

## ***What Do We Believe 2.0? (pt 1)***

### ***10/26/25***

#### ***Introduction***

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I mentioned last Sunday that I might begin the series "*What do we Believe 2.0?*" Today we are *indeed* going to begin that series.

This lesson will focus on what is commonly called the **essentials of the Christian faith.**

God in His good providence inspired me to go this way at this time based partly on another AIG article about a recent survey: the same one PBC mentioned a few weeks ago. The last time I taught on this subject it was also based on an AIG article. This will be the new & improved version of the teaching we did a little over 4 yrs ago.

Let me read to you a quote from Ken Ham's article.

#### **Quote:**

**"Pastors Need To Stop Assuming Their Congregations Know The Basics Of The Christian Faith"**

Well, the results of the new State of Theology survey from Ligonier Ministries and Lifeway Research is now available, and it's as disappointing as the 2022 version. The answers were an inconsistent mess, highlighting US Evangelicals' lack of knowledge regarding what the Word of God teaches regarding doctrine and theology. Biblical illiteracy is an epidemic."

He goes on to give some examples filtered for Evangelicals.

He went on to describe various remedies.

Near the end of the article he said:

**Quote:**

Pastors and other Christian leaders need to stop assuming their congregations know the basics of the Christian faith, and they need to start incorporating theology and doctrine into their teaching. Pastors are called to be shepherds, discipling the flock. Part of that is teaching doctrine and theology so their churches are filled with robust Christians who've moved on from "milk" to "meat."<sup>1</sup>

Historically at CCoM we have always endeavored to teach verse by verse through the Bible, coupled with an explanation of the biblical theology contained therein.

Many years ago I did a teaching on the **Essentials of Christianity**.

The series we'll begin today will be a similar but very abbreviated form of that.

**"What do we believe 2.0?"**

Let's go to the Lord in prayer and seek his blessing and favor for our time together.

To begin, I'd like us to turn to **2 Tim 4:1-5**. A word of warning to a young minister... and to us as well.

*NAU 2 Tim. 4:1 ¶ I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom:*

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1. <https://harbingersdaily.com/pastors-need-to-stop-assuming-their-congregations-know-the-basics-of-the-christian-faith/>

<sup>2</sup> *preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*

<sup>3</sup> *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires,*

<sup>4</sup> *and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*

<sup>5</sup> *But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.*

We also have the warning from **2 Peter 3:14-18**.

NAU 2 Pet. 3:14 ¶ *Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless,*

<sup>15</sup> *and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you,*

<sup>16</sup> *as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.*

<sup>17</sup> *You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,*

<sup>18</sup> *but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.*

I'd like us to read together the same quote I used the last time I taught this lesson. It's a perfect segue into our study.

## **Quote :**

### **“Assault on the Bible by Hal Lindsey**

Satan almost never attacks vague spirituality. He's comfortable with people who have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. What scares him are Bible-believing Christians. He fights them claw and tooth. He centers his attacks on God's word and the people who live by that word.

His ultimate enemy is God, but he can't fight God directly. God is Almighty. He spoke the universe into existence, including the angel then known as Lucifer. Sure, the devil is powerful, but his power is infinitely less than God's power.

He can't win a fistfight with the Almighty God. So, he attacks in more subtle ways. He attacks God's word. More specifically, he attacks belief in God's word. Imagine two enemy armies on either side of a chasm. The weaker army wants to keep the larger, more powerful one out of its present territory. Across the chasm between the two sides, there stands a bridge.

Where does the lesser army focus its fire? On the bridge — on the thing which will allow the vastly superior army to move across the chasm. Why would the devil attack the Bible? Because the word of God bridges the gap between the mind of God and the mind of man. Through it, God's thoughts flow to human minds. Satan cannot destroy the bridge, but he wants to convince us that we cannot trust the bridge.

The first words from Satan recorded in the Bible form the question that has been at the heart of his attack on humanity ever since. “Has God said?” We find it in Genesis 3:1. “Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, “You shall not eat from any tree of the garden”?’”

Revelation 12:9 and Revelation 20:2 identify the “serpent” with Satan. 2 Corinthians 11:3 says, “But I am afraid, lest as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds should be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.”

To be sure, Satan can use means other than subtlety when attempting to beguile people. 1 Peter 5:8 compares him to a roaring lion. It says, “Be of sober spirit, be

on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.”

But whether he’s roaring like a lion or subtle like a snake, Satan lies. In fact, he’s the father of lies. In John 8:44, Jesus said, “You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.”

The ultimate temptation is to disbelieve what God has said. Yet nothing is more trustworthy than God’s word. Titus 1:2 says that God “cannot lie.” His word, according to 2 Timothy 2:15 is “the word of truth.” Jesus said in Luke 21:33, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away.”

That means His words are more reliable than the ground you walk on or the sun shining in the sky. Trust Him. Don’t just be a believer in a vague spirit in the sky, believe the actual words of the Living God.”<sup>2</sup>

Amen & Amen!!!

Throughout the history of the church, it has been necessary on many occasions for the members of the Body of Christ to come together in a coalition-type fashion for the purpose of putting together a decree or statement of some type, to present a biblical challenge against some external belief or attack on Christian orthodoxy.

Whether it's an assault on the Bible as an authoritative truth source, or an attack on specific biblical truth claims of scripture: like the deity of Christ, six day creation account, the sanctity of marriage or human life, etc, statements of faith/belief that defend various categories of biblical truth have always served the church in the best possible way.

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2. <https://www.hallindsey.com/ww-7-25-2021/>

From **2020-2025**, there has been an avalanche of assault on the truth claims of scripture.

Between the Covid debacle, woke & social justice tension, LGBTQ+ influence & political factions, the church has been truly tested in it's resolve to adhere to the truth claims of God's word, or fall into the ideologies of the culture attempting to pull us in every direction.

I hope it will be refreshing for all of us to have our spiritual batteries charged with the essential powerful truth claims of scripture in the format we'll be using in this series.

We'll be working through the essentials of the faith in much the same way you'd find in a systematic theology book.

Outside the Bible itself, prayer, and biblical language helps that aid us in interpreting and understanding scripture, I personally find systematic theology books to be some of the most useful resources for building up my faith.

Statements of faith (like the one we're about to go through) are an abbreviated form of what is typically called "systematic theology".

For those who may not know, here's a text book definition:

**"Systematic theology** : Systematic theology is a discipline of Christian theology that formulates an orderly, rational, and coherent account of the doctrines of the Christian faith. It addresses issues such as what the Bible teaches about certain topics or what is true about God and His universe. It also builds on biblical disciplines, church history, as well as biblical and historical theology."

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systematic\\_theology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Systematic_theology)

In a study we did years ago on Essentials of Christianity I gave three logical reasons why we need systematic theology, and how it helps to compile & explain to us the **essentials of Christianity**.

It serves us in the following ways:

### **As an Explanation of Christianity**

Systematic theology is necessary as a researched and studied explanation as well as a systematic organization of the doctrines that are foundational and necessary to Christianity. As a result of systematic theology, Christians are able to have a clear understanding about the fundamental beliefs of the Christian faith. The Bible was not written in a doctrinal outline; hence, it is important to systematize the parts of the Bible to understand the doctrinal emphasis of the entire Bible.

### **As an Apologetic for Christianity**

Systematic theology enables Christians to defend their beliefs rationally against opponents and antagonists to the faith. Early in the Christian church believers used their systematized beliefs to address opponents and unbelievers. This is perhaps even more important today with the emergence of humanism, Communism/Marxism, cults, and Eastern religions. The systemized doctrines of the Christian faith must be researched, delineated, and presented as a defense of historic Christianity.

### **As a Means of Maturity for Christians**

Systematic theology is an assertion of Christian truth; these same truths are essential to the maturity of believers (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Paul's writings make it clear that doctrine (theology) is foundational to Christian maturity, inasmuch as Paul normally builds a doctrinal foundation in his epistles (e.g., Eph. 1-3) before he exhorts believers to live correctly (e.g. Eph. 4-6).

Also many Christians have faithfully attended church services for decades and yet have little understanding of the major doctrines of the Christian faith. Yet a

knowledge of correct doctrine is important in Christian maturity; moreover, it protects the believer from error (cf. 1 John 4:1, 6; Jude 4).

