



Doctrinal Statement

Unity Baptist Church

“A New Beginning”

1. **God:** *We believe God the Father is the creator of heaven and earth. God is perfect in His holiness, infinite in His wisdom and having unlimited power. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus to die for the sins of all men and women for reconciliation purposes. It is through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ that all man and women can have eternal life. (John 3:1-21)*

Lesson: ---- These are probably the best-known set of verses in the Bible and they express the gospel message more clearly than any other. Almost every word in it is significant.

- Jesus' mission in the incarnation (Living Form) and the Cross is a result of God's love for human beings. (verse. 13 -17)
- Jesus and the lifted serpent –Numbers 21:4-9 –The serpent was used to condemn Israel and to save them by confession. -- Jesus presence brought sin to light which condemned man and by confession He also saves man.

- Our salvation is based on belief and nothing else. If one believes, one will act and do in what and whom they believe in.
- The construction of the Greek sentence stresses the intensity of God's love; ---- “He gave His best, His unique and loved Son”.
- The Jews believed that God loved the children of Israel, but John affirmed that God loved all people regardless of race.
- This love of God is amazing though the world is bad –He came into this dying world to save it (John 1:1-13)

2. *Jesus Christ:* *We believe Jesus is the son of God the Father who came not only to save men and women from eternal damnation but to set captives free of sin. (Mathew 16:16-17) We also believe that Jesus is the Son of God; being God, He became completely man and physically dwelt amongst us. (John 1:14) He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin called Mary. (Mathew 1:16) Jesus lived a sinless life even until death. His death was not in vain but was for the payment of our sins. His physical resurrection was to give us a new life through our resurrected bodies. Jesus now sits at the right hand of the Father interceding on our behalf. Jesus will return in His glorified body and judge everyone according to their beliefs and works. (Mathew: 25:31-46)*

Lesson:

Mathew 16:16-17 --Peter defined Jesus as the “Son of the living God”.

- This is a more definite identification of Jesus as deity than "God's Son" or "a son of God". That title leaves a question open about the sense in which Jesus was God's Son.

- The Jews often described their God as the living God, the contrast being with dead idols. By referring to God this way Peter left no doubt about the God who was the Father of Jesus.
- He is the true God; since Jesus was the Son of God, He was the Messiah, the King over the long anticipated earthly kingdom. Peter expressed belief that Jesus was both Messiah and God and there was one way to know this and that was through a revelation from God.
- In the region of Caesarea Philippi, a center for the worship of Pan (it had been previously the land of the Canaanite Baal), the title would have a special meaning as marking out the true God from all other gods.

John 1:14---- The Word, who existed equal with God before anything else came into being, became a human being. Jesus did not just appear to be a man; He became one and yet He maintained His full deity. Refer also to **Phil.2:5-9** _ (Read)

Mathews 1:14 – To prove Jesus divine place as a Jew from the House of David (Royal) Matthew supplied the lineage to Jesus birth—Matthews book was written for the Jews.

Mathew: 25:31-46—(Read) --Everyone is accountable for their own actions and on judgment day many will suffer for their eyes aim to please the world.

- Greed and self seeking motives will destroy your relationship with God as Paul explained to Timothy. Paul found joy in prison by the remembrance of Timothy conversion and joy.
- This week **Pray** that God give you a better understanding of who He is. Though the disciple walked with Jesus daily –time and circumstance revealed Jesus true identity to them.

3. **Holy Spirit:** We affirm that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, proceeding (*John 15:26*) from the Father and the Son and equal in deity. He is the giver of all life, active in the creating and ordering of the universe; He is the agent of inspiration and the new birth; He restrains sin and Satan; and He indwells and sanctifies all believers.

Lesson:

The primary function of the spirit of God in the OT is as the spirit of prophecy. God's spirit (power) is the motivating forces in the inspiration of the prophets—that power which moved sometimes to ecstasy (excitement) but always to the revelation of God's message, expressed by the prophets with "thus said the Lord."

The Holy Spirit in OT –As an agent in creation, God's spirit is the life principle of both men and animals:

The origins on the word Spirit in both Hebrew and Greek are similar, stemming from association with breath and wind

Gen 6:17- "*All flesh in which is the breath of life*"

Gen 7:15- “All the flesh in which is the breath of life”

Job 33:4- “The Spirit of God has made me”

“In the NT the Holy Spirit is rooted in the idea of both the spirit of God as the manifestation of God’s power and the spirit of prophecy. Jesus and the church after Him brought these ideas together in predicting them of the Holy Spirit. God’s eschatological gift to man.” Walter Elwell,

Jesus understood the Holy Spirit as a personality. This comes to thought when reading John’s Gospel, where the Spirit is called the “Paraclete” which is the Comforter, Counselor or Advocate.

