

First Presbyterian Church Youth & Children's Ministry Doctrinal Statement

There is only one true God who is the eternal King, Creator and Redeemer of all that is. He is perfectly holy, just, loving and truthful. He has revealed Himself to be eternally self-existent and one being in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is the inspired and only infallible and authoritative Word of God.

Humankind was created in the image of God to know and enjoy Him, yet we willfully rejected the Lordship and glory of God. Because of our sin, sickness, death and judgment entered the world and now creation experiences the effects and consequences of sin.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the one and only Son of God, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin, Mary, and is God's Anointed One, empowered by the Holy Spirit to inaugurate God's Kingdom on earth. He was crucified for our sins, died, was buried, resurrected and ascended into heaven, and is now alive today, in the presence of God the Father and in His people. He is "true God" and "true man."

Jesus Christ is the only way we enter into relationship with the Father and receive eternal life. Eternal life is not just a ticket to heaven, but a relationship where we know Him - here on earth and forever. We are saved by God's grace, through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Anyone can be restored to fellowship with God through repenting, believing and receiving Jesus as their Savior and Lord. The Holy Spirit, convicts, regenerates, justifies, and adopts us as we enter the Kingdom of God as His sons and daughters.

In the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live holy and minister super-naturally. The baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 1:4-8 and 2:4 is poured out on believers that they might have power to be witnesses.

The scriptures are clear that the gifts of the Spirit have not ceased, but rather we are to earnestly desire and stir up the gifts for the purpose of equipping the saints, the work of the ministry and the edifying of the body of Christ. We are to especially desire the gift of prophecy to encourage, comfort and call each other to the greatness and destiny God has created us for.

The victorious redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides freedom from the power of the enemy: sin, lies, sickness and torment. We are to go out and preach the Gospel, heal the sick, cast out demons, and give what we have (Matt. 10:7-9; Luke 9:1-3).

The Church consists of all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. He gave His church the ordinances of Baptism and Communion. The Church exists to carry on the ministry of Jesus Christ and further advance His kingdom by undoing the works of the enemy, preaching and living the good news of God's love, disciple the nations, baptizing and teaching them to love and obey God.

In the ever increasing government of God and in the Blessed Hope, which is the glorious visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ for His overcoming bride—His church. Heaven and hell are real places. There will be a resurrection of the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting death.

The Bible

- We believe that the Bible is the inspired, authoritative, living, eternally reliable Word of God equally in all parts and without error in its original manuscript, absolutely infallible, and our source of supreme revelation from God, superior to conscience and reason, though not contrary to reason; and it is therefore our infallible rule of faith and practice and necessary to our daily lives ([II Timothy 3:16-17](#); [I Peter 1:23-25](#); [Hebrews 4:12 NASB](#)).

The Godhead

- We believe in one God who has revealed Himself in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ([Romans 1:20 NASB](#)). The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are all co-eternal, all stand equally superior to time, free from the temporal distinctions of past and future (FATHER - [Deuteronomy 33:27](#); [Psalm 90:2](#); [Psalm 102:27](#); [I Timothy 1:17 NASB](#); SON - [John 1:1-2](#); [John 8:58](#); [Hebrews 1:8](#); [I John 1:2](#); [Revelation 1:8 NASB](#); SPIRIT - [Hebrews 9:14 NASB](#)).
- We believe in God the Father, creator of all things visible and invisible ([Colossians 1:15-16](#)).
- We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, who came into the world to reveal the Father, and was the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person; that Jesus Christ was the Creator of everything, for by Him all things were made. We further believe that in Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and that He was very God and very Man ([John 1:1-2](#) & [John 1:14](#); [I Timothy 3:16](#); [Acts 7:37-38](#)).
- We believe in Jesus Christ's pre-existence, incarnation, virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, substitutionary and atoning death, bodily resurrection, bodily ascension into heaven, exaltation, present rule at the right hand of God, coming, personal return in power and great glory, and in His everlasting Kingdom and dominion ([Acts 1:11](#); [Acts 3:19-21](#); [Daniel 7:14](#); [Revelation 20:4](#)). We acknowledge His Lordship -- that Jesus Christ is Lord over all things in heaven and on earth, and under the earth ([Philippians 2:9-10](#)).
- We believe in the Holy Spirit, His present ministry, His indwelling, His empowering, His impartation of gifts for today, and His transforming power in the lives of all believers ([I Corinthians 12:4-11](#), [Galatians 5:22-23](#)).

Man and Salvation

- We believe that man was created by a direct and immediate act of God ([Genesis 1:26-27](#); [Genesis 2:4](#)).
- We believe that man by transgression fell from a state of righteousness and holiness in which he was first created into total spiritual depravity, a state of death in trespasses and sins in which he is held as a slave of sin and an enemy of God. As such, he is unable to attain divine righteousness by his own efforts but must be

redeemed and delivered by the power of the gospel ([Romans 5:12-21](#); [I Corinthians 15:1-4](#)).

- We believe that repentance and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ are an integral part of God's work of justification of the believer. Through faith in the shed blood of Christ, he or she is justified and made a partaker in the death of Christ ([Romans 5:1](#), [Romans 5:9](#)).
- We believe that "it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast" ([Ephesians 2:8-9](#)). We further believe that the emphasis for a continuous walk in grace should be on demonstrating righteousness and purity of heart, believing in the keeping power of God, walking after the Spirit and not after the flesh, living a lifestyle that demonstrates the character, standards and convictions of Jesus Christ, and not being conformed to the world ([Jude 24](#); [Romans 8:25](#); [Galatians 5:16-25](#); [Romans 4:1-5](#); [Romans 12:1-2](#)).
- We believe that repentance is dependent upon the convicting action of the Holy Spirit in the lives of sinners and believers and their response. The conviction of the Holy Spirit, which often accompanies the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will result in the revelation of the sinfulness of self, which should lead to godly sorrow. Remorse, or worldly sorrow, is a feeling of deep regret, hopelessness or even despair. It does not lead to constructive change.
- On the other hand Godly sorrow produces repentance which causes us to turn away from sin and selfishness and to receive faith for change. Repentance is evidenced by an earnest desire to change. Repentance changes the way we feel and act about sin, self and God. Repentance is a total change of mind, will and emotions, ([II Corinthians 7:10](#); [Psalm 51](#); [Acts 11:18](#); [II Timothy 2:25](#); [Romans 1:18-32](#); [Matthew 9:12-13](#)).
- We believe that in the final judgment, which will accompany the return of Christ, every person will give an account to God of every aspect of this earthly life. The Judgment Seat of Christ (Bema Seat) is the judgment of believers in reference to rewards or lack thereof. The Great White Throne Judgment is the judgment of unbelievers who will be eternally separated from God and in torment ([I Corinthians 3:10-15](#); [II Corinthians 5:10](#); [Revelation 20:11-15](#)).

The Lord's Commands

- We believe in the Lord's supper and believer's baptism as acts of our obedience and a testimony of our faith ([Matthew 3:6](#); [Mark 16:16](#); [I Corinthians 11:23-29](#)).
- We believe that water baptism is necessary in obedient response to the command of Jesus. Baptism is to be performed only upon repentant believers in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).
- We believe in the baptism of the Holy Spirit according to [Acts 2:4](#); [Acts 10:46](#); [Acts 19:6](#). We hold that the real evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is one's response to the Word of God ([John 16:13](#)), a Christ-like life, showing forth Christ's character, and experiencing and manifesting the gifts and fruit of the Holy Spirit ([John 15:26](#); [John 16:14](#); [Galatians 5:22-23](#); [I Corinthians 12:4-11](#)).