The presentation today will be arranged in a manner that is typical of most statements of faith. We'll move through categories like God, Jesus, Holy Spirit, man, salvation, the church, etc.,

As we walk through each section, some subjects will require more commentary than others. What we are doing today is not an academic exercise. This is a means to end! That end is to love God and to know Him more as He has revealed Himself in the Bible. This series is an attempt to live out the following command in scripture.

*NAU 2 Tim. 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

I hope our time together only increases our passion to dig into the Bible

### **Subject: What do we believe?**

The material we're about to cover is foundational for every Christian. Non-negotiable.

These are going to be hills to die on.

The categories we'll cover are these:

**The Triune God**  
**Scripture**  
**Origins and History**  
**Man**

**Sin  
Salvation  
The Church  
Christ's Return**

With each subject we'll look at one (or more) of the proof texts.

**The Triune God**

**-- There is one God, self-existent (no one made God) and eternal, infinitely perfect, the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of all things.**

(Genesis 1:1, 1:23, 2:1–4; Deuteronomy 6:4, 33:27; Psalm 22:28, 24:1, 103:19, 147:5; Isaiah 40:28, 45:18; Daniel 5:21; 2 Samuel 22:31; Nehemiah 9:6; Ecclesiastes 12:1–6; Matthew 5:48, 28:18; Mark 12:29–34; John 1:1–3; 1 Corinthians 8:4; Romans 16:26; Colossians 1:16–17, 2:3; Hebrews 1:1–3, 9:14; 2 Peter 3:9; Revelation 1:8, 4:11).

A few verses that establish various aspects of His being.

*NAU Exod. 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM"; and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

*NAU Isa. 44:6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.*

*NAU Ps. 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and all it contains, The world, and those who dwell in it.*

**-- The Godhead is triune: one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person is fully God, their glory equal and their majesty coeternal.<sup>3</sup>**

(Genesis 1:1–2; Matthew 3:15–17; John 1:1–3; 1 Corinthians 8:6)

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3. <https://www.compellingtruth.org/Godhead.html>

**-- For his own glory and by his own decree, the triune God created heaven and earth, time, and all things, visible and invisible, living and nonliving, material and nonmaterial.**

(Genesis 1:1–2:3; Exodus 20:11, 31:17; Isaiah 46:9–10; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 33:4; Isaiah 64:8; 1 Timothy 1:17; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 22:13)

A few of the support texts.

*NAU Isa. 64:8 But now, O LORD, You are our Father, We are the clay, and You our potter; And all of us are the work of Your hand.*

*NAU Col. 1:16 For by Him (Jesus) all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created through Him and for Him.*

*NAU Job 33:4 "The Spirit of God has made me, And the breath of the Almighty gives me life.*

**-- Our Lord Jesus Christ, the uncreated Creator and only begotten Son of God, took on human flesh to be fully man without ever ceasing to be fully God.**

(Luke 24:39; John 1:1–3, 1:14, 1:18, 3:16, 8:58; Colossians 1:16; Acts 2:22; 1 Corinthians 15:47; Philippians 2:5–8; Hebrews 1:1–3).

*NAU Col. 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,*

This is what a Jehovah Witness (JW) will debate you about along with some of the other non-trinitarian cults. PBC walked us through many verses about the deity of Jesus Christ just a few weeks ago.

**-- Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and lived a sinless life.**

(Isaiah 7:14, 53:4–6; Matthew 1:16–23; John 8:29, 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:21–22)

*NAU 2 Cor. 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

**-- Jesus died on the cross, making a once for all, full and satisfactory atonement for man's sin.**

(Matthew 1:16–23; Luke 1:30–31; John 19:30; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; Hebrews 9:10–12, 10:11–14; 1 Peter 1:17–18; 1 John 2:2).

Support text:

*NAU Heb. 10:11 ¶ Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins;*

*<sup>12</sup> but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD,*

*<sup>13</sup> waiting from that time onward UNTIL HIS ENEMIES BE MADE A FOOTSTOOL FOR HIS FEET.*

*<sup>14</sup> For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.*

Muslim's strongly reject this essential truth.

Interestingly, and perhaps unbeknownst to some here today, this statement also is denied in creed by the Roman Catholic Church.

I'm throwing this out as a quick summary for those who do not know, the RC Mass is a denial of the statement of belief we just read.

**The Catechism of the Catholic Church, paragraph 1367** states the following:

"The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist are one single sacrifice: "The victim is one and the same: the same now offers through the ministry of priests, who then offered himself on the cross; only the manner of offering is different." "And since in this divine sacrifice which is celebrated in the Mass, the same Christ who offered himself once in a bloody manner on the altar of the cross is contained and is offered in an unbloody manner . . . this sacrifice is truly propitiatory." (power to atone)<sup>4</sup>

Every Mass, is a re-offering of Christ on the cross in a (so called) "non-bloody" fashion.

I read about an evangelical who stated recently that "the mass is a beautiful thing." NO it is not! The mass is a blasphemous concept because it denies the sufficiency of Christ's once for all act of atonement.

Moving on...

**-- Jesus Christ rose bodily from the dead, ascended to heaven, is currently seated at the right hand of God the Father as our Intercessor, and shall return in person (bodily and visibly) to this earth as Judge of the living and the dead.**

(1 Corinthians 15:3–5+; Acts 17:31; Ephesians 1:17–23; 2 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 7:25).

Muslims, liberal theologians, Jesus Seminar, JW's deny this.

*NAU 1 Cor. 15:1 ¶ Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand,*

*<sup>2</sup> by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain.*

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4. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Holy-Eucharist.html>

<sup>3</sup> ¶ *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,*

<sup>4</sup> *and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,*

<sup>5</sup> *and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.*

<sup>6</sup> *After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep;*

-- **The Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, is Lord and Giver of life, who glorifies our Lord Jesus Christ and convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.**

(John 15:26, 16:8–11, 16:14; 2 Corinthians 3:17)

*NAU 2 Cor. 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

-- **The Holy Spirit's work is necessary for sinners to repent and believe in Jesus Christ through the gospel call.**

(Romans 8; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; 2:6–14, 12:3; Titus 3:3–7)

*NAU 1 Cor. 1:30-31 30 But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption,  
31 so that, just as it is written, "LET HIM WHO BOASTS, BOAST IN THE LORD."*

-- **The Holy Spirit lives and works in each believer to endow them with spiritual gifts and produce the fruits of righteousness.**

(Galatians 4:6; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; John 14:16–17; Acts 1:8, 4:31; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 6:18–20; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Galatians 5:22–23; Ephesians 2:19–22)

*NAU 2 Cor. 1:21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God,*

*<sup>22</sup> who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.*

The Triune God-- Father, Son, Holy Spirit.

The next essential component.

## Scripture

**-- The 66 books of the Bible are the unique, written Word of God. The Bible is divinely inspired (God-breathed), inerrant (without error), infallible (trustworthy, incapable of error), supremely authoritative, and sufficient in everything it teaches. Its assertions are factually true. Its authority is not limited to spiritual, religious, or redemptive themes but includes its assertions in such fields as history and science.**

(Deuteronomy 4:2, 12:32; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:18–19)

*NIV 2 Tim. 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,*

*NIV 2 Tim. 3:17 so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

This is a topic that I have taught on extensively in a long series I did entitled **"History and reliability of the Bible."** A 22 week study.

I have unedited copy of my notes and PPT slide show if you want it. You'll need a thumb drive-- 200mb.

I want to make one comment about the statement: *"...Its authority is not limited to spiritual, religious, or redemptive themes but includes its assertions in such fields as history and science."*

This is very important because there's a tendency for Bible skeptics to limit the Bible's authority to spiritual matters and not let it speak beyond that. But the Bible has much to say about science and history.

If the Bible makes a historic claim that seems to be in conflict with secular history, then the Bible's claim is correct and the secular claim is not. If the Bible makes a scientific claim that seems to be in conflict with a secular claim. The biblical claim is correct, the secular claim is not. **It's that simple.**

If the Bible has anything to say about anything it's **ALWAYS RIGHT.**

*NAU Prov. 21:30 There is no wisdom and no understanding And no counsel against the LORD.*

*KJV Ps. 119:128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.*

### **-- The final guide to the interpretation of Scripture is Scripture itself.**

(Proverbs 8:8–9; Matthew 12:3–5, 19:4, 22:31; Mark 7:13, 12:10, 12:26; Luke 6:3; 2 Corinthians 4:2; 2 Timothy 3:16–17)

This doesn't mean that we can't use tools to help us interpret scripture. It simply means that in the final analysis, the scriptures themselves determine their ultimate meaning.

