

Athena Baptist Church

Doctrinal Statement

Adopted November 21, 2021

Fully aware that doctrinal statements are a fallible human work, the leadership of Athena Baptist Church believes that doctrinal confessions are nonetheless important to a church's spiritual health. This document is presented for the purpose of:

1. Specifying the teaching positions regarding major biblical doctrine.
2. Provide a theological framework for curriculum.
3. Protect Athena Baptist Church from theological drift.

Scriptures

We believe the Bible is God's absolute, objective truth for all people for all times.¹ The Bible is without error in concept or detail in the original writings.² The Bible is breathed out in its entirety by God, divinely preserved, and, therefore, trustworthy.³ We believe the Holy Spirit superintended human authors so that, through their individual personalities and literary styles, they composed and recorded God's Word.⁴ The Bible is God's written revelation complete in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments.⁵ The Bible is the supreme authority in all matters to which it speaks and is sufficient for life, conduct, and practice – understandable by every believer.⁶ We believe Scripture must be understood through the literal, contextual, grammatical, and historical method of interpretation, and applied under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.⁷

God

We believe in the one personal, transcendent,* immanent,* living God – the creator, sustainer, and sovereign ruler of all things.⁸ He is self-existent, immutable, and works all things according to the counsel of His will in order to bring glory to Himself.⁹ God's foreknowledge is exhaustive and not dependent on human decisions and actions.¹⁰ He eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.¹¹ They execute distinct but harmonious roles in creation, providence, redemption, and consummation.*¹² They are equal in nature, attributes, and perfections.¹³ The holy triune God is worthy of our worship, confidence, and obedience.¹⁴

The Father

We believe in God the Father: one in essence with the Son and the Spirit.¹⁵ He is an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in all His attributes.¹⁶ He is the creator, sustainer, and sovereign ruler of all things through His Son Jesus Christ.¹⁷ We believe that He concerns Himself perfectly in the affairs of humanity.¹⁸ His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with the redeemed.¹⁹ Everything He does is in accordance with His perfect will, though His sovereignty does not eliminate or minimize human responsibility.²⁰ The Father adopts as His own, through Jesus Christ, all those He calls to Himself.²¹

The Son

We believe in God the Son: one in essence with the Father and the Spirit.²² He is the one and only eternal Son of God, the preeminent revelation of God.²³ At the right time He emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-slave.²⁴ He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as Jesus, the Christ – fully God and fully man.²⁵ We believe in His sinless life, His voluntary

submission to His Father's will that culminated in His substitutionary death on the cross, His burial, and His bodily resurrection.²⁶ He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.²⁷ His death on the cross atoned for our sin and satisfied the righteous demands of the holy God.²⁸ He is the Mediator between God and man.²⁹ He is Prophet, Priest, and King; the Head and Savior of His Church; the Heir of all things; the Judge of all the world; and the exact representation of God the Father.³⁰ We believe in the personal return of Christ for His Church and in the establishment of His Kingdom on earth.³¹

The Holy Spirit

We believe in God the Holy Spirit: one in essence with the Father and Son.³² He was sent by God the Father and God the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.³³ The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ and implements Christ's work of redemption and baptism.³⁴ He regenerates, baptizes, seals, gifts, and indwells all believers at conversion, progressively sanctifying, and securing them in Christ forever.³⁵ The Spirit fills, * leads, comforts, and intercedes for believers, empowering them for godly living and service.³⁶ His presence is evident by the fruit of the Spirit and the building up of believers into the body of Christ, the Church.³⁷

Humanity

We believe that humanity, male and female, is sacred in God's eyes and was uniquely created by Him, in His image and for His glory, to exercise dominion over the earth and to enjoy a relationship with Him forever.³⁸ Every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life.³⁹ After sin entered the world, humans still possess the image of God, though tainted by sin.⁴⁰ God's will for humanity is that they love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love their neighbors as themselves.⁴¹

Family

In God's design for humanity, life begins at fertilization. *⁴² He established the institution of family through the union of one man and one woman in a marriage covenant for life.⁴³ His design for the continuance of humanity is through the procreation and discipleship of children within the marriage union.⁴⁴ Marriage is to be the model of the relationship between Jesus Christ and His Church.⁴⁵