Note: **John 14:16**-- Jesus himself is the first Counselor

After Jesus ascended He sent:

John 14:26 –The Helper, and Teacher

John 15:26- He is the “Truth” so man would know and remember Him

John 7:38- The Holy Sprit will dwell in believers

John 14:15-18- He dwells in believers to the end

Ephesians 1:13-14 - He is your ticket to heaven based on your belief and God’s promise

4. **Man:** We believe Man is the creation of God and made in His image and likeness. Being made in the image of God, man was given dominion over the earth (Genesis 1:26).

It was from man's rib woman was made. (Genesis 2:21) Despite the teaching of God it was man's choice to disobey Him and fall into temptation which resulted in sin coming into the world, affecting the perfect balance of creation. (Genesis 3:6) Man now has free will to choose sin (eternal life in pain) or salvation (eternal life in peace) through the belief in Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9)

Lesson:

In Genesis 1:26-- God's thought shows that he has decided to create man differently from any of the other creatures—in his image and likeness. God and man share a *likeness* that is not shared by other creatures. This apparently means that a relationship of close fellowship can exist between God and man that is unlike the relationship of God with the rest of his creation. What more important fact about God and man would be necessary if the covenant at Sinai were, in fact, to be a real relationship? Remove this and the covenant is unthinkable.

Also, in Gen 1, man, the image bearer, is the object of God's blessing. According to the account of creation in Gen 1, the chief purpose of God in creating man is to bless him.

In Genesis 1:27 --"Man" refers to mankind, not Adam individually. The word "Them" indicates this generic significance. God created mankind male and female; they did not evolve from a lower form of life which evolution support.

Notice: When receiving a life change -- in **Genesis 2:21-23** Adam was put to sleep -- in **Gen. 15:12-14**,-- Abraham was put to sleep ---in **Gen. 28:11** Jacob was put to sleep and in **Acts 10:9-11** Peter was put to sleep.

---I do not believe this is no coincident. From the beginning God evidently put some to sleep to assure the recipient knew that their own works had no part in their blessing but everything good is a gift of God's grace. "

Notice-- the woman was made of a rib out of the side of Adam; not made out of his head to rule over him, nor out of his feet to be trampled upon by him, but out of his side to be equal with him. His side is under his arm because she should be protected because she taken from near his heart

Gen 3:26 – Most people today blame economic and social leader for the world's problem but the problem began in the Garden with man's disobedience.

James 1:13-15---Every person is accountable for their choices in life and will pay for their own sins. Sin is entered into 1 foot step at a time and the next thing you know you are knee deep in it and stuck in the quick sands of self pleasing because you do not want to cut-off what has become a part of your body.

Jesus said in **Mathews 5:27-30**

5. **Salvation:** We believe salvation is available to all men and women no matter their race, creed or color. Romans 1:16 says “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek”. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that who so ever believes on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16) Salvation was planned by God and not a progressive thought to save mankind. (Romans 1:18-22)

Lesson:

If anyone thought Paul had not visited Rome because he doubted the power of his gospel to work in that sophisticated environment they were wrong. The apostle now clarified his reason.

Romans 1:16-- Paul's third basic attitude toward the gospel now comes out. Not only did he feel obligated to the gospel in verse 14 but he expressed his eagerness in verse 15 to proclaim it. This validates why he also felt unashamed to do so.

In verse 14, 15 and 16 ----This is an example of the figure of speech called litotes in which one sets forth a positive idea ("I am proud of the gospel") by expressing its negative opposite ("I am not ashamed of the gospel") to stress the positive idea.

The reason for Paul's proud confidence was that the gospel message has tremendous power. The Greek word translated "power" is *dunamis*, from which the word "dynamite" comes. Paul may have been speaking of the explosive, radical way the gospel produces change in individual lives as well as history. The context also shows that the apostle was thinking of the gospel's ability to effect and change the world order.

God has the power to deliver and it is done through salvation:

Physically -- In Exod. 14:13 Moses told Israel to look at their oppressor one last time for God had physically delivered them from Egypt.

Spiritually--- Psalms 51:12-14 speaks of restoring one to joy and God's ability to keep one's salvation by His spirit. It also speaks on deliverance from the guilt for sin.

Note: The basic outcome of salvation is soundness or wholeness from restoration of a man's or woman's life. Salvation restores people to what they cannot experience because of sin.

Salvation is an umbrella term; it covers all aspects of deliverance. The terms justification, redemption, reconciliation, sanctification, and glorification describe different aspects of salvation.