Praise God for cross references, topical Bible's, etc,. All the helps, *help*. But at the end of the day, nothing can explain what God means better than He can. And that's precisely what we have with scripture interpreting scripture.

All the “helps” we use should enable us to see the scriptures in the clearest possible light... according to the Spirit.

*NAU 1 Cor. 2:9 but just as it is written, "THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM."*

*<sup>10</sup> For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.*

*<sup>11</sup> For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God.*

*<sup>12</sup> Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,*

*<sup>13</sup> which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.*

**-- All things necessary for our salvation are expressly and clearly taught in Scripture.**

(foundation of the gospel: Genesis 1:1, 1:31, 3:17–19; Romans 5:12, 3:23; presenting the gospel: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 6:23, 10:9; John 3:14–18; Acts 16:30–31; Ephesians 2:8; Romans 5:1–2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

*NAU 2 Pet. 1:2 ¶ Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;*

*<sup>3</sup> ¶ seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*

*<sup>4</sup> For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.*

**Cross reference 2 Tim 3:16-17.**

## ***What Do We Believe 2.0? (pt 2)***

### **11/25**

#### ***Introduction*** \_\_\_\_\_

Greetings Beloved!

Last week we kicked off a new teaching series entitled "**What do we believe 2.0?"**

The next topic in our statement of beliefs is "Origins & History,"... followed by "Man."

These two topics will doubtless be the most controversial in this study. In fact some of what we address in these statements will even fly in the face of some professing Christians.

But these subjects definitely tend to rub against the grain of humanistic thinking to a high degree, for reasons that will become apparent as we unpack this. Some of these truth's from our statement of beliefs will require a bit more comment than the ones we covered last week.

To begin, let's open our Bible's to Genesis 1 and just leave it open there for the time being.

## Origins and History

-- The account of origins presented in **Genesis 1–11** is a simple but factual presentation of actual events, and therefore, provides a reliable framework for scientific research into the question of the origin and history of life, mankind, the earth, and the universe.

I don't have specific verses under this statement of belief for the simple reason that the same verses that support what we covered under the "Bible" category in support of the reliability and infallibility of the Bible would be used to support this statement.

This statement also stands on the foundation that the scriptures are everything that we already discussed last week.

Some specific details from Gen 1-11 will be shown in the upcoming slides. But before we look at those, let me mention a few of the highlights from the first 11 chapters of Genesis.

There we find:

- The creation account
- Creation of mankind
- Foundation of marriage & child bearing
- The introduction of sin into the world (i.e. the fall of man)
- The first Messianic prophecy
- The introduction of Satan
- The first murder
- The destruction of all earthly land life via the flood, except for those in the ark
- First rain
- First rainbow
- The table of nations
- The dividing of people into nations and languages

... just to name a few.

And yet Genesis 1-11 are amongst the most mocked portions of God's revelation by the secular world.

Something I did not mention last week in our "Bible" section, but taught extensively on in the "History & Reliability of the Bible Series", is the fact that the Bible itself is an artifact AND record of ancient history. In fact it is the oldest account of human existence that we possess.

As Christians, we love every facet of history. We love geography, archaeology, science-- any arena where history is looked into, where fact checking is involved, where people are rummaging through artifacts of history the Christian has nothing to fear. There is no nail that will seal the coffin shut on the historicity/factuality of the Bible and the Christian faith.

Science is our friend as long as people are honest with the data. Archaeology is our ally. It seems as though every time the spade is turned over we find more proof that confirms what the Bible says. History itself BELONGS TO GOD!

Let's delve into this a little bit deeper.

All the rest of the statements on Origins & History are subsets of the first slide.

-- The various original life forms (kinds), including mankind, were made by direct, supernatural, creative acts of God (i.e., not by natural, physical processes over millions of years). The living descendants of any of the original kinds (apart from man) may represent more than one species today, reflecting the genetic potential within each original kind. Only limited biological changes (including mutational deterioration) have occurred naturally within each kind since creation (i.e., one kind does not change over time into a different kind).

(Genesis 1:11-12, 1:21, 1:24-25, 30:37-42; 1 Corinthians 15:39).

That may seem like a pretty complicated statement, but it's not really as intimidating as it looks. It's really just a brief explanation of certain details in the creation account in Genesis 1. But we'll walk through it.

The **first statement** on Origins and History is a mere "finger poke in the eye" of the secular world compared to this 2nd statement-- which is more like a full fist punch in the face. So much so, that this clear interpretation of the creation account is ridiculed by the vast majority of the secular scientific community.

The last time I taught this series we read through an article from the Snopes website entitled: *"Why Creationism Bears All the Hallmarks of a Conspiracy Theory"*

Snopes, if you don't know, is reputed to be a fact checking super site.

Their claim is:

**"We are the internet's go-to source for discerning what is true and what is total nonsense."** -- *Snopes*

That's quite a claim.

We're not going to through the article again, but a few snippets from the article does give an overall sense of how typical detractors of the Genesis creation account think & believe. It's quite pitiful!

The article goes to great length's to discredit the biblical account of creation, and those who support it. They ridicule the very biblical concepts contained in the statement we just read. They also mocked the flood account.

Eventually the article had this to say.

## Why Creationism Bears All the Hallmarks of a Conspiracy Theory

Snopes-- 2/4/2021

Creationism (re-) (emerged in this form) in reaction to the mid-20th century emphasis on science education. Its key text is the long-time best seller, *The Genesis Flood*, by John C Whitcomb and Henry M Morris. This provided the inspiration for Morris's own Institute for Creation Research, and for its offshoots, *Answers in Genesis* and *Creation Ministries International*.

Ken Ham, the founder and chief executive of *Answers in Genesis*, is also responsible for the highly lucrative Ark Encounter theme park and Creation Museum in Kentucky. As a visit to any of these websites will show, their creationism is completely hostile to science, while paradoxically claiming to be scientific.

...Creationists go to great lengths to demonize the proponents of evolution, and to undermine the overwhelming evidence in its favor.<sup>1</sup>

I'm having us look at this to make note of the wording. This is indicative of the opposition to the Bible's account of creation.

"Hostile to science!" NO! Just desiring to see the truthfulness upheld in the disciplines of science & medicine.

And yes we do reject evolution & anything else **hostile** to the testimony of scripture and scriptures Author-- God.

*NET 2 Cor. 10:4 for the weapons of our warfare are not human weapons, but are made powerful by God for tearing down strongholds. We tear down arguments*

*NET 2 Cor. 10:5 and every arrogant obstacle that is raised up against the knowledge of God, and we take every thought captive to make it obey Christ.*

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1. <https://www.snopes.com/news/2021/02/04/why-creationism-bears-all-the-hallmarks-of-a-conspiracy-theory/>

I'm using the Snopes article as an illustration to show that "Origins & History" is one of the most contentious aspects of biblical theology for the non-Christian. Especially for those within the scientific & academic communities. And this is because of their denial of the **supernatural origin of the created order**.

Should **this** be in a statement of faith? Why should it be included as part of a churches creed?

Look at the first part of that statement again...

-- The various original life forms (kinds), including mankind, were made by direct, supernatural, creative acts of God (i.e., not by natural, physical processes over millions of years).

The answer is simple. You still have your Bible open?

*NAU Gen. 1:1 ¶ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*NAU Neh. 9:6 ¶ "You alone are the LORD. You have made the heavens, The heaven of heavens with all their host, The earth and all that is on it, The seas and all that is in them. You give life to all of them And the heavenly host bows down before You.*

*NAU Ps. 33:6 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host.*

*7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses.*

*8 Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.*

*9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*

<sup>10</sup> *The LORD nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples.*

<sup>11</sup> *The counsel of the LORD stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation.*

*NAU Heb. 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.*

YES, this is an essential aspect of the Christian faith. The wording of this statement rules out evolution. All life forms were made by an act of God.

This statement is not inconsequential.

Look again at the next part of the statement.

**"The living descendants of any of the original kinds (apart from man) may represent more than one species today, reflecting the genetic potential within each original kind. Only limited biological changes (including mutational deterioration) have occurred naturally within each kind since creation (i.e., one kind does not change over time into a different kind.)"**

(Genesis 1:11–12, 1:21, 1:24–25, 30:37–42; 1 Corinthians 15:39).

The word "kind" becomes a very important word in the field of creation science apologetic's. What this statement means is when Noah loaded up the ark he didn't need samples from every cat type or dog type. He just needed two cats/dogs. From those two cats came all the variations that we see of cats today.