Sin

We believe that sin is any action, inaction, or attitude that is contrary to the nature or Word of God, which constitutes a rejection of His authority, resulting in alienation from God.⁴⁶ Sin was imputed to humanity when Adam disobeyed God.⁴⁷ As a result of the one sin of Adam, the entire human race is separated from relationship with God, spiritually dead, and therefore in a fallen state. Being sinners by nature and choice and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition, humanity is in need of salvation.⁴⁸

Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift of God, received by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.⁴⁹ Salvation is motivated by the love of God demonstrated through His sovereign election* in Christ, purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross, and received by faith apart from any human merit, works, or ritual.⁵⁰ Regeneration is effected through the work of the Holy Spirit in God's elect.⁵¹ All who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are forgiven of all their sins, justified in God's sight by the merit of Christ's righteousness, adopted into His family, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and have equal access to God.⁵²

As a result, the progressive sanctifying work of salvation leads to a newness of life that is evidenced by righteous living, good works, and biblical social concern, or God's corrective discipline.⁵³ The consummation of salvation is that those who have accepted God's gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ shall be resurrected and glorified.⁵⁴ They shall receive their inheritance in the Kingdom of their Father, whom they shall see and enjoy throughout the ages.⁵⁵

Church

We believe that the New Testament Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit since the day of Pentecost following Christ's resurrection.⁵⁶ We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of Christ, of which He is the Head.⁵⁷ We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies in which believers are in a covenant relationship.⁵⁸ Biblically that relationship is expressed corporately through hearing the Word of God proclaimed, engaging in worship, practicing the two ordinances of believer's baptism by immersion* and the Lord's Supper, building up each other's faith, holding each other accountable through biblical love and discipline, and engaging in local and world evangelization.⁵⁹ Biblically designated officers* must meet the biblical qualifications for their office* and submit to the headship of Christ, emulating His servant leadership.⁶⁰ We believe the function of eldering is reserved for biblically qualified males.⁶¹ The local church is to choose, submit to, and support those who function as elders.*⁶²

Angels

We believe God created angels as spirit-beings possessing power and intellect, to worship and serve Him and to minister to believers.⁶³ Satan is a fallen angel who masquerades as an angel of light.⁶⁴ The scope of Satan's power is subject to God's will.⁶⁵ By subjecting Adam and Eve to temptation and sin, Satan has extended his rebellion against God, which he continues by deceit, seduction, and destruction.⁶⁶ While Satan and his demons are powerful, they are subject to Christ's authority and judgment.⁶⁷ Satan and his demons have been defeated for eternity by Jesus Christ through His death on the cross and victorious resurrection, sealing their everlasting damnation.⁶⁸ At the time of final judgment, they will be consigned to eternal wrath from God in the Lake of Fire.⁶⁹

Last Things

We believe in the sudden, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ and in His Millennial Kingdom. He will return with His saints from heaven with all power and great glory, on a day known only to God.⁷¹ We believe that those who have accepted God's gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, at the point of physical death, enter into God's eternal glory.⁷² They shall be resurrected and transformed to His body of glory, and they shall receive their inheritance of glory in the Kingdom of their Father.⁷³ They shall be in perfect union with Christ in the presence and service of God, whom they shall see and enjoy throughout the ages.⁷⁴ We believe that all unsaved persons, at the point of physical death, are destined for eternal damnation.⁷⁵ They will be resurrected, separated from the righteous, judged, and cast into an existence of eternal punishment where they will be tormented day and night forever and ever when death and Hades are cast into the Lake of Fire.⁷⁶ We believe it is imperative for the Church to work and wait in sober watchfulness, that it may be found ready at His coming.

Appendix: Glossary for words with * in the document:

Baptism/Believer's baptism by immersion: Baptism is a visible, public, declaration of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and is symbolized by immersion. Only regenerated believers are proper candidates for baptism.

Consummation: The hope of glory; the bringing to completion of all things in this present age.

Elder: The spiritual leadership function borne corporately by mature men who hold various offices. These are men who manifest the biblical qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. They shepherd God's church through feeding, leading, guiding, nurturing, and administrating the church. Their express purpose is to discern the mind of Christ and lead the church in following Christ's will.

