

form, they are completely without any errors and constitute our highest authority. In the process by which these books have come to us no important teaching has been corrupted. Absolutely everything we need to know to become a Christian is found in these pages. If a teaching isn't found in the Bible or can't be proven from the Bible, nobody should have to accept it as a doctrine necessary for salvation. Both the Old and New Testaments point to Christ as the source of eternal life and the only Mediator between God and human beings. What the Scriptures require of us, the Holy Spirit makes possible.^{vi}

God's Purpose for Humanity

We believe that God's whole law is summarized in the two great commandments: to love God with all our heart, and to love our neighbors as much as we love ourselves. These two laws describe how we ought to live in every aspect of life, reminding us that God is our King and all people are equal before Him. If we live according to these laws, we will fully obey God and treat people as we ought.^{vii}

Marriage and the Family

We believe that every person is created in the image of God and that human sexuality reflects that image in terms of intimate love, communication, fellowship, subordination of the self to the larger whole, and fulfillment. The Bible uses the marriage relationship as the supreme metaphor for His relationship with His covenant people, one God with one people. God's intends for human sexuality to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. This is the only relationship which is divinely designed for the birth and rearing of children and is a covenant union made in the sight of God, taking priority over every other human relationship.^{viii}

Personal Choice

We believe that humanity's creation in the image of God included the ability to choose between right and wrong. This means humans are morally responsible for our choices. But ever since the fall of Adam, people in their own strength have been unable to do the right because of original sin. Original sin is not just following Adam's example, but reflects the corruption of the human nature. Found in every person, this corruption is passed on from parent to child. Original sin leaves us all far from being what God intended us to be. We are, by nature, always inclined to evil. We cannot even call on God or exercise faith to be saved. But through Jesus Christ, God's grace makes possible what we never could or would do on our own. This prevenient grace (i.e. grace which precedes human response) is freely given to every person, enabling all who choose to turn and be saved.^{ix}

The Atonement

We believe that when Jesus offered himself, once and for all, through His sufferings and death on the cross, He provided the perfect redemption and atonement for the sins of the whole world, both for original sin and actual sin. Salvation from sin comes only through His death and resurrection but this salvation is big enough to save anyone who asks. People who are mentally incompetent from birth, or who became mentally incompetent after conversion, or children under the age of accountability are automatically covered by