You'll hear people talk about MACRO vs MICRO evolution.

**Quote:**

"Microevolution is an uncontroversial, well-documented, naturally occurring biological phenomenon that happens all the time. It is the process whereby preexisting genetic information is rearranged, corrupted, and/or lost through sexual reproduction and/or genetic mutation producing relatively small-scale ("micro") changes within a population. Thus, two long-haired dogs producing a short-haired puppy would be an example of microevolution.

**Macroevolution** is the man-made, theoretical extrapolation of microevolution that requires the introduction of new genetic information. It is believed to produce large-scale ("macro") changes. An amphibian evolving into a reptile or a reptile evolving into a bird would be examples of macroevolution. Macroevolution is an important concept because Darwinists believe that it is the mechanism for their idea that all life evolved from a common primordial ancestor."<sup>2</sup>

That's the short/sweet explanation of the last part of the statement in this slide.

Moving on...

**-- The great flood of Genesis was an actual historic event, worldwide (global) in its extent and catastrophic in its effects. At one stage during the flood, the waters covered the entire surface of the whole globe with no land surface being exposed anywhere—the flood of Noah is not to be understood as any form of local or regional flood. The Noachian flood was a significant geological event, and most fossiliferous sediments were deposited at that time.**

(Genesis 7:18–22; 2 Peter 3:5–7)

Jesus referred to the flood. The godless mock the idea of the flood.

One of the glorious byproducts of the worldwide flood are the fossils.

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2. <https://www.gotquestions.org/microevolution-macroevolution.html>

They serve as a simple apologetic for the flood. This is why we find fish fossils in the mountains next to mammal ones.

**-- The days in Genesis do not correspond to geologic ages but are six consecutive, 24-hour days of creation; the first day began in Genesis 1:1, and the seventh day, which was also a normal 24-hour day, ended in Genesis 2:3.**

(Genesis 1:1–2:3; Exodus 20:8–11, 31:17; Hebrews 4:3–4)

Corresponding to this... (next statement)

**-- The gap theory, progressive creation, day-age, framework hypothesis, theistic evolution (i.e., evolutionary creation), functionality–cosmic temple, analogical days, day-gap-day, and any other views that try to fit evolution or millions of years into Genesis are incompatible with Scripture.**

These are different theories that are in conflict with six consecutive, 24-hour days of creation.

### **According to one source :**

"The origin of the physical universe has emerged as one of the most significant biblical battlegrounds in the twenty-first century. Secular and Christian communities both debate the veracity of the creation accounts in Genesis 1–2. Even many Christians seriously question the biblical record and strongly prefer scientific conclusions over the testimony of Scripture. Today, only a minority of theologians hold to sudden creationism , the view that the creative process described in Genesis 1 occurred in six literal and consecutive days. Many assert that the universe is millions or even billions of years old and that a long interval existed between the origin of the earth and the first human beings."<sup>3</sup>

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3. MacArthur, John,; Mayhue, Richard Biblical Doctrine- A Systematic Summary of Biblical Truth

Opinions may vary, but simple exegesis of the days of creation in Genesis 1 offer no other viable alternative to 6 literal days of creation and one rest day. Only a sloppy interpretation of **Genesis 1** could come away with a different outcome.

How sad to see some professing Christians ridicule this statement of belief... which is derived directly from a proper interpretation of scripture.

A sad example of this comes from the writings of a few very prominent theologians who have penned some disturbing dismissals of this truth.

William Lane Craig came out with a book back in 2021 entitled: "**In Quest of the Historical Adam: A Biblical and Scientific Exploration.**"

Craig refers to Genesis as "mytho-history." The term "mytho-historical" refers to narratives that blend mythological elements with historical context.<sup>4</sup>

Craig states that he first heard about mytho-history from **Bill T. Arnold** (a professor of OT at Asbury Seminary). Arnold argues "that we should see Genesis in the same genre as other creation and flood narratives from the ancient Near East." That's a warning sign of danger!!!!!!

**Quote :**

"Christianity Today hails this book as a "bold, rigorous, original work at the intersection of faith and science" and a "breath of fresh air" to those "who wonder whether contemporary science, including evolutionary science, is compatible with the Christian faith."

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4. <<https://www.bing.com/search?pc=MOZI&form=MOZLBR&q=mytho-history>>

Two other prominent Christians-- NT Wight & Francis Collins have been very public about their commitment to theistic evolution.<sup>5</sup>

**Wright quote:**

"One of the challenges is that traditional Western theology has often adopted a rigid interpretation that equates the Fall solely with the origin of physical death and sin. But perhaps Genesis is pointing to something more symbolic, speaking to spiritual truths that may be better grasped through meditation, poetry and theological reflection rather than strict doctrinal formulas.

I see it as possible to integrate the biblical understanding of the Fall with evolutionary biology. This view deepens our understanding of both creation and the human condition, showing that these complex issues invite reflection rather than rigid answers, enriching our grasp of scripture and the world."<sup>6</sup>  
That's another warning sign of danger!!!!!!

I don't want to chase this down anymore than I already have. Suffice it to say, I wanted to give you a taste of what's out there and why a statement in our beliefs like this is necessary.

This leads to the next statement.

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5. [footnote]

<https://harbingersdaily.com/christianity-today-gives-award-to-book-mocking-genesis-account-of-creation/>

<https://answersingenesis.org/culture/believe-in-genesis-sing-two-scholars-who-dont-believe-in-genesis/>

<https://www.equip.org/articles/no-god-of-the-gaps-allowed-francis-collins-and-theistic-evolution/>

<https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2008/04/17/the-evidence-for-belief-an-interview-with-francis-collins/>

<https://answersingenesis.org/creationism/in-schools/what-motivates-christians-to-accept-evolution/>

<https://firstthings.com/mytho-history-in-genesis/>

<https://evidenceunseen.com/apologetics/science-and-scripture/genesis-as-mytho-history-a-critical-evaluation-of-william-lane-craigs-genre-analysis>

6. <https://www.premierchristianity.com/columnists/should-christians-believe-in-evolution/18994.article>

**-- The view, commonly used to evade the implications or the authority of biblical teaching, namely that knowledge and/or truth may be divided into secular and religious, is unbiblical and therefore should be rejected.**

(Psalm 24:1-2; 50:10-12; 89:11; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:17; 2 Peter 1:3)

The idea being, is there anything in God's creation that He cannot speak to? Is there anything in life that humans can experience that can be excluded from being under the watchful eye of God (rhetorical questions)? The fact is, the authority of scripture reaches into all spheres of life.

The ungodly want Christians to "keep that religious stuff in the church" and don't try to bring that "religious stuff" into the real world. But that is a false dichotomy that Christians cannot (or should not) accept.

*NAU Ps. 89:11 The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them.*

*NAU Ps. 50:10 "For every beast of the forest is Mine, The cattle on a thousand hills.*

*<sup>11</sup> "I know every bird of the mountains, And everything that moves in the field is Mine.*

*<sup>12</sup> "If I were hungry I would not tell you, For the world is Mine, and all it contains.*

Next subject...

## **Man**

**-- Mankind, consisting of two genders (male and female), is created in the image of God. Each of these two distinct, complementary genders reflects the image of God.**

(Genesis 1:26–27, 5:1–2, 9:6; Matthew 19:4–6; Mark 10:6; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9–10)

Look down at your Bibles again.

*NAU Gen. 1:26 ¶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

<sup>27</sup> *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

-- **Gender and biological sex are equivalent and cannot be separated. A person's gender is determined at conception (fertilization), coded in the DNA, and cannot be changed by drugs, hormones, or surgery. Rejection of one's biological sex (gender) or identifying oneself by the opposite sex is a sinful rejection of the way God made that person. These truths must be communicated with compassion, love, kindness, and respect, pointing everyone to the truth that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking his mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.**

(Genesis 1:26–28, 5:1–2; Deuteronomy 22:5; Psalm 51:5, 139:13–16; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 1:20–21, 19:4–6; Mark 10:6; Luke 1:31; Acts 3:19–21; Romans 10:9–10; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; Galatians 3:28)

*NAU Gen. 5:1 ¶ This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God.*

<sup>2</sup> *He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created.*

This is the standard. It's repeated by Jesus in Matthew 19.

Here's an interesting verse...

NAU Deut. 22:5 ¶ "A woman shall not wear man's clothing, nor shall a man put on a woman's clothing; for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD your God.