The Gospel ----The gospel does not announce that everyone is safe because of what Jesus Christ has done on Calvary --that is called universalism. The gospel is only effective in those who believe it. (Ephesians 1:13)

Believe what --- Believe the good news --Believe that Jesus is the Christ; the Messiah whom God promised to send and that He has done everything necessary to save us:

1 John 2:2---:"*And He himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.*"

1 John 5:1—“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.”

Note: --- No other condition besides believing the good news is mentioned for salvation. No scripture says anything about man having to do anything in addition; such as undergoing baptism, joining a church, or pledging commitment. Salvation comes by believing the good news and trusting Christ. Either a person does or does not. –Salvation is not for those who wavier.

Romans 1:18-22 –Scripture declarers that God did no hide salvation from man but man hid salvation from themselves by accepting sin.

The life long theological debate weather one can loose their salvation or not has caused many debates and division among believers which is not of God. God does not divide His children **Matthews 12:25** but call His children to separate from the world at all cost **Matthews 10:34-39**.

6. **Bible:** We believe in the inerrancy of the Bible. Both Old and New Testaments are inspired writings of God through the Holy Spirit. We firmly believe, “All scriptures is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instructions in righteousness,” (2nd Timothy 3:16) so all who reads it may be saved. We also believe that the words in the Bible are true revelations of God; therefore the words are authoritative in all maters.

Lesson:

Scriptures are *God's* Word; they are the expression of His person (heart, mind, and will). This was the view of the Hebrew Bible that Jews in the first century commonly held.

Scripture means sacred writing and applies to all divinely inspired writings (Old and New Testaments). The Greeks used the word *graphe*, translated "Scripture," to refer to any piece of writing, but the New Testament writers used it only of Holy Scripture. When Paul made this statement the books of our Old Testament were the inspired writings he had in view primarily. However, even in Paul's day Christians recognized some New Testament books as inspired.

Note: **2 Pet 1:21**---God's activity of breathing and the human activity of writing are in some sense complementary. When you feel lead to tell someone and it blesses them how do you feel? No igmaine the Holy Spirit also telling you to write scriptures –this is how our Apostles must have felt. What a joy to be used by God to deliver His life changing Word.

2 Timothy 3:16----Scriptures are:

Profitable for doctrine (what is right) ---For reproof (what is not right) --- For correction (how to get right) for instruction in righteousness (how to stay right)

"**Canon**" (Greek *kanon*) means a reed; a straight rod or bar; a measuring stick; something serving to determine rule, or measure.

John 16:12-15—The Canon was complete by the Holy Spirit not man, - but through man.

7. **Angels:** We believe angels are angelic beings that are made a little above the Son of Man (Psalms 8:5). They reside in heaven and are used to assist God in His work (Mathew 24: 36). It was angels that ministered to Jesus after 40 days in the wilderness and they also ministered to Him after His resurrection. (Mathew 4:11 and Luke 24:51) In the end times it will be God's angel that will announce it. (Matthew 24:29-31)

Lesson:

Psalms 8:5—The NIV and AV versions have interpreted the Hebrew word *elohim* as meaning "heavenly beings" or "angels." However in Psalms this word usually refers to God Himself, and we should understand it in this sense here as well. God made man a little lower than Himself, in His own image that no other created beings bear.

David did not say that God made man a little higher than the animals. Many scholars believe the image of God includes what God has enabled man to do as well as what he is essentially. This includes ruling over lower forms of life (Gen. 1:26) as God rules over all. (*Man was chosen to represent God*)

Being that, God has crowned man with glory and majesty by giving him the authority to rule over creation as His agent. (**Heb. 2:5-8**).

Mathew 24: 36—& **Mathews 4:11** Angels will and has always assisted God in His works but they have no knowledge of Jesus' return as man does not. This allows us to understand that even Angels must work on a level faith and trust in God
 Lucifer followers had no faith or trust in God and they received their just reward.
 Man faces the same option!!

Note: Because man has failed in his task, Jesus Christ, the last Adam (**1 Cor.15:45, 47**), will fulfill mankind's destiny when He returns to earth and brings all creation under His control (**1 Cor. 15:27-28**).

Mathews 24:29-31—Angels will assist in the coming of the Son of Man

8. **Satan**: We believe Satan is real and active on earth. In fact Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. (Matthew 4)

Though Satan is roaming the earth he is under Gods control. In fact he has to ask God for permission to bother one of His believers. (Luke 22:31-34)

In God's time, Satan will be bound by God but after one-thousand years he will be released to roam the earth again. (The Great Tribulation)
 (Revelations 20:7-10)

Lesson:

Mathews 4:1-11—As Satan tempted Jesus he attempts to tempt us as well. However Jesus being our Lord and Savior has taught us how to not fall into temptation as He did not. Our success depends on our obedience to Him.

