

Three Strands Church – Doctrinal Statement

How can you live your life so authentically that there is no question about what you believe? There's only one way: Your beliefs must be held in such strong regard that everything you do and say is a result of those beliefs. You must look to those beliefs for every answer in life. Some people call it their creed; others call it dogma or position. We call it doctrine. Doctrine is the bedrock on which you build your belief system—a body or system of teachings relating to a particular subject. When you stick passionately to your doctrine, the result is an authentic life that leaves no question about what you believe.

What Three Strands Christian Church believes about God, about how He relates to us, and about how we relate to Him is foundational in our teachings. We wholeheartedly serve God and the people of His world, based soundly on the Bible. We live and die by these Words and believe they bring the only life worth living—one wholly committed to the King, Jesus Christ.

What We Believe

There is one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally and equally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They function differently but harmoniously in the amazing work of redemption.

[Deuteronomy 6:4](#) * [Matthew 5:48](#) * [Matthew 28:19](#) * [Isaiah 44:6](#)

God the Father:

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all present, all loving, and all wise. He is infinitely holy and deserving of all glory, honor, and devotion from His creation. He oversees His creation and knows every detail of every person from the beginning of time until eternity future.

[Genesis 1:1; 2:7](#) * [Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11; 20:1-3](#) * [Leviticus 22:2](#) * [Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6](#) * [1 Chronicles 29:10](#) * [Psalm 19:1-3](#) * [Isaiah 43:3, 15; 64:8](#) * [Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13](#) * [Matthew 6:9; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19](#) * [Mark 1:9-11](#) * [John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8](#) * [Acts 1:7](#) * [Romans 8:14-15](#) * [1 Corinthians 8:6](#) * [Galatians 4:6](#) * [Ephesians 4:6](#) * [Colossians 1:15](#) * [1 Timothy 1:17](#) * [Hebrews 11:6; 12:9](#) * [1 Peter 1:17](#) * [1 John 5:7](#) * [Revelation 4:11](#)

God the Son:

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He is the true God and the true Man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind, yet without sin. He died on the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood, apart from any good deed(s) of their own. He rose from the dead, on the third day, according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of God the Father on high as our Mediator and great High Priest. Jesus stands alone, as the one and only source of reconciliation between God and man. He will come again to judge the world, establish His kingdom, and complete His redemptive mission.

[Philippians 2:6-11](#) * [Luke 1:34-38](#) * [1 Peter 3:18](#) * [Hebrews 2:9](#) * [Romans 5:9](#) * [Acts 2:23-24](#) * [Hebrews 8:1](#) * [Genesis 18:1](#) * [Psalms 2:7](#) * [Psalm 110:1](#) * [Isaiah 7:14, 53](#) * [Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16, 27; 17:5; 26:64; 27; 28:1-6, 19](#) * [Mark 1:1; 3:11](#) * [Luke 4:41; 22:70; 24:46](#) * [John 1:1-18,29; 10:30, 38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16&28; 17:1-5&21-22; 20:1-20, 28](#) * [Acts 1:9; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20](#) * [Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 8:1-3, 34; 10:4](#) * [1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 24-28](#) * [2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9](#) * [Galatians 4:4-5](#) * [Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10](#) * [Philippians 2:5-11](#) * [Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9](#) * [1 Thessalonians 4:14-18](#)

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* 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16 * Titus 2:13-14 * Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15&24-28; 12:2; 13:8 * 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22 * 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9 * 2 John 7-9 * Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16

God the Spirit:

The Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son, sent to indwell, guide, teach, comfort, help and empower the believer. He convinces and convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He inspired godly men to write the Scriptures. He was active in the creation. He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He restrains Satan until God's purpose is fulfilled. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He spiritually baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character and gives each believer the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals and secures the believer until the day of final redemption.

John 14:15-18, 26 * John 16:7-14 * Acts 1:8 * John 16:7-11 * Matthew 28:19 * Hebrews 9:14 * Luke 1:35 * Genesis 1:1-3 * Acts 5:30-32 * John 3:5-6 * Ephesians 1:13-14 * Mark 1:8-12 * John 1:33 * Acts 11:16 * Luke 24:49 * Romans 8:9-16, 26-27 * 1 Corinthians 12:3-11, 28-30; 13:8-10; 14:1-40 * 2 Corinthians 12:12 * Hebrews 2:2-4 * Judges 14:6 * Job 26:13 * Psalms 51:11 * Isaiah 61:1-3 * Joel 2:28-32 * Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32 * Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12 * John 4:24; 15:26 * Acts 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6 * 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16 * Galatians 4:6 * Ephesians 4:30; 5:18 * 1 Thessalonians 5:19 * 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1 * 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16 * 2 Peter 1:21 * 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7 * Revelation 1:10; 22:17