What are we to make of this verse in light of its placement in this chapter? It's really quite simple. Deut 22:5 might appear to be out of place in a discussion of the preservation of life, but that is not the case.

Moses insisted that Israel not blur distinctions that go to the continuance of life itself. A woman must not wear men's clothing, nor a man wear women's clothing. The prohibitions against cross-dressing are not pointed at masquerade parties but at a larger issue —the loss of male and female roles in a healthy society.

The Israelites were to respect God's design and not call their assigned sexuality into question by wearing clothing that clearly crossed a line. Moses knew that behavior provokes values just as values promote behavior. The Lord detests such behavior because it places a fog around distinctions that he constructed. God is against anything that blurs the lines between the sexes.

The principle in Deut 22:5 is revisited in the opening verses of **1 Cor 11**.

This isn't getting into the women wearing pants versus a dress issue. This is stating the biblical norm that God demanded that the distinctiveness between man and woman be respected and maintained. The created order of life was not to be violated.<sup>7</sup>

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7. holmans/pulpit com/ posb

So many in our culture today seem to be very confused about the natural-- God-given order of things. We have whole month designated to celebrate with "pride" the pushing against God's design.

Let's move on to the next truth under the subject heading of "**MAN.**"

**-- The special and unique creation of Adam from dust and Eve from Adam's rib was supernatural and immediate. Adam and Eve did not originate from any other preexisting lifeforms.**

(Genesis 2:7, 2:21–23, 3:19; 1 Corinthians 11:8–12, 15:47–49)

What this statement eliminates (rejects) is any option that mankind evolved from any previous life form. This statement corresponds with the first one that "we are uniquely created by God."

*NAU Gen. 2:7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

*NAU Gen. 2:21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.*

*22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.*

*23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones, And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, Because she was taken out of Man."*

Speaking of Adam & Eve and their creation-- Marriage.

-- The only legitimate marriage, based on the creation ordinance in Genesis 1 and 2, sanctioned by God is the joining of one naturally born man and one naturally born woman in a single, exclusive union as delineated in Scripture. God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other and has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, prostitution, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, abuse, or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God.

(Genesis 1:27–28, 2:24; Matthew 5:27–30, 19:4-5; Mark 10:2–9; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 18-20 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7; Hebrews 13:4)

A little overlap with the earlier statement. But it needs to be worded this precisely.

We're gonna have to end right here. Lord willing we'll pick up right here next week.

*What Do We Believe 2.0? (pt 3)*  
11/9/25

*Introduction* \_\_\_\_\_

Greetings to all!

We left off on the subject of "Man." Specifically we ended with the following truth claim from our statement of beliefs:

**-- The only legitimate marriage, based on the creation ordinance in Genesis 1 and 2, sanctioned by God is the joining of one naturally born man and one naturally born woman in a single, exclusive union as delineated in Scripture. God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other and has commanded that no sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, prostitution, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, abuse, or any attempt to change one's gender, or disagreement with one's biological gender, is sinful and offensive to God.**

(Genesis 1:27–28, 2:24; Matthew 5:27–30, 19:4–5; Mark 10:2–9; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 18-20 1 Thessalonians 4:3–7; Hebrews 13:4).

As I said last week, **Origins & History** and **Man** contain the most controversial truths in today's moral/ethical climate. Some of the things that I'll address will be considered inflammatory. In fact for some, they're downright fightin' words.

Charlie Kirk's assassination is a perfect example of how far some are willing to go in their attempt to eliminate a voice of reason & truth. In fact, Charlie's affirmation & public expression of the truth contained in this statement is likely one of the reasons why he was murdered. And I'm certain things are going to get worse for the truth Church.

**Back to our statement...**

In the current environment of our society, a statement like this absolutely needs to be present as an article of faith. It's wise for legal reasons. But

more importantly, it demonstrates a church's intent of upholding the **biblical view of marriage**-- which happens to be the very foundation of the family.

Jesus upheld this foundation in **Mat 19** in the face of opposition from the religious leaders.

*NAU Matt. 19:4 And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE,*

*<sup>5</sup> and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH'?*

The corruption of this foundation is exhibited in various forms of sexual immorality.

Consider the following warnings from scripture.

*NAU Heb. 13:4 Marriage is to be held in honor among all, and the marriage bed is to be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge.*

*NAU 1 Cor. 6:18 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body.*

*<sup>19</sup> Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?*

*<sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.*

Needless to say we want to make it clear where we stand as a church.

What we're witnessing today thru the LGBTQ+ phenomena is the loss of conviction and conscience that we see in Romans 1. It is a sign of God's judgment upon those who have rejected His plan for human sexuality.

I suppose some of what we cover today may even cause Youtube's algorithms to mark this teaching. The comments I made in our Revelation teaching about the climate change narrative being a hoax got marked.

At this hour in history, the truth of this **statement on marriage & human sexuality** needs to be publicly stated as the churches position. Any churches unwillingness to publicly stand on this issue (and some of the others) only weakens the churches testimony to the world.

We know that the world hates God and His people.

*NAU Jn. 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, because of this the world hates you.*

But remember,

*NAU Matt. 5:16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.*

Truth is light!

Next...

-- All human life is sacred and begins at conception (defined as the moment of fertilization). Each unborn child is a unique, living human being, created in the image of God, and must be respected and protected both before and after birth.

**The abortion of an unborn child or the active, intentional taking of human life through euthanasia or assisted suicide constitutes a violation of the sanctity of human life and is a sin & crime against God and man.**

(Genesis 1:27; 9:5-6; Exodus 20:13; Deuteronomy 5:17; Psalm 51:5; 1 Corinthians 15:49; James 2:11)

*NAU Gen. 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

This principle is the basis for the next verse.

*NAU Exod. 20:13 ¶ "You shall not murder.*

And...

*NAU Gen. 9:5 "Surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man.*

*<sup>6</sup> "Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.*

Human life, ALL human life is owned by God. Once again we come back around to the foundation of biblical anthropology (study of man).

*NAU Gen. 1:27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

In the world today we have formulated very clever ways of skirting around the destructive reality of committing infanticide: the wholesale epidemic of murdering people who are still inside a mothers womb. We have special sanitized language that hides the diabolical nature of what we do to people in the womb.

- Reproductive rights
- Women's health care
- Reproductive oppression (denying abortion access)

-- Reproductive justice.. which is:

**Quote :**

"The human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities,"

The term "reproductive justice" emerged as a response to the limitations of the reproductive rights movement, which primarily focused on legal access to abortion and contraception." <sup>1</sup>

Cutting through the fog this means: "If I feel like I'm not in the position to adequately provide for my children and I get pregnant-- I want the option to **KILL THE CHILD.**"

Notice, the sin of **euthanasia** is also listed in our statement:

-- All human life is sacred ... The abortion of an unborn child or the active, **intentional taking of human life through euthanasia or assisted suicide** constitutes a violation of the sanctity of human life and is a sin & crime against God and man.

This too is a form of murder. "Euthanasia" is another sanitized word: a compound word in the Greek, and it simply means *"good death. Mercy killing* is the positive spin we put on the word to lessen the effect it has on the conscience. Legal suicide is what it really is. Maybe I'll do a teaching on this some day.

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1. <https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice/>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reproductive\\_justice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reproductive_justice)

I do want to add one side note on the subject of **euthanasia** that I learned about this past Sept. I think you'll find interesting... shocking!

According to one source:

**Quote :**

**“Canada is turning into a death cult: It seems the nation’s assisted suicide regime just can’t kill people fast enough.”** R. Albert Mohler, Jr. September 20, 2025

"Canada legalized euthanasia in 2016, joining a number of other nations, like Belgium and the Netherlands, that had already embraced legalized assisted suicide. When the action was taken, government officials assured citizens that safeguards and limitations were in place. Those eligible for assisted death had to be adults of sound mind who were approaching imminent death. Canada's government leaders said that the “slippery slope” that was already evident in nations like Belgium, where the restrictions on euthanasia had virtually fallen apart, would not apply to Canada.

However... that's not what's happening.

Right across America's northern border, a national death cult is taking shape. There are physicians who have “serviced” hundreds of deaths by euthanasia, increasingly defined as “provisions.” As predicted, the scope and scale of assisted suicides in Canada have been radically expanded. The requirement of a terminal medical diagnosis fell in favor of serious medical conditions that were not terminal. The expanded law will allow for persons suffering from mental distress. Already, there are reports of patients who had signed up for euthanasia but at the end resisted actions to bring about their death. The euthanasia proceeded anyway. Now, there are open deliberations about allowing children and teenagers to choose death. Parliament seems for it. After all, it's now a government-sanctioned way to escape life.