Vocational and Lay Elders: Vocational elders are paid by the church so that they may not be encumbered by seeking other employment; accordingly, they are able to serve the church in a vocational capacity. Lay elders are fully qualified, according to the criteria stated in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, to be recognized elders in a local church, but these carry out specific divine callings and employment outside of the church, as witnesses to Christ's gospel in the world, while also serving as elders within a local church.

Election: God's choice, before the foundation of the world, of those whom God will save from sin and make holy and blameless in His sight (Ephesians 1:4).

Fertilization: The process of union of two gametes (egg and sperm, each containing a single copy of each chromosome), whereby the somatic chromosome number is restored (fertilized egg - containing two copies of each chromosome) and the development of a new individual is initiated, i.e., the production of an embryo, *regardless of location* (fallopian tubes, uterus, or Petri dish) - including cloning (somatic nuclear cell transfer). Scientifically speaking, then, the development of a new individual is initiated at the point of fertilization, when the somatic chromosome number is restored, thereby making a diploid fertilized egg (embryo).

Fills: To be controlled by the Holy Spirit; a moment by moment repeatable action, something commanded of every believer.

Immanent: God is actively involved within His creation and will be intimately involved in its consummation.

Offices/Officers: The Bible identifies at least two offices: Overseer and Deacon (1 Timothy 3). Some recognize the office of Deaconess. These officers must meet the biblical qualifications for their office.

Transcendent: Surpassing others; preeminent or supreme; existing apart from the material universe.

Notes

- 1 2 Samuel 7:28; Psalm 25:10; 33:4; 119:160; John 17:17; Titus 1:2-3
- 2 John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16
- 3 Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21
- 4 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 2 Peter 1:20-21
- 5 Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; 1 Corinthians 14:37; Galatians 1:11-12; Revelation 22:18-19
- 6 Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 5:17-19; Acts 17:11; 1 Corinthians 14:17, 37; 2 Timothy 3:15-17
- 7 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 2 Corinthians 3:14-16; 2 Peter 1:20
- 8 Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 83:18; 139:1, 7-10; Isaiah 6:1; 33:10; 40:22; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 28:18-20; Hebrews 3:4; James 2:19
- 9 Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; Numbers 23:19; Psalm 19:1; 33:9-10; 102:26-27; Psalm 104; Isaiah 14:24; Malachi 3:6; Romans 8:28; Ephesians 1:11; James 1:17
- 10 Romans 8:29-30; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-17; 147:5; John 6:64; Isaiah 40:13
- 11 Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:5-6
- 12 Genesis 1:1-2; Job 26:13; Psalm 104; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22; John 1:3; 5:17; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; Ephesians 2:18; Colossians 1:16-17
- 13 John 10:30; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6
- 14 Isaiah 6:3; Jeremiah 2:12-13; Mark 12:30; Revelation 4:11
- 15 Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 8:6
- 16 Exodus 3:14; John 4:24; 14:7
- 17 Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 104; Acts 17:28; Colossians 1:17
- 18 Psalm 8:4-6; Matthew 5:45; 6:26-32; 10:29-31
- 19 Matthew 6:1, 4; 10:20; John 20:17, 21; 17:1; Ephesians 1:2-3; Colossians 1:2-3
- 20 Romans 1:18-20; 8:29; Colossians 1:10
- 21 John 6:44; Romans 8:23; Ephesians 1:5
- 22 Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14
- 23 John 1:1; 8:58; Philippians 2:5-6; Revelation 1:8
- 24 Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:6-7