The Bible:

The Bible, inerrant as originally given to men, was verbally inspired by God and is a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and the glory of His own name. It constitutes the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice. The Bible is completely true and trustworthy. It is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4 * Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19 * Joshua 8:34 * Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140 * Isaiah 34:16; 40:8 * Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32 * Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29 * Luke 21:33; 24:44-46 * John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17 * Romans 15:4; 16:25-26 * 2 Timothy 3:15-17 * Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12 * 1 Peter 1:25 * 2 Peter 1:19-21

Sin:

Sin literally means to “miss the mark.” In the Bible, sin is described as violating God's law and rebellion against God. All people have sinned and missed God's mark (standard). All people inherit sin from Adam (the first man) but they also choose to violate God's law on their own. Sin is not simply a matter of action, but also a matter of the heart. While different sinful actions incur different earthly consequences, God views the motives and feelings of the heart to be equally subject to judgment. All sin carries with it the consequence of death (physical and spiritual; temporal and eternal) and if you've sinned in one area, you are guilty of sinning in all areas.

The study of sin can leave you feeling depressed and hopeless. However, a true understanding of the Bible's teaching on sin is essential to understanding the amazing hope and gift that salvation truly is.

Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-24 * Joshua 1:18 * Matthew 5:21-48; 25:41-46 * Romans 3:23; 5:12; 6:23 * 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 * 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 * James 1:13-15; 2:10; 4:17 * 1 John 3:4

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Man:

Man was created in the image and likeness of God. He fell through willful disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. All mankind inherit Adams sin and thus are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. All men are totally depraved and are sinners by nature and by action. Therefore all men deserve condemnation and are without defense or excuse.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7 * Job 25:4-6 * Psalm 119:73 * Psalm 139:14 * Isaiah 43:7; 45:12 * Romans 1:18-32; 3:23; 5:12; 6:23 * 1 Corinthians 15:20–23 * Ephesians 2:1

Salvation:

Salvation is God's gracious act of redemption for fallen people. It has been provided through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God. Salvation cannot be earned. It's is completely and totally a gift from God and is undeserved by every member of the human race. In its broadest sense salvation includes justification, sanctification, and glorification.

- A. **Justification** is an act of God, whereby He imputes righteousness from Jesus onto those who repent and believe in Jesus as the Messiah and their only hope for rescue from God's wrath. This belief takes place at a specific moment in time and is a one-time event in the life of every Christ-follower. In a sense, God clothes you with Jesus' perfection and from that moment on, sees only His goodness when He looks at you. It is God declaring you to be guiltless even though you are completely guilty. Some refer to this moment as regeneration, new birth, or conversion.
- B. **Sanctification** is the experience, beginning at justification, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. This is an ongoing process that continues for the remainder of a justified person's life.
- C. **Glorification** is the future and final work of God upon Christians, where he transforms our mortal and imperfect physical bodies to the eternal and perfect physical bodies. It is the moment at which all true believers leave behind the struggle against sin, sickness, and death forever. It is when we experience the full inheritance that God has promised to all of His children.

Genesis 3:15 * Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8 * Isaiah 53 * Jonah 2:9 * Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 18:11; 27:22-28:6 * Mark 16:16 * Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32 * John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; 20:31 * Acts 1:8; 2:21, 38; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32 * Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3-25; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14 * 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 15:42-44 * 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 * Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15 * Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16 * Philippians 2:12-13 * Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1-4 * 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 * 2 Timothy 1:12 * Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7 * Hebrews 2:1-3; 2:14-18; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14 * James 2:14-26 * 1 Peter 1:2-23; 2:24 * 1 John 1:6-2:11 4:10 * Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5

Eternal Security:

If a person has truly repented and believed in God's plan for salvation, he/she will never lose that salvation. Once you have been declared righteous in God's sight through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, you are secure forever. God will hold you safely in the palm of His hand and never abandon you. This does not mean that the

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justified person will be perfect for the rest of their life. Just like salvation, eternal security is not based on the effort of humanity but rather on the goodness of God. You remain securely saved from the wrath to come because God, in His goodness, has promised it and not because you have earned it.