He tries to tempt us by our Flesh---Pride --and our Lust

Luke 22:31-34---Never think that you're holy enough ---Satan awaits your weakness

Revelations 20:7-10—There is a time that man will have peace from Satan

9. **Satan /Demons part 2:** We believe in the biblical evidence for the existence of evil supernatural beings called demons who subservient to Satan. We believe they are the multitude of angels that fell into sin after being prompted by Lucifer's original rebellion against God. (*Matthew 25: 41*)

Lesson:

Genesis 3:1 --The Lord made Satan; he is a creation like all of God's creation therefore, God rules over him as all creations.

3:14-15—Satan caused the fall of the human race as a serpent in the Garden; it was here that God described his fate.

John 12:27-36 – Satan's fate was sealed at the Cross

Jude 5-9 –Jude reminded false teachers who tried to turn God's grace into a license to do whatever they please of God's dealings with unbelieving Israel, disobedient angels and wicked Sodom and Gomorrah.

Revelations 12:7-12---Michael battled with Satan in the past (Jude 9), but the conflict in view here evidently takes place just before the last part of the Tribulation. *Notice in verse 12:8 ----In John's vision Satan's forces proved weaker, and God threw them out of heaven and now Satan no longer had access to heaven.*

Revelation 20:1-3-6 Satan will be bound for 1000 years and Saints will live in peace

Revelations 20:7-10—Satan will be freed and Satanic Rebellion will be crushed

Mark 9: 46 –It is going to be a shock to many who rejects Jesus Christ ; all who chooses to live according to man’s approval will enter Hell and discover they were obedient to something as small as a “Worm”.

10. Church: We believe in the institution of church wherefore wherever believers meet is a church. We believe a particular congregation represents the universal church and through participation in the redemption of Christ the church is saved. It is Jesus’ charge to the assembled believers to carry out a moral lifestyle, the 2 church ordinances (Lord’s Supper and Baptism) and all commandments of Christ. We firmly believe that the church should have in-reach for the saved but also, the joy they have received should be an incentive for them to focus on, “The Great Commission” set by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. (Mathew 28:18-20)

Lesson:

1st Thessalonians 2:14—The church suffers because the church is not from this world. The Church is a live organism which Christ planted; branches grow through Nourishment (Loving one another thru God’s word) and Living Water (Holy Spirit). Some branches lack nourishment and living waters and die.

Mathews 11:25-30 ---As the Father reveals the Son, the Messiah (Son) builds His church. Note verse 27 how blessed the church is, **“and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.”**

Mathews 28:18-20— “Go” is not the commandment but an action “as you go”. “Teach” –**making disciples** and baptize them. Teach is the repeated word.

11. The Lord's Supper: We firmly believe that all Believers of Jesus Christ are our brothers and sisters. Therefore, our communion is open to all those who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and have been baptized as He has commanded.

Lesson:

Read 1 **Corinth 11:17-22**

1 Corinth 11:23--- Paul's concern was to establish the conduct and tradition of the Lord's Supper. What they received from him came from Jesus himself: I received (it) from the Lord.

What a thought--Paul described the night Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as the night in which He was betrayed. This draws attention to the Savior's great love for His own. The Lord was graciously providing for His disciples when one of them was plotting to do away with Him. ---We are Jesus priority!!!!!! Your enemy should not stop you from serving Him.

Vs.11: 24---The Greek word *eucharisteo*, "to give thanks," accounts for the fact that another name for the Lord's Supper is the Eucharist. Likewise some Christians call it "the breaking of bread" because Jesus broke the bread, as Paul stated here. This is why we use the term Eucharist Minister for those who the church set aside to specifically give the Lord's Supper to the sick and shut-in which contrast with the thought that one can only receive the Lord's Supper in a church or group setting.

There have been various interpretations of what Jesus meant when He said, "This is my body."

There are four main views:

1. **The transubstantiation view**---Roman Catholics take it as a literal statement meaning the bread really becomes the body of Christ and the contents of the cup become the blood of Christ. They believe this is true when duly authorized representatives of the church conduct the service properly. Supporters of this view believe God transfers the body and blood of Christ into the substance of the elements. The bread and wine really become the physical body and blood of Christ. (In some Baptist churches you will hear the Communion prayer "Lord turns this from a natural use to a spiritual use".)
2. **The consubstantiation view** –The second view is not quite so literal. It advocates see the body and blood of Christ as present "in, with, and under" the elements. Christ is really present, though not physically present, in this Lutheran view.
3. **Spiritual presence view** - Presbyterians and some other followers of Calvin hold this view. For them the spiritual presence of Christ is in the elements and, as in the former views, God ministers grace to the communicant in a concrete way through participation.
4. **The memorial view**--Advocates believe that when Jesus said, "This is my body," he meant, "This represents my body." In other words, they understand His statement as completely metaphorical. They view the elements as pictures or emblems of the body and blood of Christ. In contrast to the preceding views this one does not see Christ present in any special sense in the elements.

