

CREEDO

by Edward C. Schick

A short statement of my doctrinal beliefs

Revelation - I believe God reveals himself in general revelation through creation and special revelation through angels, appearances, visions, Scripture and His Son, Jesus Christ. Through special revelation we know the attributes of God, His historic working with man and His moral law for men today.

The Bible - I believe the 66 books of both the Old and New Testaments are inspired and are true and wholly trustworthy. They both sufficient and complete.

God - I believe that God is self-existent and eternal. All other beings are derived from Him and are dependent upon Him for original and continued existence. God exists eternally in three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each is distinct in person and function but the same in essence or nature. God is infinite, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, holy, righteous and just. He is also good, merciful and full of love. He knows and controls all events, past, present and future.

Christ - I believe Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God. He was sent to reveal to us the nature of God in flesh and to die a propitious death on behalf of sinful man. He co-existed with the Father and the Spirit from eternity and is one with the Father in the Godhead. Jesus Christ was fully human and fully divine in His incarnate, earthly existence, and remains the same in His present ascended state.

Holy Spirit - I believe the Holy Spirit is the third member of the trinity and is therefore one with the Father and the Son. He functions in a submissive role as an implementer for God and as a replacement for Christ after He left earth.

Creation - God created the universe, stars, planets and everything in them in seven normal, twenty-four hour days.

Angels - I believe angels were created by God and are dependent, created beings with personality. They serve as ministers of God wherein they carry out His will in the world. Although all angels were created good, a number of them willfully rebelled against God. The leader of this rebellion was Satan, chief of the angels. Their doom is certain, however, and their final destruction will be the eternal lake of fire.

Man - I believe God created man in His own image. He is a dependent, finite creature with a body, soul and spirit. Man's purpose is to glorify God and enjoy his relationship with God forever.

Sin - I believe man willfully chose to sin. Because of Adam's sin, man's God-given purpose has been severely distorted. Man still bears God's image in personality but is morally damaged to the point where he cannot please God. This damage can be progressively restored in those who are regenerated by the power of God. Eventually the full restoration of man will be in his eternal state in heaven.

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Salvation - I believe salvation is the gracious, and loving act of God whereby He restores sinful men to a right relationship to Himself on the basis of the Person, Word and Work of Jesus Christ. In saving men, God moves them from their condition of spiritual deadness in which they are at enmity with God, objects of His divine wrath, and places within them the newness of eternal life, blessing them with all spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. All those who are the elect of God and have received salvation cannot lose their salvation and will be preserved by God until glorification.

Spiritual Gifts - I believe the Holy Spirit gives gifts to individual believers for the edification of the whole body, the Church. It was the sovereign choice of the Holy Spirit to bestow upon men at certain times the ability to do miraculous works. The miraculous sign gifts of tongues, healing, and working of miracles were temporarily given to New Testament believers by the Spirit for the purpose of initiating the age of the New Covenant, and are no longer mediated by men today. The gift of prophecy has also been limited to the proclamation of the written revelation since the completion of the Canon.

The Church - I believe the Church is a body of people called out of the world and separated from sin by the power of God to faith in a crucified and risen Christ. The beginning of the Church was predicted by Christ and inaugurated by the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The New Testament also uses the term "church" to refer to the universal Church as well as local churches. New Testament local churches have the offices of pastor and deacon. The activities of the church include worship, baptism, Lord's Supper, witness, service and fellowship.

Israel and the Church - I believe the Church is distinct from the Old Testament nation of Israel, in that it is based on the person, words and works of Christ. Membership requires a spiritual qualification, not racial. It is based on the teachings of Christ and not specifically on the rudiments of Old Testament law. All and not some of its members are empowered and gifted by the Holy Spirit.

I believe in these Baptist Qualities

Biblical Authority (2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Autonomy of the Local Church (Titus 1:5)

Priesthood of All Believers (Rev. 1:5-6)

Two Ordinances: Water Baptism and Lord's Supper (Acts 2:41-42)

Individual Soul Liberty (Rom. 14:5)

Saved Church Membership (Acts 2:41, 47)

Two Offices: Pastor and Deacon (Phil. 1:1)

Separation of Church and State (Mt. 22:21)

End Times - I believe the Lord Jesus Christ will return physically to this earth, in His glorious, resurrected body. His coming includes the pre-tribulational rapture of the church, the tribulation period, Christ's second coming the millennium and the final judgment. I believe in a physical hell and a physical heaven. All people of all time will be physically resurrected and will dwell in heaven or hell for eternity.