

Last week we discussed the doctrine of inspiration. This week we are going to look at the doctrine of God (Father and Son) we will discuss the doctrine of the Holy Spirit next time.

Our Statement

God

We believe in one true living God who exists eternally in three Persons. They are equally perfect and they execute distinct yet harmonious offices in the work of creation, redemption, and providence.

Matthew 28.19-20, John 10.30, Ephesians 2.18, 1 Corinthians 8.6.

The Father

We believe in God, the Father, an eternal, infinite, and glorious Spirit, utterly holy, just, and righteous, full of power, wisdom, and love. We believe that He is concerned in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He has provided salvation for all men in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Psalm 83.18, Isaiah 44.6, 1 Timothy 1.17, Romans 11.33, 1 John 5.14-15

Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God manifested in the flesh. He is truly man and truly God. He was born of a virgin, dwelt sinlessly among men and died on the cross to redeem man from sin. He rose bodily from the grave, ascended unto the Father, and will one day return bodily with power and great glory.

John 1.1-3, John 1.14, John 10.30, Matthew 1.18-25, Galatians 4.4-5, 1 Corinthians 15.3-4, Revelation 22.20.

The FBFI Statement

Section 2. The Godhead: We believe in one God, an eternal Spirit existing in three distinct uncreated Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—yet One in essence and equal in every divine perfection and attribute (Dt 6.4; Mt 3.13-17; Mt 28.19; 2 Cor 13.14).

Section 3. Jesus Christ: We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son Who was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is truly God and truly Man, one Person with two natures, divine and human (Mt 1.18-20; Jn 1.1,2,14). We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all men according to the Scriptures, and all who receive Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood (2 Cor 15.3; 2 Cor 5.21; Rm 3.21-26; Heb 2.9; 1 Jn 2.2). We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His bodily ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there as High Priest for us (Mt 28.1-10; Acts 1.9; Heb 7.25-28). We believe in the imminent return of Christ prior to the inauguration of Daniel's seventieth week, at which time all believers in Christ will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and be kept from the promised period of divine wrath upon the Earth (Dan 9.24-27; 1 Thess 4.14-17; 1 Cor 15.51-53; 1 Thess 5.9; Rm 5.9).

Toronto Baptist Seminary Statement

II. Of the Trinity

We believe that there is (a) one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; (b) inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honour, confidence and love; (c) that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the work of redemption.

We believe (a) that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, (b) born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman and (c) that He is both the Son of God and God the Son.

Observations:

1. In general, each of these statements contains things to commend.
2. The Toronto Baptist statement offers the fullest description of the Trinity.
3. The FBFI statement offers the fullest description of the person and work of Jesus Christ.

4. Only our statement includes a separate description of the Father. The concepts are mostly touched on in the other two, but our statement spells this out most completely.
5. The FBFI statement includes the pre-tribulation rapture in its statement concerning the return of Jesus Christ for the saints “prior to the inauguration of Daniel’s seventieth week.”
6. Many heresies center on the nature of the Godhead and the person of Jesus Christ. For this reason it is important to have a robust Theology in your doctrinal statement.

Suggestion:

- We could improve our statement in two ways: 1) the wording of the clause on the Trinity needs some work and 2) each section could express more distinguishing details.

God

We believe in only one true God, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, an eternal Spirit existing in three distinct uncreated Persons—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—yet One in essence and equal in every divine perfection and attribute.

Deuteronomy 6.4, Matthew 3.13-17, 28.19-20, John 10.30, Ephesians 2.18, 1 Corinthians 8.6, 2 Corinthians 13.14

The Father

God the Father is utterly holy, just, and righteous, full of power, wisdom, and love. We believe that He is concerned in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He has provided salvation for all men in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Psalms 83.18, Isaiah 44.6, 1 Timothy 1.17, Romans 11.33, 1 John 5.14-15

Jesus Christ

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, God’s eternal Son Who was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is truly God and truly Man, one Person with two natures, divine and human, who never sinned while yet dwelling among men as a man.

Matthew 1.18-25, John 1.1-3, 14, 2 Corinthians 5.21.

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ died as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all men according to the Scriptures, and all who receive Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood.

Galatians 4.4-5, 1 Corinthians 15.3-4, 2 Corinthians 5.21, Romans 3.21-26, Hebrews 2.9, 1 John 2.2

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His bodily ascension into Heaven, and in His present life there as High Priest for us.

Matthew 28.1-10; Acts 1.9; Hebrews 7.25-28

We believe in the imminent return of Christ prior to the inauguration of Daniel's seventieth week, at which time all believers in Christ will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and be kept from the promised period of divine wrath upon the Earth.

Daniel 9.24-27, 1 Thessalonians 4.14-17, 5.9, 1 Corinthians 15.51-53, Romans 5.9, Revelation 3.10