Psalms 34:22 * John 1:12; 3:36; 4:14; 5:24; 6:37, 47; 10:27-29 * Romans 3:24; 6:23; 8:34-39; 11:5-6; 11:29 * 1 Corinthians 3:10-15 * 2 Corinthians 1:22 * Galatians 3:29 * Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:8-10 * Philippians 1:6 * Hebrews 10:14 * 1 John 5:10-13 * Jude 1 * Revelation 3:5

Healing:

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age.

James 5:13–16 * (1 Corinthians 12; Ephesians 4; 1 Peter 4; Romans 12) * John 2:11; 5:36; 20:30-31 * Acts 2:22 * Matthew 13:54-58 * 2 Corinthians 12:7-12 * Hebrews 2:3-4 * Revelation 22:18 * Matthew 11:21-24 * Luke 4:13-14, 36-40; 6:17-19; 9:1; 10:1; 16:30-31 * Mark 1:34 * Romans 15:19 * Acts 13:6-13; 19:11-12 * James 4:7 * Ephesians 6:11 * 2 Corinthians 2:11 * 1 Peter 5:8-9 * 2 Timothy 2:22, 26 * Romans 16:20 * Matthew 8:5-8 * Mark 5:25-42; 7:31-35 * John 9:7 * Acts 3:1-15 * Philippians 2:25-27 * 2 Timothy 4:20 * 1 Timothy 5:23 * Psalm 119:67 * 2 Kings 5:15-27 Exodus 15:26

The Church:

The word Church is used generically to refer to both the Universal Church and the Local Church. However, both terms include only those people who are justified Christ-followers.

- A. **The Universal Church** is the worldwide collection of redeemed Christ-followers, throughout all ages, which make up what the Bible calls “the body of Christ.” Jesus Christ is the head (leader) of the body. The Church, and thus each individual member, has been called to represent Jesus Christ to the rest of the world by preaching the Gospel and making disciples.
- B. **The Local Church** is a group of like-minded and redeemed Christ-followers, who meet regularly to worship God together. They invite God to reveal His glory in a unique way that He has designed to only take place corporately. God has equipped each believer with specific gifts to be used in service to His great name and it is within the Local Church that these gifts are expressed. They function as a living community and demonstrate the love of Christ to the world through their love for each other. They are to pray for one another, encourage one another, help one another, and sharpen one another. Jesus Christ has established two ordinances for the local church: baptism and communion. God has established two offices within the church: elder and deacon (for complete description of these roles within the church, see the *Three Strands Constitution & Bylaws*).
 1. **Elder** (or pastor) – The primary role of an elder is to pray and teach the Word of God.
 2. **Deacon** – The primary role of a deacon is to serve the community of believers.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; 28:19-20 * Acts 2:41-47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:17-28 * Romans 1:7 * 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 11:2; 12 * Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:1-11, 21; 4:11; 5:22-32 * Philippians 1:1 * Colossians 1:18 * 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14 * Titus 1:5-9 * Hebrews 11:39-40 * 1 Peter 5:1-4 * Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3

Baptism:

The word baptism literally means “to immerse someone in water.” In relation to the church, baptism is an act of obedience symbolizing a changed life. Being immersed in the water is a symbol of your death to self and sin.

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Coming up out of the water is a symbol of your resurrection to a new life in Christ. It is a justified person, declaring to all those watching, that they now belong to Jesus Christ. That He is their Lord and they will follow Him for the rest of their days.

[Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20](#) * [Mark 1:9-11](#) * [Luke 3:21-22](#) * [John 3:23](#) * [Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33](#) * [Romans 6:3-5](#) * [Colossians 2:12](#)

Communion:

Communion (The Lord's Supper) is a symbol for Christ-followers who have been baptized. It is the eating of bread and the drinking of wine (or other suitable drink) to remember the ultimate sacrifice that our Savior made for our redemption. The bread symbolizes His body that was given for us and the wine symbolizes His blood that was shed to confirm a new covenant between God and his people. This commemoration of His death is to take place until He returns. Communion should always be preceded by thoughtful and prayerful self-examination of your heart.

[Matthew 26:26-30](#) * [Mark 14:22-26](#) * [Luke 22:19-20](#) * [Acts 2:41-42](#) * [1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 11:23-29](#)

Creation:

The Biblical account of creation is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct and immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process. Mankind was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life. God created the world "ex nihilo" or "out of nothing." All men/women are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, the first parents of the entire human race.

