

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 Bible to be the holy, inspired, inerrant Word of God. While general revelation leaves us without excuse, God at various times breathed his word into men to be written down for the edification of the church. The result of this inspiration is the 66 books of the old and New Testament, our only rule for faith and practice. This special revelation is necessary for salvation and is closed. There is, therefore, no further special revelation. The measure of the canon is not dependent on man or even the church, but on God himself.

2. The Doctrine of the Trinity

I believe in one God, eternally coexisting in three persons. We should neither confuse the 3 persons of the Trinity, nor divide or separate their essence from one another. The Godhead of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty co-eternal. Each person is distinct and uncreated. The Father is uncreated, the son uncreated, but eternally begotten of the Father. The Holy Spirit is uncreated, one with the Father and Son but proceeding from them. Any illustration to communicate these truths quickly descends into modalism, tri-theism, or partialism and should be rejected. It's best to stick to the Athanasian Creed and WCF II.3.

3. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ

I believe in the physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth on a day only the Father knows. On that day, the dead will be raised and they will stand with the living before the judgment seat of Christ. His coming will be personal, physical, visible, sudden, and gloriously triumphant. Those who are alive and in Christ on that day will be changed into their redeemed bodies. The unregenerate will be raised to final judgment and eternal damnation in the lake of fire, the redeemed to the New Earth and eternal bliss in the presence of Christ.

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

I believe that with the close of the canon and the apostolic age, those gifts commonly referred to as the "sign gifts" ceased. While God certainly continues to work miracles by his Holy Spirit, they are no longer done through the agency of men.

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

I fully embrace the teachings of the Canons of Dort, commonly called the five points of Calvinism, to represent the teachings of the Bible.

Total Depravity teaches us that man is hopelessly bound in sin. While we are not as bad as we could be, the stain of sin reaches to every part of our heart and to every one of our actions. So that even our good works are tainted by fowl motives and the evil of original sin inherited from our father Adam. This is not just a biological sinful inheritance, but also an imputation of guilt before God. Additionally, our depravity leaves us without hope of ever choosing to embrace Christ apart from divine intervention.

Because all of mankind lies in this “heap of perdition” only those who are elected by the good pleasure and secret counsel of God will ever turn to Him. Our election is not conditioned any goodness, any spark of divinity in us. It is not conditioned on us choosing him; it is unconditional, undeserved election.

To make these elect sinners fit to come to the father, Jesus died a substitutionary, vicarious death for the elect. It did not make salvation possible for some men; It actually accomplished it for His people.

Because those totally depraved sinners have been unconditionally chosen and definitely atoned for, the grace of God will not be wasted. When God opens the eyes of our hearts, we will respond to His grace. Because regeneration precedes faith and repentance, by the time we can see our hearts turning towards Christ, the work of regeneration has already taken place.

Since this work of regeneration precedes faith and repentance, our salvation and therefore our security are not dependent our faithfulness, they are dependent on Christ. We are eternally secure, but more than that, since true faith is born of the Holy Spirit our faith will persevere. This is also the basis of the sanctification. Our regeneration anticipates our growth.

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

The church is the invisible community of God’s elect from all time and in all places. Additionally, the church is the visibly made of all those true churches who confess Christ as Lord. The church is made up of all those who truly profess faith in Christ and their children. The church is the place of the Holy Spirit’s special presence, blessing the reading and preaching of the Word and the sacraments. Those sacraments are baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Baptism is to be administered to all new converts who have never been baptized and to the children of believers. The Lord’s Table on the other hand is for those who have made a credible profession of faith and have been admitted to the table by the Elders of a local church. I reject the position of paedocommunion.

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

When God created mankind, He created them male and female equally possessing his image but with different roles. The Bible’s view of gender roles is rooted in creation. It is not rooted simply in a culture. We believe that men and women were created equal, but given different roles and authority at creation. In accordance with the scriptures God has limited the ordained offices of the church to men. There are however many ways in which unordained men

and women can serve the church (mercy, helping widows and orphans, older women teaching younger women, etc.).

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

God created the world, all things that are seen and unseen, by the word of His mouth. He did not create using any prior material. He spoke and all things came into existence. He did this in six twenty-four hour days as described in Genesis 1 and 2. He created man unique among the creatures and gave him authority over the earth.

Part Two: 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
WCF 21.8, WLC 117, and WSC 60	“Observe an holy rest... from...recreations”	Whereas we were created to be beings who glorify and worship our creator God in our bodies and Whereas Christian fellowship is certainly a part of the worship of our triune God and Whereas the Sabbath is to remind us of the rest that is yet to come (Hebrews 4:9) and our anticipation of the grace of the Kingdom is meant to have a celebratory spirit, I believe that reasonable recreation on the Sabbath that celebrates the already/not yet kingdom and encourages Christian fellowship and familial love and does not exhaust the participants is a good and wholesome way to enjoy God’s Sabbath.