One reporter said:'

"... doctors in Canada are “struggling to keep up with demand.”

Actions that a mere decade ago were classified as felony murder are now national policy. What Canada calls “Medical Assistance in Dying” now accounts for something like one out of every twenty deaths in the nation.

The crucial issue is an absolutely deadly assertion of human autonomy—specifically *personal* autonomy. The entire enterprise is based in the claim that individuals have an inherent right of personal autonomy that includes the right to demand medically delivered death on demand. If such a “right” does exist, and personal autonomy is the key, personal choice is all that remains. How can the government say no to anyone? It doesn’t appear to want to say no to anyone. After all, euthanasia is far cheaper than medical care. And know this for certain: Canada’s government knows how to do the math.

... If personal autonomy implies an absolute right to die, you can’t say no to anyone, for you have no right to judge their reasons. That is where the situation in Canada now stands, and the government seems intent on expanding the operation.”<sup>2</sup>

One of the big dilemma's that arises with both euthanasia & abortion is the issue of **responsibility** and/or **culpability**. If these are both forms of **murder**, who's the murderer? Is the recipient of **self-suicide** the guilty party? Is the Dr. assisting an accessory?

**Abortion:** is the mother culpable or only a victim? Should a Dr. be held accountable for killing the baby? These are some of the legal/ethical issues that weigh in on these "legal" procedures if abortion/euthanasia were deemed illegal.

Anyhow, I need to move on. Just wanted to give you something to chew on in relation to this statement in our beliefs.

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2. This article originally appeared at WORLD Opinions on August 20, 2025.  
<https://albertmohler.com/2025/09/20/canada-is-turning-into-a-death-cult-it-seems-the-nations-assisted-suicide-regime-just-cant-kill-people-fast-enough>  
<https://knowingscripture.com/articles/should-a-mother-be-legally-punished-for-aborting-her-baby>

**-- There is only one race of mankind—the human race or Adam's race (Adamic). Adam and Eve were the first two humans. All people alive today are the descendants of Adam and Eve and subsequently Noah.**

(Genesis 1:26–27, 3:20, 10:1, 10:32; 1 Corinthians 15:45–47; Luke 17:27; Hebrews 11:7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5)

What we typically refer to as "racism" should, in fact, be more appropriately labeled **ethnic partiality or prejudice**. Ethnicity is the source of this kind of faction, NOT race. There is only ONE race. Many colors—great **ethnic diversity, but ONE race**.

*NAU Acts 17:26 and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation,*

*27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;*

*28 for in Him we live and move and exist...'.*

Throughout modern history there have been numerous people who have believed that humans are comprised of multiple "races." This mindset is common amongst committed Darwinian evolutionists.

One person in particular who believed this (I know this is low hanging fruit):

**Quote :**

"Hitler believed that the human gene pool could be improved by using selective breeding similar to how farmers breed superior cattle strains.

## **Interruption:**

Humans differ from the animal world in this way. We're not made "after our kind" like they are. You can't make different "kinds" of us...

However, I digress. Continuing on with the quote...

In the formulation of their racial policies, Hitler's government relied heavily upon Darwinism, especially the elaborations by Spencer and Haeckel. As a result, a central policy of Hitler's administration was the development and implementation of policies designed to protect the 'superior race'.

This required at the very least preventing the 'inferior races' from mixing with those judged superior, in order to reduce contamination of the latter's gene pool. The 'superior race' belief was based on the theory of group inequality within each species, a major presumption and requirement of Darwin's original 'survival of the fittest' theory.

This philosophy culminated in the 'final solution', the extermination of approximately six million Jews and four million other people who belonged to what German scientists judged as 'inferior races'.<sup>3</sup>

There are even some bogus pseudo Christian groups who buy into the different races idea: **"Christian Identity Movement** (e.g. Arnold Murray).<sup>4</sup>

A follow up to this statement in our beliefs...

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3. <https://answersingenesis.org/charles-darwin/racism/darwinism-and-the-nazi-race-holocaust/>  
<https://answersingenesis.org/charles-darwin/racism/darwins-garden/>

4. <https://www.gotquestions.org/Christian-Identity-Movement.html>  
<https://www.gotquestions.org/Shepherds-Chapel.html>

**-- Since all humans are made in the image of God, all humans have equal dignity and value regardless of age (including the unborn), intelligence, gender, physical ability, shade of skin tone, ethnicity, or any other characteristic.**

(Genesis 1:26–27, 3:20, 11:9; Psalm 139; Acts 17:26–28)

This leads to the next statement...

**-- The concepts of “the social justice movement (SJM),” “intersectionality,” and “critical race theory (CRT)” are anti-biblical and destructive to Christian unity & human flourishing.**

(Exodus 23:2-3; Leviticus 19:15; Deuteronomy Proverbs 18:5; 28:21; Ezekiel 18:1–20; James 2:1, 8–9)

This is another controversial addition to the statement of faith, but secularism has forced the churches hand to have to include this in statements of belief. Especially in light of how heavily these influences have poisoned the body of Christ by causing unnecessary division within the ranks of Christendom.

SJM, Intersectionality and CRT are all secular philosophies, that attempt to analyze and solve social ills of all kinds, particularly **ethnic prejudice**. Intersectionality and CRT are components of the social justice movement. They have been the new flavor of the day for virtually every sector of life in the USA. and even other parts of the world. Though you don't always see them making front page news on the web as they did in 2019-2023.

At one point all Federal and local governments, law enforcement, the military, most of our countries public school systems,... and even many

churches had become fully committed to the SJM, Intersectionality and CRT.

The influence of these systems has been more subdued in the last year or so, except in the churches who were swept up in the wave that swept in starting in 2020.

There is a legitimate, biblical form of social justice. The Bible has much to say about social justice. We talked about the biblical form at several points in our study of the book of James in 2020. **Abortion** is a social justice issue. The church of Jesus Christ should be an advocate for the orphan, widow, stranger, oppressed, etc.,

What our statement condemns is NOT the biblical form, but the forms listed. These philosophies (SJM, Intersectionality, CRT) are destructive humanistic aberrations of biblical justice; they create the same problems they were allegedly designed to fix, and we should have no part in these schemes.

The church of Jesus Christ does not need the world's help in solving social justice issues. These systems are sinful BECAUSE they ARE partial and they create factions.

*NAU Exod. 23:2 "You shall not follow the masses in doing evil, nor shall you testify in a dispute so as to turn aside after a multitude in order to pervert justice ;*

*<sup>3</sup> nor shall you be partial to a poor man in his dispute.*

*NAU Lev. 19:15 ¶ 'You shall do no injustice in judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor nor defer to the great, but you are to judge your neighbor fairly.*

*NAU Jas. 2:1 ¶ My brethren, do not hold your faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ with an attitude of personal favoritism.*

I realize that some of you may not have an understanding of what these philosophical systems are. Here's two resources to help you understand if you'd like to learn more.

— Fault Lines: The Social Justice Movement and Evangelicalism's Looming Catastrophe by Voddie Baucham Jr.

— Christianity and Social Justice: Religions in Conflict by Jon Harris

You could also go to GotQuestions.org and type in "What is the critical race theory?", and get a very abbreviated version.<sup>5</sup>

## Sin

**-- The highest of the created angels, Lucifer, aspiring to displace God, fell from heaven, became Satan, and caused man's fall into sin, thus introducing sin into the entire human race. His objective today is to thwart the plan of God, deceive, if possible, the whole world, and to be an adversary to God's elect.**

(Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 25:41; Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9-10, 20:10, 21:8)

The truths in this statement are scattered in various parts of scripture.

Some notable ones:

*NAU Ezek. 28:14 "You were the anointed cherub who covers, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire.*

*<sup>15</sup> "You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness was found in you.*

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5. <https://www.gotquestions.org/critical-race-theory.html>

*NAU Isa. 14:12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!"*

*<sup>13</sup> "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.*

*<sup>14</sup> 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'*

*<sup>15</sup> "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.*

Next...

