

Theological Conviction Statement

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Part One: Theological Views

Please state briefly your personal views on the following subjects:

1. The Inspiration and Canonicity of Scripture

I believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments in its original autographs was divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit inerrantly and infallibly. Thus, it is the Word of God, and the extent of its inspiration is verbal and plenary, i.e., the entirety of inspiration includes both historical and doctrinal details, and extends to the very words the writers chose.

The canon of Scripture is determined and defined by God, and it is to be received by the church "because it is the Word of God" (WCF I:IV).

2. The Doctrine of the Trinity

There is one and only one God who eternally exists in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. And these three persons are of the same essence, "equal in power and glory" (WSC Q.6).

3. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ will bodily and visibly return from heaven to earth with great glory and majesty to judge the living and the dead and to introduce the new heavens and the new earth.

4. The Continuation of the Sign Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of revelation, i.e., tongues and prophecy have completely ceased.

5. The Five Points of Calvinism (with attention to the extent of the atonement)

I strongly affirm the doctrines of grace as being consistent with the biblical teaching of God's sovereignty in salvation. The extent of the atonement is limited to the elect only. That is, the atonement fully and actually accomplished redemption for the elect. I reject any teaching that asserts that the atonement only made salvation possible.

6. The Doctrine of the Church (including the proper recipients of the sacraments)

The true church, which is invisible, is made up of the whole number of God's elect from every age and nation. The visible church consists of those who profess Christ and their children, and these are the proper recipients of the sacrament of baptism. The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is the sacrament of covenant communion and is only to be taken by those who are baptized and profess faith in Christ.

7. The Role of Women in the Church (including the issue of their ordination to church office)

Women should be encouraged to exercise their gifts in the life and ministry of the church. However, the special offices of ordination, i.e. elder and deacon, is limited to qualified men as these offices are linked to the order of creation.

8. The Doctrine of Creation (including the view of the days Genesis one)

God created all things *ex nihilo* by the power of His word and according to His most holy will in the space of six days. I believe that Adam and Eve were God's unique creation in His own image and our first historical parents. I believe that the six days were literal.

Part Two: Exceptions to the Standards

I HAVE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THE STANDARDS

Please list any and all exceptions you take to the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Westminster Shorter and Larger Catechisms. When possible, format your statement as follows:

Section of the Confession or Catechism Number	Language to which you take exception	Explanation