- 25 Matthew 1:20; 9:2; 12:8; Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 14; 8:58; 10:30; 14:7; Romans 9:5; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:3
- 26 Luke 19:10; Hebrews 4:15
- 27 Acts 1:9; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1
- 28 Isaiah 53:4-12; Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Hebrews 9:13-15; 1 John 2:2; 4:10
- 29 John 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:14; 12:24, 1 Timothy 2:5
- 30 Psalm 2:6; Acts 3:22-23; Romans 10:9-11; Hebrews 1:3, 8; 4:14; 8:2-5
- 31 Psalm 2:6; Zechariah 14:4, 16; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17; Revelation 11:15; 20:4
- 32 John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17
- 33 John 16:8-11
- 34 John 3:5; 16:14; Acts 1:5; Romans 8:2-16; 1 Corinthians 12:13
- 35 John 3:5; 14:17; Acts 19:5-6; Romans 11:29; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; 12:4-31; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; Philippians 1:6; 2:12-13; Hebrews 13:5; Jude 24-25
- 36 Exodus 31:3; 1 Samuel 16:13; Joel 2:28-29; John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:17-18; 4:31; 6:5; 9:31; Romans 8:26; Ephesians 5:18
- 37 Romans 5:5; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 2:22; 3:14-21; 1 John 5:4
- 38 Genesis 1:26-31; 2:7, 22; 5:1-2; 9:6; Psalm 100:3; 119:73; Isaiah 43:7; 45:12; Acts 17:26; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9
- 39 Ecclesiastes 3:17; 12:14; Jeremiah 17:10; Romans 1:20; 3:19; Hebrews 4:13; 9:27; Revelation 20:11-13
- 40 Genesis 5:1; 9:6; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:10-18, 23; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9
- 41 Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:30-31; Romans 13:8-10
- 42 Psalm 51:5; 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:31, 34-36, 41, 44
- 43 Genesis 2:23-24; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Timothy 3:2
- 44 Genesis 1:27-28; 9:1
- 45 Ephesians 5:22-32
- 46 Leviticus 4:27; Matthew 5:28; James 4:17
- 47 Romans 5:12, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22
- 48 Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; 5:12-21; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:22
- 49 Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24, 28; 1 Corinthians 3:5-7; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:5, 8

- 50 John 6:44; Acts 13:48; Romans 4:4-5; 6:23; 8:29-30; 11:5-6; Galatians 1:15; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:8-9; Philippians 3:7-9; 2 Timothy 1:8-9; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 John 4:10
- 51 John 1:13; 3:3, 5-8; Acts 11:18; Romans 5:5; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 7:10-11; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:13; Titus 3:5-7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 John 4:7
- 52 Acts 10:43; 13:39; Romans 1:15-17; 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 5:1-2, 9, 11, 17, 19, 21; 8:1; 10:9; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 2:13-14; Titus 3:5-7
- 53 Acts 11:29; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:21; 7:1; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 5:26-27; Philippians 2:12-13; 3:12-16; Colossians 1:28-29; 3:5-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:3; Hebrews 12:7-11, 14; 2 Peter 1:3, 5-8; 3:18
- 54 John 5:25-29; Acts 24:14-15; Romans 8:17; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; 1 John 2:25; Revelation 20:5-6
- 55 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 21:6-7; 22:3-5
- 56 Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:27; 2 Corinthians 6:16
- 57 1 Corinthians 12:27; Colossians 1:18
- 58 1 Corinthians 12:27
- 59 Matthew 18:15-17; 28:19-20; Mark 16:16; John 3:22; 4:1-2; Acts 2:38, 41-42, 47; 8:12, 36-39; 16:32-34; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25; Ephesians 4:11-13
- 60 Matthew 20:25-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:7-9
- 61 Titus 1:5-6; 1 Peter 5:1-3
- 62 Acts 6:3-6; 15:22; Hebrews 13:17
- 63 Deuteronomy 6:13; 10:20; Matthew 4:10
- 64 Ezekiel 28:13-16; Luke 10:18; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Revelation 12:7-9
- 65 Job 1:6-7, 12; John 14:30; 16:11
- 66 Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18
- 67 Philippians 2:10; James 4:7; 1 Peter 3:22; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 2:12-14; 5:18; Revelation 20:10
- 68 John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Romans 16:20
- 69 Revelation 20:10
- 70 Mark 13:32-37; Titus 2:13; Revelation 20:2-6
- 71 Matthew 24:30, 36; 25:31; Mark 13:32-37; John 14:3; Titus 2:13
- 72 John 10:28; Romans 8:38-39; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Hebrews 9:27

- 73 Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; John 5:25-29; Acts 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 6:14; Philippians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 20:5-6; 21:6-7
- 74 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 22:3-5
- 75 Hebrews 9:27
- 76 Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:25-29; Acts 24:14-15; Revelation 14:10-11; 20:10; 21:8