[Genesis 1-2](#) * [Psalm 19:1](#) * [Mark 10:6-9](#) * [John 1:1-3](#) * [Colossians 1:16](#) * [Hebrews 11:3](#) * [Revelation 4:11](#)

Heaven and Hell:

Heaven and hell are real places. Heaven is God's throne room while hell is a place of fiery torment that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. All those who choose to believe in themselves or some other god for salvation will be condemned to an eternity in hell. While all those who choose to believe in Jesus' death and resurrection for salvation will be given new life and everlasting joy in the presence of God.

[Isaiah 66:1](#) * [Matthew 25:41-46](#) * [John 14:2-3](#) * [Acts 7:49](#) * [I Corinthians 2:9; 15:22](#) * [2 Thessalonians 1:6-10](#) * [2 Peter 3:13](#) * [Revelation 14:9-12; 20:11-15; 21:1-27](#)

Angels/Demons/Satan

Angels are created beings whose primary purpose is that of worship and service to God. In scripture, they perform many different roles: messengers, ministers, choir members, musicians, protectors, soldiers, and carrying out various activities given to them by God.

Demons are fallen angels. At a moment in history, 1/3 of all angels chose to follow Satan and rebel against God. Some of them are roaming the earth and seeking to destroy the lives of people, while others are chained and confined until the final battle. They have no power over believers and are completely subject to the power and authority of Christ who now indwells all of His followers. They are ultimately destined to be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity.

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Satan is also a fallen angel. He now stands opposed to God, his Creator, and seeks to destroy the lives of people. He too, has no power over believers and is completely subject to the power and authority of Christ. He is a murderer, thief, and the father of all lies. His ultimate destiny is to be thrown into the lake of fire for eternity.

Psalm 68:17; 91:11; 103:20 * Isaiah 6:2-3 * Matthew 4:1-11; 24:31; 25:41; 26:53 * Mark 3:11 * Luke 2:13; 15:10 * 2 Corinthians 4:4 * Hebrews 1:14; 13:2 * James 2:19 * 1 Peter 5:8 * 2 Peter 2:4 * Jude 1:6 * Revelation 20:1-10

End Times:

At an undisclosed time, Jesus Christ will return in the sky to take all true believers to heaven. This event is known as “the rapture” and will be preceded by a blasting trumpet sound. All dead Christ-followers will be raised first, followed by the living Christ-followers being taken up in the air to meet the Lord. They will all be given new (glorified) bodies and will live in the presence of the Lord forever.

Immediately following the rapture will be a 7 year tribulation period. During this time, the anti-Christ will unite the entire world into one government and usher in 3½ years of peace followed by 3½ years of immense persecution.

The tribulation period will be ended by the physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth (commonly called the Second Coming). Jesus, the true Christ, will slaughter the anti-Christ’s followers in a battle known as “Armageddon.” Scripture also refers to this event as “the Great and Terrible Day of the Lord.” At the end of the battle, Satan will be bound and thrown into a great abyss.

Then Jesus Christ will establish His Kingdom on earth. He will reign as King and provide peace for the entire world. There will be no sickness, death, or disease. After 1,000 years, Satan will be released for a short time.

Satan will, once again, deceive the nations and rally together a following of people (as numerable as the sands of the shore) for a war against the saints of God. He will surround Jerusalem and prepare to attack them. But fire will come down from Heaven and consume Satan’s army. Satan himself will be thrown into the lake of fire and tormented forever.

Following this event will be the final judgment of humanity, usually called “the Great White Throne Judgment.” After which, God will create a New Heaven and a New Earth for all of His people. Jesus Christ will reign over this new kingdom forever.

Isaiah 2:4; 9:6-7; 11:1-9 * Daniel 9:24-27 * Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27-44; 25:31-46; 26:64 * Mark 8:38; 9:43-48 * Luke 1:30-33; 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28 * John 14:1-3 * Acts 1:11; 2:29-30; 17:31 * Romans 14:10 * 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:24-28,35-58 * 2 Corinthians 5:10 * Philippians 3:20-21 * Colossians 1:5; 3:4 * 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-5 * 2 Thessalonians 1:5-12; 2 * 1 Timothy 6:14 * 2 Timothy 4:1,8 * Titus 2:13 * Hebrews 9:27-28 * James 5:8 * 2 Peter 3:1-13 * 1 John 2:28; 3:2 * Jude 1:14 * Revelation 1:18; 3:10-12; 20:1-22:13