

Santa Rosa Bible Church

Doctrinal Statement

Section 1: Preamble

We believe the Bible as the ultimate authority over our lives. As a result, we trust that true Christian unity only comes about by holding to the whole counsel of God, rather than simply trying to find a few things upon which we can agree. At the same time, we do not claim to be perfect in this affirmation of our beliefs. Though not exhaustive, this statement represents the interpretation by the Elders and is our best understanding of the key teachings of the Bible. We believe these truths passionately and they are the grounds of our unity. As such, we expect our members to agree not to advance beliefs contrary to the following doctrinal statement.

Section 2: Statement

A. THE BIBLE

We teach that the Bible (39 Old Testament and 27 New Testament books) in the original writings is the verbally inspired word of God. It is complete, without error and infallible (fully trustworthy). It is the only revelation of God's Truth for the church age.

We teach that the Bible is an objective, propositional revelation and is the final authority in faith and practice. While there may be several applications of any given passage, there is but one true interpretation.

We teach the literal, historical, and grammatical interpretation of the Bible that affirms the belief that the opening chapters of Genesis present creation in six literal days.

We teach that throughout history God has chosen to administer His rule over mankind in distinct ways. This view teaches that each age is distinguished by additional revelation and new responsibilities for mankind in the rule of life.

Genesis 1:1-2:3; Exodus 20:8-11; Psalm 19:7; Luke 24:27, 44; John 5:39; 17:17; Acts 17:2-3; Romans 15:4; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:21

B. GOD

We teach that there is one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfection. Throughout time God's holy nature and moral absolutes remain unchanged.

Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3, Revelation 1:4-6

The Father

We teach that God the Father orders and disposes all things according to His own purpose and grace. As the only absolute and omnipotent Ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption.

Genesis 1:1-31; Psalm 103:19; 1 Corinthians 8:6; James 1:17-18; 1 Peter 1:3-5

The Son – Jesus Christ

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, was active in creation according to the will of the Father. He became man, without ceasing to be God. He was conceived by the Holy

Spirit and born of Mary, a virgin, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man or woman.

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and accomplished our redemption through His shed blood, His sacrificial death, and His glorious resurrection. His death was voluntary, vicarious, and substitutionary. It completely satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and wrath toward sin, while demonstrating His mysterious love and amazing grace toward sinners. His literal, physical resurrection from the dead made sure our justification. Through this the believing sinner is freed from the punishment, the penalty, the power, and one day the very presence of sin.

We teach that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of the Father where He exercises universal authority. As our High Priest He is the Head of the Church and the only mediator between God and mankind. He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate on our behalf. He is also preparing a place for us until He returns for us.

Isaiah 9:6-7; 53:1-12; Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1-18; 29; 3:16; 8:51-59; 20:28; Acts 2:22-24; Romans 3:25-26; 5:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:17-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 1:1-4; 4:15; 1 Peter 2:24-25; 1 John 2:1-2; Revelation 1:4-8; 22:20

The Holy Spirit

We teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, eternal in His being, possessing all the attributes of God. We recognize His activity in creation, the incarnation, the written revelation, and the work of salvation.

We teach that He convicts unbelievers concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.

We teach that at the moment of salvation, He acts upon the new believer resulting in regeneration. At that moment He indwells the believer, baptizes them into the body of Christ, gives them spiritual gift(s), and seals them for glorification.

We teach that He is the divine teacher who fills and sanctifies believers by guiding them into all truth, transforming them into the image of Christ, and empowering them to live in reliance on Him.

Genesis 1:2; John 3:5-7; 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15; Acts 5:1-4; Romans 8:9, 15-16, 26-30; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 12:4-7, 11-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Peter 1:20-21

C. ANGELS

Holy Angels

We teach that angels were created beings and are not to be worshiped. They were created to serve God and to worship Him.

Psalms 91:11-12; 148:2; Luke 2:9-14; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:6-7, 14; Revelation 5:11-14

Fallen Angels

We teach that Satan is the prince of this world, a created angel, and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator, by leading numerous angels with him in his fall, and by introducing sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve. He is the open and declared enemy of God and mankind, but he has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and he will be eternally punished in the lake of fire.

Genesis 3:1-15; Isaiah 14:12-17; Romans 16:20; Ephesians 2:1-2; Colossians 2:15; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 20:1-3, 10

D. MAN

We teach that mankind was created by God in a perfect and innocent state, distinctly male or female, bearing God's image. Thus, from conception, every life is valued by God and should likewise be valued by mankind. Humans were created with a rational nature, intelligence, free will, emotions, self-determination and moral responsibility to God.

We teach that God's intention in the creation of mankind was that each person should glorify God and enjoy Him forever. However, when Adam sinned death entered creation. In Adam's sin, all humans fall short of God's glory, inherit a sin nature, and are alienated from God. Every part of mankind is corrupted by sin. Each is spiritually dead in his sin and incapable of saving himself.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7, 15-25; Psalms 8; 14:1-3; 51:5; Isaiah 43:6-7; Jeremiah 17:9; John 3:3-6; Romans 3:10-19, 22-23; 5:12, 18-21; Ephesians 2:1-3

E. SALVATION

Justification

We teach that salvation is an act of God's unfathomable grace, where He declares righteous those who believe, repent of their sins, and trust in Jesus Christ. This act of grace is final and complete so that the believer is forever made right with God from the moment of saving faith. It is not based on the believer's own righteousness, but on the righteousness of Christ that is credited to them. Salvation is always by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Through Christ, believers are forgiven, freed from the guilt of sin, sealed by the Holy Spirit, kept by God's power, and are therefore secure in Christ forever. Saving faith is evidenced by a life of perseverance, obedience, and good works.