**-- The special creation of Adam (the first man) and Eve (the first woman) and their subsequent fall into sin is the basis for the necessity of salvation for mankind.**

(Genesis 2:7, 2:17, 2:22–23, 3:6–20; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:45–49)

**-- Human death (both physical and spiritual) as well as all animal death, disease, bloodshed, suffering, extinction, thorns and thistles, and all other natural evils. (e.g., earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, etc.) entered this world subsequent to, and as a direct consequence of, man's sin.**

(Genesis 2:16–17, 3:8, 3:19, 4:4–8; Romans 5:12, 8:20–22; 1 Corinthians 15:21–22)

*NAU Rom. 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*NAU Rom. 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope*

*<sup>21</sup> that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.*

<sup>22</sup> For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

**-- All mankind are sinners, inherently from Adam and individually (by choice), and are therefore subject to God's wrath and condemnation.**

(1 Kings 8:46; Isaiah 53:6; Psalm 51:5; 116:11; Proverbs 16:5; John 3:16–18, 12:48; Romans 3:23; 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:3)

*NAU Rom. 5:12 ¶ Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned--*

*NAU Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*NAU Eph. 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

This is a good place for us to stop today. Lord willing we'll wrap up next week

## ***What Do We Believe 2.0? (pt 4)***

### ***11/16/25***

#### ***Introduction***

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Greetings to all!

Today is the final part in our series entitled: “What Do We Believe 2.0?”

Before we move into the last statements of belief, I want to provide some background material on the importance of creeds & statements of belief, and on why it is they have served the Church of Jesus Christ in meaningful ways for many centuries.

#### ***Intro & brief history lesson.***

When we began this study I made some comments about the high value that should be placed on studying systematic theology (ST). The statement of faith we are presently working through is a condensed version of a ST. A statement of faith is a creed. A creed is also a statement of beliefs. Sometimes creeds are created because of a crisis or a trend that is working against biblical orthodoxy.

Throughout the history of the church there have been many seasons when Satan infiltrates the biblical integrity of the Church through sinful philosophies and/or doctrines in order to weaken it. When the church is spiritually minded, the response --historically, has been to come together in unity and push back against the error, oftentimes by means of developing a creed or statement of beliefs based on the scriptures teaching about a given subject. If you're familiar with church history you might know how this has played out.

## Examples:

Going back as far as the 4th century a.d. there was a guy named Arius with widespread influence running around denying the deity of Jesus Christ. The Council of Nicea brought together the biblical data to form a creedal statement defending the account of Christ's deity. There have been numerous public declarations by the church throughout the centuries serving the very same purpose.

e.g:

1. FIRST COUNCIL OF NICAEA (325) – Affirmed the deity of Christ. The false doctrine of Arianism was rejected.
2. FIRST COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (381) – Clarified the nature of the Holy Spirit.
3. COUNCIL OF EPHESUS (431) – Clarified the nature of Christ's personhood. The false teaching of Nestorianism was repudiated.
4. COUNCIL OF CHALCEDON (451) – Clarified the teaching concerning Christ's nature and person, including the “hypostatic union.”
5. SECOND COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE (553) – Confirmed the conclusions of the first four councils.<sup>1</sup>

Remember, there was a council in Acts 15 to discuss the place of certain elements of the Mosaic Law in a new covenant context.

Jumping forward 1300 yrs, a lot transpired in the early 19th - 20th century that had a profound impact on the way people think, and the

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1. Two great church history resources:

-- Heresies: Heresy and Orthodoxy in the History of the Church by Harold O. J. Brown  
-- 2,000 Years of Christ's Power Vol. 1: The Age of the Early Church Fathers by Nick Needham

church of Jesus Christ has been girding itself against it until this very day.

In the middle 1800's began the rise and influence of Darwinism, which is probably the single most influential non-religious worldview today. From Darwinism spawned Marxism, and the psychology/psychiatry movement, which was largely propagated by Sigmund Freud.

This was the secular side of things.

On the religious landscape, what 2 aberrant groups began in the 1800's? Mormonism and JW's, along with many others. Then cults starting springing up from that point on.

But, where sin abounds grace abounds, as these things brought their influence across the USA and abroad, the Lord raised up a standard against it.

-- To answer the cults and false sectarian religions God used the likes of Dr. Walter Martin-- who basically pioneered what we call the **apologetics ministry today**. "Kingdom of the Cults."

-- Answering the pseudo-science that spawned from Darwinism was Dr. Henry Morris, who pretty much pioneered the **creation science movement**.

-- Answering the Freudian falsehood of psychology/psychiatry the Lord raised up Dr. Jay Adams, who basically pioneered the modern **Christian counseling movement**.

We should all be very grateful for this because these biblical movements against spiritual error has opened the doors for the countless resources we have today. We are truly riding on the shoulders of giants.

In 2018 when the secular social justice started to influence the church, Evangelicals came together to form the Dallas Statement to correct the unbiblical errors of the social justice movement.

A few years ago there was the Nashville Statement (which I signed) which set forth biblical opposition to LGBT sexuality, same-sex marriage, polygamy, polyamory, adultery, and fornication.

These type of statements have been common place throughout the churches history... and it's always good to review why we believe what we believe.

*Please*, be interested in this kind of material. It's all part of...

*NAU 2 Tim. 2:15 Be (ing) diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.*

On to our statement of beliefs.

I want to begin where we ended last week on the subject of **Sin**. This will make a fitting entry point for the next subject-- **SALVATION**

**-- All mankind are sinners, inherently from Adam and individually (by choice), and are therefore subject to God's wrath and condemnation.**

(1 Kings 8:46; Isaiah 53:6; Psalm 51:5; 116:11; Proverbs 16:5; John 3:16–18, 12:48; Romans 3:23; 5:12-19 ; Ephesians 2:3 )

*NAU Rom. 5:12 ¶ Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned --*

*NAU Rom. 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

*NAU Eph. 2:3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.*

## Salvation

**-- Freedom from the penalty and power of sin is available to man only through the sacrificial death and shed blood of Jesus Christ and his complete and bodily resurrection from the dead.**

(Luke 24:39; John 8:12, 8:36, 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 8:1-8; 1 Timothy 2:3-6; Hebrews 10:9-14; 1 Peter 1:3)

*NAU Jn. 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.*

*NAU Acts 4:12 "And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."*

*NAU Jn. 8:12 Then Jesus again spoke to them, saying, "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the Light of life."*

*NAU 1 Pet. 1:3 ¶ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,*

**-- Salvation is by God's grace alone, a gift received by faith alone in Christ alone.**

(Romans 3:24-26; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:3-7)

*NAU Tit. 3:3 For we also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.*

<sup>4</sup> *But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared,*

<sup>5</sup> *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit,*

<sup>6</sup> *whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,*

<sup>7</sup> *so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

**-- The one who is born of God has repented, recognized the death of Christ as full payment for sin, and received the risen Christ as Savior and Lord.**

(John 1:12–13; Acts 3:19, 16:31, 17:30–31, 20:21; Romans 8:5-11; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20–21, 6:15-16; Ephesians 2:10; Titus 3:8; 1 John 3:9)

*NAU 2 Cor. 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

*NAU Gal. 6:15 For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation.*

<sup>16</sup> *And those who will walk by this rule, peace and mercy be upon them, and upon the Israel of God.*

*NAU Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*

Another good support verse for the "new creation" aspect of salvation.

*NAU 1 Jn. 5:1 ¶ Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him.*

<sup>2</sup> *By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments.*

<sup>3</sup> *For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*

<sup>4</sup> *For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.*

<sup>5</sup> *Who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Next subject.

## Church

-- The word “church” is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, which is defined as “an assembly” or “called-out ones.” The church was born on the day of Pentecost, having been purchased by the crucified and risen Christ, who ascended to the right hand of the Father, who “put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church.”

(Matt 16:15-19; Eph. 1:20-23; Acts 2:1–21, 38–47; 20:28; Col. 3:1–4)

Jesus & Peter had a conversation that ended up being a foundational declaration about the Church (cap C).

*NAU Matt. 16:15 He (Jesus) said to them (disciples), "But who do you say that I am?"*

*<sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."*

*<sup>17</sup> And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.*

*<sup>18</sup> "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock (Peters declaration) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.*

<sup>19</sup> "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."

Beginning with Peter & the other apostles this represents the authority Christ has given the church.

There's way too much in this dialog for me to cover today.

