The Church

I believe the Church is a unique organism composed of individuals who have placed their faith in Christ as Savior. The Church began, I believe, on the day of Pentecost and will continue its distinct purpose until the Rapture. I believe the Church exists in both a universal aspect, as the Body of Christ, and in a local assembly of believers. The local church, I believe, has the twofold purpose of the edification of believers and the evangelization of the lost. The two ordinances of the church are water baptism, which I practice by immersion, and the Lord's Supper, which I believe to be a memorial of Christ's death and is open to all believers. (1 Corinthians 12:13; Acts 2:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Colossians 4:16; Ephesians 4:7; Hebrews 13:17; Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28.)

Marriage & Sexuality

I believe marriage is a picture of Christ's relationship with His Bride – the Church. It is defined throughout Scripture as a lifelong covenant between a man and a woman. God designed sexual intimacy for a marriage relationship and does not endorse or condone it in any other context. (1

Thessalonians 4:3-5; Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-5; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18; 7:2-5; Ephesians 5:21-33; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Timothy 1:10.)

Resurrection & Consummation of the Kingdom of God

I believe that Jesus Christ is returning to the world in the future to judge the living and the dead.

The consummation of all things includes the future, physical, visible, personal, and glorious return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead and the glorification of those alive in Christ, the judgment of the just and the unjust, and the fulfillment of Christ's kingdom in the new heavens and the new earth. In the consummation, Satan, with his hosts and all those outside Christ, is finally separated from the benevolent presence of God, enduring eternal punishment (Rev. 20:7-15), but the righteous, in glorious bodies, will live and reign with Him forever, serving Him and giving Him unending praise and glory. Then the eager expectation of creation will be fulfilled, and the whole earth shall proclaim the glory of God, who makes all things new (Rev. 21:1-5).