Genesis 15:6; Habakkuk 2:4; Romans 1:17; 3:21-26; 5:1, 9, 15-17; 8:29-30; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 2:15-21; Galatians 3:24-29

Sanctification

We teach that sanctification begins at the moment of salvation with the giving of spiritual life, and continues by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Sanctification is the work of God, through which believers grow in holiness and are conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit leads believers to grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, produces His fruit in their lives, and enables them to live in a way that glorifies God. While the elimination of sin in this life is not possible, the Holy Spirit does provide for victory over sin.

John 17:17; Romans 6:11-14; 8:1-4, 12-13; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 7:1; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 2:10; 4:17-24; 5:25-27; Philippians 1:6; Colossians 2:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 10:10, 14; 12:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; Titus 2:11-14; 1 John 3:1-10

Glorification

We teach that glorification is the promised completion of the believer's sanctification at the moment they meet Jesus at death or upon His glorious return.

John 17:20-24; Romans 8:18-23, 28-30; 1 Corinthians 15:51-58; Colossians 3:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Peter 1:3-5

F. INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED BY GOD

Family

We teach that marriage is first and foremost a divine institution and only secondarily a cultural and civil institution. From creation, God established marriage as a sacred, monogamous, and life-long covenant union of one man with one woman. Within this union, children would be raised in

an atmosphere of security and stability, where husband and wife, in their complementary roles, model love, respect, submission and commitment.

Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-6:4

Government

We teach that government is the institution established by God to provide civil order and protection for society. All governments are subject to God. Believers are to submit to their government unless such submission is in contradiction to the Bible.

Daniel 2:21; 4:17; Acts 5:27-32; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17

Church

We teach that the formation of the Church began on the Day of Pentecost and will be completed at the coming of Christ at the rapture. The Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism, being made up of all true believers of the church age.

We teach that the one supreme authority for the Church is Christ and that church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through Him. We teach that Christ directs the local church through its members but holds the Elders as responsible for and in authority over it. The local church, as an organization, is composed of both believers and unbelievers.

We teach that the purpose of the Church is to glorify God. The local church is God's primary tool for His work. The local church is to make disciples who are equipped for the work of the ministry, which is the obligation of all believers. This is done by instruction from the Bible, fellowship, mutual accountability, and spreading the gospel to the entire world.

We teach that spiritual gifts are a supernatural ability given to every believer to serve the church. They include such gifts as serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, and mercy.

We teach that there were two kinds of temporary gifts given to the early Church. The first was associated with the revelation of New Testament truth. They include such gifts as apostolic authority and prophetic revelation, and these ceased with the completion of the New Testament. The second was signs initially given to authenticate the message and ministry of the Apostles. They include tongues, interpretation of tongues, miracles, and healing. Once the authentication of God's message was established, the sign gifts became no longer normative. God does supernaturally act in accord with His sovereign will in response to the prayers of faith offered by His people.

We teach that the Church and Israel are separate. Thus the rules, conditions, and promises given to Israel and those given to the Church are distinct.

We teach that there are two ordinances of the church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism

We teach that baptism is by immersion and is for believers who have already been regenerated through salvation. Baptism is a public act of obedience to Christ and does not contribute to the saving process of the believer.

The Lord's Supper (Communion)

We teach that Communion is a memorial to Christ's atoning sacrifice, and is open to all believers. The elements used are not transformed, nor do they carry any special provision of grace.

Matthew 13:24-30; 16:16-18; 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:41-47, 8:12; Romans 9-11; 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 11:26; 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:3-16; 5:23; Colossians 1:18

G. LAST THINGS

Christ's Rapture of the Church

We teach that the Church will be raptured through the personal, imminent, bodily appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ before the seven-year tribulation. He will remove all believers from the world and His Church will be united with Him forever.

John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Christ's Second Coming

We teach that Jesus Christ will return with the Church, His Bride, after the tribulation to judge the world and establish His millennial kingdom on earth. He will then sit on the throne of David, fulfilling His covenant with Israel.

Isaiah 11:6-9; Daniel 9:26-27; Zechariah 14:4-11; Matthew 24:15-31; 25:31-46; Acts 15:16-17; Romans 8:19-23; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6

Death and Eternity

We teach the bodily resurrection of all mankind. Believers will be resurrected to eternal life, and the unbelievers to judgment and everlasting punishment.

We teach that at death, the souls of believers go to be with Christ, where in conscious joy they await the first resurrection. At the first resurrection the soul is united with a new body to be glorified forever with Christ.

We teach that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection. At the second resurrection the soul and body are reunited and shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment. They shall then be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting physical and conscious punishment.

Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 23:39-43; Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-22:5