

HARVEST COMMUNITY CHURCH

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

This church and the members thereof shall subscribe and adhere to the faith and doctrine set forth in the Holy Scriptures as follows:

Section 1. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES.

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed. (II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:20,21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12,13)

Section 2. THE TRINITY.

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:24; II Corinthians 13:14)

Section 3. THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST.

A. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:3,5)

B. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal physical resurrection from the dead. (Romans 3:24,25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3,5)

C. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate. (Acts 1:9,10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1,2)

Section 4. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8,12; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12,14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:12,14)

B. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (John 16:13; I John 2:27, 30; Ephesians 5:18)

Section 5. THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN.

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally

depraved, and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. (Genesis 1:26,27; Romans 3:22,23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3,12)

Section 6. SALVATION

A. We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.

B. Regeneration - We believe that in order to enjoy the benefit of Christ's death and to claim the gift of eternal life, we must be regenerated or born again. We believe that regeneration consists of giving new life to the believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit. The evidence of regeneration is the fruit of the Spirit shown forth in the life and conduct of the believer. (Ezekiel 36:26,27; John 3:3, 5-7; Titus 3:5,6; Romans 8:3-9 & 13-16; Ephesians 2:4,5; Galatians 5:22,23)

Section 7. BAPTISM.

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, which is a solemn and expressive emblem of the believer's faith in the Savior, crucified, buried and risen, and is a sacred engagement to walk henceforth in newness of life. (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:5; Acts 8:38; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Ephesians 4:5; Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41; 8:36,37; Acts 8:12; 10:47; 16:14,15; Acts 16:33,34; 18:8; I Corinthians 1:16; I Peter 3:21)

Section 8. THE LORD'S SUPPER.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is an institution of Christ, given to the church by which such as have been baptized and have continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and in fellowship, are to commemorate the dying love of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:22, 26; Luke 22:9,20; I Corinthians 10:16,17; 11:18-34; Acts 2:42; II Thessalonians 3:6; Acts 20:7)

Section 9. THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS.

A. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1; 8:38,39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5)

B. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13,14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

Section 10. THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER.

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (Romans 6:13; 8:12,13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9)

Section 11. SEPARATION.

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, and that separation from all religious apostasy and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded by God. (II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Corinthians 6:14; 7:1)

Section 12. MISSIONS.

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20)

Section 13. THE MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS.

A. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today, and that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established. (I Corinthians 12:14-21; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12)

B. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accordance with His own will, for the sick and afflicted. (John 15:7; I John 5:14-15)

Section 14. THE CHURCH.

A. We believe that the church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age. (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2)

B. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 12:27; 20:17; 28:32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

Section 15. THE LORD'S DAY.

We believe that the first day of the week, or the Lord's Day, is to be set apart for Christian fellowship, assembling together for worship, preaching, breaking of bread, prayer and those activities which will strengthen and edify the Church. (Matthew 28:20; John 20:1, 19; Hebrews 4:4, 10; Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10) "I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day"

Section 16. DISPENSATIONALISM.

We believe in the dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as "Hyper-Dispensationalism", such as that teaching which opposes the Lord's table or Water Baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age. (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; I Corinthians 11:23-26)

Section 17. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN.

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6,7; Isaiah 14:12,17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10)

Section 18. THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST.

We believe in that “Blessed Hope”, the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints to establish His millennial Kingdom. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; I Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10)

Section 19. THE ETERNAL STATE.

A. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Revelation 20:5, 6,12, 13)

B. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4,6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17)

C. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9: 43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Revelation 20:11-15)