

Sanger Bible Church

Statement of Faith

Holy Scripture

We believe that the Bible is composed of sixty-six books: thirty-nine in the Old Testament, and twenty-seven in the New Testament. Each book has a dual authorship, God, and a human author. God allowed the human author to write in his historical-cultural context, using his own style, vocabulary, and grammar. The Holy Spirit guided the human author ensuring their writing reflected without error the revelation God was giving.

Furthermore, we believe that the inspiration of the Bible guaranteed its accuracy which extended to every portion, including every word, making the Bible both infallible as to truth and final as to divine authority (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13).

The Godhead

We believe that there is but one living and true God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-6) who externally exists (Psalm 90:2) in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three persons are one God, otherwise known as the Trinity (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 10:30). Each person has the same nature, attributes, and perfections, and is worth of the same worship, confidence, and obedience (John 1:1-2; Acts 5:3-4).

Furthermore, we believe that the essence of God's character is holiness. All God is and does, all His other attributes are governed by His holiness (Isaiah 6:3; 1 Pt 1:16; Revelation 4:8).

Furthermore, we believe God created the universe and all that is in it, including man, woman, and angels (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 148:2-5; Isaiah 42:5; Matthew 19:4; Col 1:16-17). God is transcendent, existing outside and is not reliant on His creation (Isaiah 6:1, 57:15), yet at the same time His immanence allows Him to be involved with His creation (Exodus 3; Acts 17:27-28).

Jesus Christ

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the second member of the Godhead (John 1:1); that He is the eternal Son of God (Matthew 3:16-17; Romans 1:4); that all things were made by and are sustained through Him (John 1:3; Col 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:3).

Furthermore, we believe that in obedience to the Father, Jesus Christ took on the form of a man (Phil 2:6-7), by being conceived by the Holy Spirit, (Matthew 1:20); and born of the virgin, Mary (Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:31-35); during His life He faced all things like a man, only He was without sin (Isaiah 53:9; Hebrews 4:15; 1John 3:5).

Furthermore, we believe that Jesus Christ is both fully God and fully human in one person (Phil 2:5-8); that in all things He submitted to the will of God the Father (John 6:38); that He was crucified and died for our sins (Romans 5:8; 1Pet 3:18); that on the third day He rose again bodily from the dead for our justification (Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4); that He appeared to many witnesses (1 Corinthians 15:5-8) before ascending into heaven (Acts 1:2-3) where He now sits at the right hand of the Father interceding for those who are His own (Hebrews 1:3; 7:25), and building His church (Matthew 16:18).

Furthermore, we believe that at any time He will descent from heaven and remove the church from the coming tribulation, after seven years He will return with His church, and establish His kingdom on the earth (Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 19:11-16).

The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit regenerates all who believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5); that He seals those in Christ to the end of this age (Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30); that He indwells all believers and places them into the Church, the Body of Christ (John 14:16-17; Romans 8:9-11; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:13); that He sanctifies all believers (1Pet 1:2); that He guides believers and intercedes for them (Romans 8:14, 26-27); that He empowers believers for ministry giving them abilities beyond their natural talents and learned skills (Acts 1:8; Galatians 5:16-26); and that His ministry to the world is to convict it of sin, righteousness, and judgement (John 16:7-11).

Furthermore, we believe that the Holy Spirit equips every believer with one or more spiritual gifts for ministry (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11). We believe that the gifts of apostle, prophet, speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, healing, and miracle-working were instrumental in the founding of the Church and are not normative for this present age (Acts 2:4; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:20; Hebrews 2:3-4). We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:29-31). We believe that, although the ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation at the resurrection, God sometimes chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing (1 Corinthians 15:42-44; James 5:14-16).

Angels & Demons

We believe the Bible refers to angels as Sons of God (Job 1:6), Holy Ones (Psalm 89:5, 7), Host (Psalm 89:8), which is understood as the armies of heaven. Angels are created beings (Psalm 148:2-5), they are incapable of reproducing so since creation their number has remained static (Col 1:16). Angels are on a higher order than man (Hebrews 2:7). Angels minister to God, Christ, and believers (Hebrews 1:14). Angels will be involved with unbelievers in carrying out God's judgment (Genesis 19:12-13; Ezekiel 9:1-11; Acts 12:23).

Furthermore, we believe an army of angels entered into a rebellion lead by Satan; along with Satan they were cast out of heaven (Isaiah 14:3-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19); some were allowed to roam the earth, other were confined to the pit and hell (Luke 8:31; 2 Peter 2:4; Revelation 9:2-3). These fallen angels became the enemy of God and of God's people (Luke 10:18; Ephesians 6:11-12; Revelation 12:7-10); they were judged at the cross, but that presently they opposes the work of the Church by blinding unbelievers to the gospel, accusing believers before God (1Pet 5:8; Revelation 12:10), and tempting believers to sin against God; they will continue to do so until Jesus Christ returns (John 16:11; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4); after which they will be bound for 1,000 years after Christ's return; they will then be release for a short time to mount a final and unsuccessful rebellion against God and be cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:1-10).

