

WHAT MY CHURCH BELIEVES.

DOCTRINE:

1. THE BIBLE:

1. HOW POPULAR IS THE BIBLE?
A. The Bible is the world's best-selling book.
2. WHY IS THE BIBLE SO POPULAR?
A. It meets the need of the human heart and is the only true answer to the questions of the soul and of eternity.
3. HOW OLD IS THE BIBLE?
A. The first book of the Bible was written about 1500 B.C. and the last book of the New Testament about A.D. 100. It is thus the oldest book in existence today.
4. HOW MANY AUTHORS OF THE BIBLE ARE THERE?
A. There are about 40 human authors of the Bible who wrote at different times and places without conferring together.
5. WHO IS THE REAL AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE?
A. The Holy Spirit of God is the divine Author of the Bible, for these holy men of God spoke as they were moved of the Holy Ghost. 2 Peter 1:21.
6. DID THE HOLY SPIRIT WRITE ANY BOOKS OTHER THAN THE ONES CONTAINED IN THE BIBLE?
A. No. The Bible is the only book in the world today that is wholly inspired of God. 2 Thim 3:16.
7. HOW DO WE KNOW THAT THE BIBLE IS INSPIRED LIKE NO OTHER BOOK?
A. We know that the Bible is inspired because of its perfect unity in spite of its great diversity. Its unity is organic, structural, historical, and doctrinal; and its diversity appears in many human authors, in the languages in which it was written in the different literary forms and styles used in its writings, and in the circumstances and time of the writing of each of its various books.
8. ARE THERE OTHER REASONS FOR BELIEVING THE BIBLE IS DIVINELY INSPIRED?
A. Yes. The high moral character of its writers and its teachings, its many remarkable prophecies which have been fulfilled, its age-long indestructibility and its demonstrated agreement with approved science.
9. IS EVERY WORD OF THE BIBLE INSPIRED?
A. Yes. Every word is inspired in the original manuscripts, but because of many copyings and translations a few slight inaccuracies have resulted in these translations. 1 Cor 2:13. 1 Thess 2:13.
10. ARE THESE INACCURACIES SERIOUS?
A. No. For no vital doctrine has been affected by these variations. Most of them are being eliminated by recent discoveries of older manuscripts.

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DOCTRINE:

11. GOD:

1. HOW DO WE KNOW THERE IS A GOD?

A. We know there is a God because all effects must have a cause. In creation all about us we see tremendous effects or phenomena. These effects must have a great Cause. We call this Cause God. A creator must be superior to the things which he creates. Cf. Psalm 19:1-16.

2. ARE THERE OTHER REASONS FOR BELIEVING THERE IS A GOD?

A. Yes. Someone must have deliberately designed all the laws and marvels of nature and life. There is no possibility that all these things could have come into existence by chance. Design implies a designer and must have a Designer. Cf. Job 38 and 39: Proverbs 8:22-30.

3. IS IT INSTINCTIVE IN MAN TO BELIEVE IN GOD?

A. Yes. All nations believe in some superior being or god and only a fool says, "There is no God." Cf. Psalm 14:1.

4. WHAT ARE THE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD?

A. The natural attributes of God are eternality, omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, and glory. Cf. Deut 33:27. Psalm 90:2. Daniel 4:35. Isaiah 46:9,10. Psalm 139:7-12. John 17:5.

5. NAME SOME OF HIS MORAL ATTRIBUTES.

A. Some of the moral attributes of God are love, faithfulness, impartiality, mercy, goodness, justice, holiness, truthfulness, long suffering, and humility. Cf. John 4:8. 1 Cor 1:9. 1 Peter 1:17. Psalm 103:17. Psalm 107:8. Rev 15:3. 1 Peter 1:15-16. Isaiah 25:1. Psalm 86:15. Isaiah 66: 1-2.

6. CAN ANYONE EXCEL GOD IN ANY OF THESE VIRTUES?

A. NO. The conception of God is the conception of a Being, a greater than whom cannot be conceived. Cf. Exodus 3:14. Jer 32:17,18,27.

7. IS THERE ONE GOD OR MANY?

A. There is only one God and He has existed from all eternity in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These Three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory. Deut 6:4. Deut 4: 35. 1 Cor 8:6. Cf. John 8:58. Hebrews 13:8 Rev 1:4: 4:8. "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all and in you all." Eph 4:4-6.

8. WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THESE THREE PERSONS?

A. The Father begat the Son, the Son is begotten of the Father; and the Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father and the Son. These three are equal with each other, for all have ascribed to them such names, attributes, works, and worship as are proper to God only. Cf. John 1:14, 16, 18: 8:42. 13:3. 15:26, 16:13-16, 27,28. Heb 9:14.

9. GOD'S INNER NATURE.

A. God is a Spirit. John 4:24.

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DOCTRINE:

111. MAN:

1. HOW WAS THE WORLD CREATED?
 - A. The world was created by the spoken Word of God. The worlds were framed by the Word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. Heb 11:3.
2. DID GOD CAUSE A SUBSTANCE OR THING TO EVOLVE INTO A PLANT OR AN ANIMAL?
 - A. There is no evidence in the fossils or rocks or in nature or life of any kind today that any species ever developed into another species.
3. IS THERE ANY SCRIPTURE THAT REFUTES THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION?
 - A. Yes. Genesis 1:11 and 24 say that God made every herb after its kind with its seed in itself and every living creature after his kind.
4. HOW WAS MAN CREATED?
 - A. Man was created in the likeness and image of God. Cf. Gen 1:26-27. Eph 4:24.
5. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE LIKENESS AND IMAGE OF GOD?
 - A. Man is tripartite (spirit, soul and body) like God is triune (Father, Son and Holy Spirit); His will is inviolate, like God's; and he, too, will endure forever. In his original creation, man was perfectly holy and blest.
6. WHAT WAS MAN'S RELATION TO GOD IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN?
 - A. Man was loyal and obedient to God and had communion with Him. Genesis 2:15. 3:8a.
7. WHAT WAS MAN'S RELATION TO THE REST OF GOD'S CREATION?
 - A. He was given dominion over all animals and over all of God's creation. Genesis 1:26.
8. WERE THERE ANY RESTRICTIONS PLACED UPON MAN IN THE GARDEN?
 - A. He was commanded not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:17.
9. WHY WAS HE GIVEN THIS RESTRICTION?
 - A. He was given this restriction to test his loyalty to God and to permit the operation of his free will. Man is a free moral agent. God offers, but man chooses.
10. DID MAN REMAIN TRUE TO GOD AND CHOOSE TO OBEY HIM?
 - A. There was unbroken communion between God and man until man's fall. Genesis 4:1-2.
11. THE THREEFOLD NATURE OF MAN:
BODY. Five senses--Sight, Smell, Hearing, Taste, Touch:
SOUL. Five senses--Imagination, Conscience, Memory, Reason and Affections.
SPIRIT: Five senses--Faith, Hope, Reverence, Prayer, Worship.