**-- The New Testament pictures the church as made up of those who have been delivered out of the kingdom of darkness and transferred to the kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13).**

(Acts 20:28; Rom. 1:7, 8:28-30; 1 Cor. 1:2; Gal. 1:13; Eph. 1:11; 1 Thess 1:8-10; 2 Tim. 1:9)

Good example of this:

*NAU 1 Thess. 1:8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.*

*9 For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God,*

*<sup>10</sup> and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.*

**-- Biblically, we may regard the church in two ways, as the universal church or as the local church.**

**The universal church includes all genuine Christians throughout the entirety of the church age. They are members of “the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven” (Heb. 12:23), having been declared righteous because their sins have been washed away by the blood of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:5). All**

**true believers throughout church history—both those alive today and those already in heaven—make up the universal church.**

**-- The New Testament instructs those who are part of the universal church in every generation, scattered throughout the world, to meet together regularly in local assemblies. Such was clearly the pattern of the early church.**

In keeping with that paradigm, the author of Hebrews offers this directive:

*NAU Heb. 10:24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,*

*25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another ; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.*

(Heb. 10:24–25; Acts 14:23, 27; 20:17, 28; 1 Cor. 11:18–20; Gal. 1:2; 1 Thess. 1:1)

This leads into the next statement.

**-- The local church is sanctioned by God to equip believers by feeding them through the teaching of God's Word, leading them in corporate praise and worship, protecting them under the shepherding oversight of godly leaders, and providing them with opportunities to minister to one another through serving and the exercising of spiritual gifts.**

**-- It is through the ministry of the local church that Christians can receive the regular teaching, accountability, and encouragement necessary for them to stand firm in the faith they are called to proclaim. God has ordained the local church to provide the kind of environment where spiritual life can thrive as his people grow spiritually through the teaching of the Word.**

(Acts 2:42; 20:28; 1 Cor 12 & 14; Eph. 5:18–20; 1 Tim. 3:15; 4:13; Heb. 13:7, 15, 17; 1 Pet. 2:2–3; 4:10–11; 5:1–4)

*NAU Acts 2:42 They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*

*Acts 2:46 Day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,*

*<sup>47</sup> praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.*

*1 Tim. 3:15 ... I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.*

**Turn to-- Ephesians 4:1-16.** Here's the local church encapsulated in scripture.

*NAU Eph. 4:1 ¶ Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called,*

*<sup>2</sup> with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love,*

*<sup>3</sup> being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*

*<sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;*

*<sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism,*

*<sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.*

*<sup>7</sup> But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.*

*<sup>8</sup> Therefore it says, "WHEN HE ASCENDED ON HIGH, HE LED CAPTIVE A HOST OF CAPTIVES, AND HE GAVE GIFTS TO MEN."*

*<sup>9</sup> (Now this expression, "He ascended," what does it mean except that He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth?*

<sup>10</sup> *He who descended is Himself also He who ascended far above all the heavens, so that He might fill all things.)*

<sup>11</sup> *And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,*

<sup>12</sup> *for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;*

<sup>13</sup> *until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.*

<sup>14</sup> *As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;*

<sup>15</sup> *but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,*

<sup>16</sup> *from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.*

The biblical dynamic in the 2 statements we read a moment ago has become very challenging in the current media driven environment we are surrounded by. Many saints are primarily discipled online.

The local church becomes more of an optional choice because of the access people have to countless other ministries they can listen to or watch virtually without really ever plugging in and becoming a part of body-life. This is another one of those topics I may do a teaching on someday.

The presence of online resources can be a great blessing. It has served me very well for many years. But it can be a double-edged sword.

Online church *is not* participation in the local church, folks. You can't replace the local church with watching services online. There's too much that's lacking spiritually when church is a virtual experience rather than an in person one.

Finally, for the church.

**-- A church that is passionately pursuing the glory of God should have a strong emphasis on evangelism, both locally and around the world. The church's evangelistic commission is articulated by Jesus himself in Matthew 28:18–20.**

*Matt. 28:18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.*

*<sup>19</sup> "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,*

*<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

Last subject in our statement of beliefs.

## **Christ's Return**

Our coverage of Christ's return is going to be more detailed than what will end up on our statement of faith on the website. We're going to do the extended version. Since we're in Revelation, I believe the statements we look at right now will be a good primer for the even more detailed study in Revelation.

Some of this is a chronological sequence of end time events. Also, there are some items related to Eschatology that are not a measure of

orthodoxy in the strictest sense. For example, a person who does not hold to a pretribulation view of the rapture, or an Amillennial view of the Millennium, is not necessarily **unorthodox**.

However, it needs to also be said that most of what we're about to cover *is* the orthodox position on these statements of belief, as you'll see.

Most of it is pretty basic.

## **Christ's Return**

### **DEATH**

-- **The Bible teaches that physical death involves no loss of our immaterial consciousness (Revelation 6:9-11), that the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ, that there is a separation of soul and body, and that, for the redeemed, such separation will continue until the rapture, which initiates the first resurrection, when our soul and body will be reunited to be glorified forever with our Lord. Until that time, the souls of the redeemed in Christ remain in joyful fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 5:8).**

(Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-24; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:4-6; Philippians 3:21; 1 Corinthians 15:35-44, 50-54)

-- **There will be a bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.**

(John 6:39; Romans 8:10-11, 19-23; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Daniel 12:2; John 5:29; Revelation 20:13-15)

**The souls of the unsaved at death are kept under punishment until the second resurrection (Luke 16:19-26; Revelation 20:13-15), when the soul and the resurrection body will be united (John 5:28-29). They shall then appear at the**

**Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-15) and shall be cast into hell, the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41-46), cut off from the life of God forever.**

(Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15)

**-- The rapture of the church will precede the seven-year tribulation period, at which time the Lord Jesus Christ will translate His church from this earth (both living and those asleep) to meet Him in the air.**

(John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:11)

## **PBC**

**-- Immediately following the removal of the church from the earth (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) the righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:27; 12:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 16), and these judgments will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory to the earth.**

(Matthew 24:27-31; 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12)

**At that time the Old Testament and tribulation saints will be raised and the living will be judged (Daniel 12:2-3; Revelation 20:4-6). This period includes the seventieth week of Daniel's prophecy.**

(Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 24:15-31; 25:31-46)

**-- After the tribulation period, Christ will come with his saints to earth to occupy the throne of David (Matthew 25:31; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 1:10-11; 2:29-30) and establish His messianic kingdom for 1,000 years on the earth (Revelation 20:1-7). During this time the resurrected saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the earth.**

(Ezekiel 37:21-28; Daniel 7:17-22; Revelation 19:11-16)

**This reign will be preceded by the overthrow of the Antichrist and the False Prophet (cast alive into the lake of fire), and by the removal of Satan from the world.**

(Daniel 7:17-27; Revelation 20:1-7)

**-- This kingdom itself will be the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel (Isaiah 65:17-25; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Zechariah 8:1-17) to restore them to the land that they forfeited through their disobedience.**

(Deuteronomy 28:15-68)

**The result of their disobedience was that Israel was temporarily set aside (Matthew 21:43; Romans 11:1-26), but will again be awakened through repentance to enter into the land of blessing.**

(Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-32; Romans 11:25-29)

**-- This time of our Lord's reign will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, righteousness, and long life, and will be brought to an end with the release of Satan.**

(Isaiah 11; 65:17-25; Ezekiel 36:33-38; Revelation 20:7)

**-- Following the release of Satan after the 1,000-year reign of Christ (Revelation 20:7), Satan will deceive the nations of the earth and gather them to battle against the saints and the beloved city, at which time Satan and his army will be devoured by fire from heaven (Revelation 20:9).**

**Following this, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10), whereupon Christ, who is the Judge of all men (John 5:22), will resurrect and judge the great and small at the Great White Throne Judgment.**

**-- This resurrection of the unsaved dead to judgment will be a physical resurrection, whereupon receiving their judgment, they will be committed to an eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire.**

(Matthew 25:41; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:11-15)

**-- After the closing of the millennium, the temporary release of Satan, and the judgment of unbelievers (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:7-15), the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God, after which the elements of this earth are to be dissolved (2 Peter 3:10) and replaced with a new earth, wherein only righteousness dwells.**

(Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 20:15; 21:1-27; 22:1-21)

**-- Following this, the heavenly city will come down out of heaven (Revelation 21:2) and will be the dwelling place of the saints, where they will enjoy forever fellowship with God and one another.**

**Our Lord Jesus Christ, having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will then deliver up the kingdom to God the Father, that in all spheres the triune God may reign forever and ever. <sup>2</sup>**

(John 17:3; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Revelation 21-22)

**AΩ**

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2. Other Sources:

<https://answersingenesis.org/about/faith/>

<https://www.gracechurch.org/about/doctrinal-statement>