Humanity

We believe God created man and woman in His own image to glorify, worship, and serve Him as stewards of His creation (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8; Isaiah 43:7; Revelation 4:11).

Furthermore, we believe that the sin of Adam was inherited by the entire human race; thus, becoming alienated from God; totally depraved unable to remedy his lost condition and save himself (Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

Furthermore, we believe that marriage is the union of one man (husband) and one woman (wife) through a sacred covenant designed by God to be a lifelong relationship and commitment between a husband and a wife (Matthew 19:4-6); that each bring into that union unique qualities to sexuality and relationships

(Genesis 1:27); that monogamous, heterosexuality is a wonderful gift from God to be expressed only in marriage for procreation, union, and mutual delight or in celibacy in devotion to God (Hebrews 13:4).

Furthermore, we believe that any sexual practice outside of the previously described marriage covenant is sin (Romans 1:24-27; 1 Corinthians 7:36).

Sin

We believe that man and woman were created by God as perfect individuals with a free will and without sin (Genesis 1:26-31). Sin entered the world when Adam and Eve yielded to Satan's temptation in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:1-7; Romans 5:12).

Furthermore, we believe Adam's sin resulted in spiritual and physical death (Genesis 3:19; Romans 5:12; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:56; Ephesians 2:1-3; Hebrews 9:27). Through our first parents the entire human race inherited a sinful nature and became alienated from God, because of this sin nature man is totally deprived and unable to remedy his lost condition (Romans 3:23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace (Ephesians 1:7) and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9), whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (1Pet 1:18-19). We believe the purpose of our salvation is to please God and walk before Him (Ephesians 2:10).

Furthermore, we believe that along with salvation comes a new nature (2 Cor 5:17). The old nature is not eradicated but through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit we can have victory over the old nature (Romans 6:12-14; 8:12-14; Galatians 5:16-26; Ephesians 4:17-24; Col 3:9-10; 1Pet 1:13-16; 1John 3:4-10).

Furthermore, we believe 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, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1John 2:15-17; 2John 9-11).

Furthermore, we believe 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 to the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-14).

Furthermore, we believe that the saved are to be a light to the world (Matthew 5:14-16). That all believers are to be involved in the ministry of discipleship (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

The Church

We believe that the church of Jesus Christ had its beginning on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47); that it is composed of all who believe in Jesus Christ; the church is the Body of Christ and we submit to Him as its Head (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23; Col 1:18); that it has its expression in local assemblies (1 Corinthians 16:19); that it gathers for teaching, fellowship, worship, and prayer (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:11-12); we believe the local assemblies are to be autonomous and free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-3; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1Pet 5:1-4); the church will be raptured before (pretribulation) the coming tribulation (1Thess 4:13-18).

Furthermore, we believe the Bible defines two (2) ordinances to be observed by all believers: baptism and the Lord's Supper; baptism is a symbol and proclamation of the believer's identification with Christ, death to sin, and resurrection in newness of life; baptisms best expression is by immersion (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-4); the Lord's Supper proclaims Christ's death until He comes again (1 Corinthians 11:23-26); neither of these ordinances are essential to salvation; they testify of the believers commitment, loyalty, faith, and obedience.

Furthermore, we believe the purpose of the Church is to equip believers to fulfill the Great Commission through preaching the gospel, edifying believers, and equipping them for ministry (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 4:11-13).

Dispensations & Israel

We believe that natural and literal interpretation of Scripture reveals divinely determined dispensations, economies, or rules of life which define man's responsibilities to God.

Furthermore, we believe these are not the same in every period of history. Dispensations are not different ways of salvation but are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose.

Furthermore, we believe three of these — the age of law — the age of the Church — the age of the millennial kingdom — show a clear distinction between Israel and the Church throughout the ages. (John 1:17; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:12-25; Ephesians 1:10; Col 1:24-25; Hebrews 7:19; Revelation 20:2-6).

The Last Days

We believe in the blessed hope, which is the personal, pretribulation, premillennial, and imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13).

Furthermore, we believe the last days will begin when Jesus Christ raptures His church, both the living and the dead, taking them to heaven with Him (John 14:1-3; 1Thess 4:13-18; Revelation 3:10).

Furthermore, we believe that after the rapture of the church a seven-year period of tribulation on earth. During this time Satan, Antichrist, and the False Prophet come to power, and God will send punishment and plagues on the earth (Dan 9:24-27; Matthew 24:4-26; Revelation 5-16).

Furthermore, we believe Christ will return with His church, put down the rebellion and establish His Kingdom in which He establish His Kingdom and reign for 1,000 years (Isaiah 2:2-4; Ezekiel 36:22-28; Revelation 19:11-20:10).

Furthermore, we believe the at the end of the 1,000 years Satan and his minions will be release and suffer a final and complete defeat at the hand of Christ and be thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:7-10). The dead and living of all ages will stand before God for judgment, the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity (Revelation 20:11-15). The righteous will be taken into the new heaven and new earth to spend eternity future with God (Revelation 21:1-22:5).