

Lake Ridge Bible Church

Doctrinal Statement

Bible — Every word in the original manuscripts of the Bible is inspired of God and is without error (2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Matthew 5:17; Romans 3:4; Galatians 3:16). The entire Bible is the basis for the Holy Spirit's teaching ministry in faith and practice (John 16:13-15). We believe the Bible should be interpreted grammatically, contextually, and historically.

God — God is spirit; infinite; eternal; unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. Though there is only one God (Deuteronomy 6:4) sovereign over the universe (1 Chronicles 29:11-12), in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternal and coequal Persons (Matthew 28:19) — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the same in substance but distinct in subsistence (John 6:27; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3-4).

God the Father — God the Father has the specific role of Father to the nation Israel (Exodus 4:22), to the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 3:17), to all believers in Christ (Galatians 3:26), and, more generally, to all mankind (Acts 17:29). He is the initiator of the plan for the salvation of mankind (John 3:16; Ephesians 1:3-8), as well as for the overall Messianic role of Christ (Psalm 2:7-9; Ephesians 1:9-10).

God the Son — The eternal Son of God became a sinless man in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 1:1-3, 14; Isaiah 7:14; Luke 2:52). He was born supernaturally to the virgin Mary and was then and forever will be the God-man (1 Timothy 2:5), fulfilling all the Messianic prophecies of Scripture.

God the Holy Spirit — The Holy Spirit, the third member of the Godhead, convicts of sin (John 16:8-11), regenerates sinners (John 3:3-7, Titus 3:5), indwells believers (1 Corinthians 6:19), baptizes them into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13), seals them until the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30), and fills for godly living those yielded to God's purpose (Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 12:1-2, 8:14).

Angels, Demons, and Satan — Angels were created by God to be His servants (Jude 6; Hebrews 12:22). However, in eternity past many chose to rebel against God, following a leader we know as Satan. Satan and other fallen angels (demons) have been allowed by God to reside on earth until their final judgment (Isaiah 14:12-20; Ephesians 6:11-12; Matthew 13:38-39; Revelation 20:12).

Mankind — Mankind was created in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27), but in Adam's sin all subsequent mankind became tainted with sin (Romans 5:12). The result is that all people are sinners by nature and by practice, eternally condemned apart from the salvation and grace of God (Genesis 3:20-24; Romans 1:18-3:23, 6:23).

Salvation — Salvation from the eternal consequences of Adam's sin and our own sins comes by the unmerited grace of God and is received by faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-9). Christ died in the place of all sinners and rose again (Matthew 20:28; 1 John 2:2; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8) to reconcile holy God and sinful mankind (2 Corinthians 5:19) and to redeem mankind from the eternal consequences of the fall (Colossians 1:14, 20-22). However, Christ's death is only effective for those who believe (John 3:16-18). All true believers are eternally secure in Christ (John 10:28-30; 1 John 5:11-13).

Sanctification — Every believer has put on his account the righteousness of Christ at salvation (1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:21). However, this ultimate sanctification, to be fully realized only in heaven itself (1 John 3:1-3; Jude 24), may be progressively realized as the Christian grows spiritually (Romans 8:29; Galatians 4:19; Ephesians 4:13, 15; 2 Corinthians 3:18) by submitting to the Lordship of Christ (Romans 12:1-2) and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit in his life (Galatians 5:16, 22-23).

Church — The universal church is a spiritual organism composed of all believers in Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:16). It began at Pentecost (Acts 1:5, 11:15) and will continue being formed until Christ returns to gather the final members at the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). The local church is an organized group of believers voluntarily joined together to act on Christ's behalf and so to honor God (Galatians 6:10; 1 Thessalonians 2:12).

Spiritual Gifts — The Spirit of God sovereignly gives personal spiritual gifts for the purpose of enabling members of the Body of Christ to function effectively (1 Peter 4:10-11).

Christian Responsibility — Christians are responsible to live a life that is under the control of the Holy Spirit so that their honest relationships with others will be an example to believers and a testimony to unbelievers (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:13-2:10).

Ordinances — The two ordinances to be practiced by the church are believer's baptism by immersion (Matthew 28:18) and communion for all believers (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Final Events — The imminent coming of Christ to rapture the living members of the church and to resurrect those dead in Christ (2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) will immediately precede the seven-year tribulation (Revelation 5-19). The physical return of Christ to the earth (2 Peter 3:3-10; Revelation 22:7) will end the tribulation period and will usher in His 1000-year reign over the earth (Revelation 20:1-6). His reign is followed by the final judgment of mankind, Satan, and the fallen angels (Revelation 20:7-15), the creation of a new heaven and a new earth, and the ushering in of the eternal joys of heaven for all those who have ever believed in God for salvation (Revelation 21:1-22:5).