Note: Today most of the churches from the Anabaptist branch of Protestantism (i.e., Baptists, Methodists, Pentecostal and independent Bible churches) follow this interpretation.

There are some churches today that practice "Closed Communion" which means only their member can take Communion with them.

This practice does not support or understand the term “Universal Church” as Christians are “One Body in Christ Jesus”.

The Lord's request that His disciples remember Him by partaking of bread and the fruit of the vine is rich with significance. Many followers remember their leaders by erecting stone monuments to their memories and making pilgrimages to these sites. In contrast the Lord Jesus made remembering Him easy yet profound. Eating the elements helps us appreciate the fact that Christ is really within us, and eating together reminds us of our unity with other believers in Christ's body, the church.

Vs. 11:25

1. The Old Covenant is in **Exod. 24:8**.
2. When Jesus shed His blood on Calvary, that blood gave formal endorsement to the New Covenant that Jeremiah had predicted **Jer. 31:31-34**.
3. Even though the Jews will be the major beneficiaries of the benefits of this covenant in the Millennium, all believers began to benefit from the death of Christ when He died and rose on the 3rd day.

Vs. 26

The Communion is not supposed to be a time of a “Spiritual autopsy” and grief, even though confession of sin is must. It should be a time of thanksgiving and joyful anticipation of seeing the Lord! We are a witness to His resurrection.

12. End of Times: We believe as with all things except the “Trinity” there must be an ending. Therefore, the “End Time” is the bodily return of Jesus Christ. At this time, Jesus will give the command to His Archangel, Gabriel to blow the trumpet and the dead shall rise in Christ. *1 Thessalonians 4:15-17* says “For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we, who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord”.

Lesson:

Vs. 15--- Paul stressed the truth of his teaching by explaining that it was a revelation from the Lord, not just his opinion. Notice, Paul expected to be living when Christ returned. He believed in an imminent Rapture, one preceding the Tribulation.

1. The "coming" (“appearing”) of Christ in the clouds is promised in (**Acts 1:11**).
2. The coming at which time He will remain on the earth, set up His earthly kingdom, and reign for 1,000 years is in Rev. **19:11-21**.
3. The differences in the descriptions of these comings present them as separate events: **Matt. 24:29-31** ---After the Tribulation
1 Thess. 4:15-17—The Rapture

Posttribulationists ---have asserted that in *1 Thessalonians 4:15* the verbiage “*word of the Lord*” referred to what Jesus taught in the Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24:30-

31; Luke 17:34-35). That was His revelation concerning His second coming, which they believe will follow the Rapture immediately.

Pretribulationists, on the other hand, believe "*the word of the Lord*" is not a reference to what Jesus taught in the Olivet Discourse. Most pretribulationists see no reference to the Rapture in the Olivet Discourse.

Vs. 16

A supernatural announcement will precede Jesus' return for His Church. God will announce the event with a shout, an angelic voice, and a trumpet blast. There is much debate over if only believers will hear them or if all people living on the earth will hear them.

We believe the following event will take place literally:

Corinth 15:50-58---Our Final Victory

Vs. 17

1. God will bring **all** the saints that are alive on earth into the air and unite us forever with Christ. Notice there will be separation of economic status, race, color or creed.

2. Living saints will experience translation—then transformation; their bodies will become immortal—and saints who have died will experience resurrection with immortal bodies. Both kinds of Christians will meet in the air with Christ with whom we will remain never to experience separation from Him. (*Matt. 25: parable refers to this*)

Since we will always be with the Lord from then on we will return to earth with Him at His second coming, participate in His earthly millennial kingdom with Him, and finally dwell with Him in the new heavens and earth. Old Testament believers will evidently experience resurrection at the end of the Tribulation; *see Dan. 12:1-13 and Isa. 26:13-19*

Vs. 18

By this all saints should be comforted knowing that, “He who begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.” *Philippians 1:6*

13. Unity of Believers: While on earth, Jesus prayed to His Father concerning His disciple and future disciples-

“I do not pray for these alone, but those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they may also be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world”.

John 17:20-24