

The Dassow Family

Missionaries in Peru, South America

STATEMENT OF DOCTRINAL BELIEFS

1. We believe in the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures. We believe the original manuscripts were inspired by God and were, and still are, without error (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).
2. We believe the God who gave His word to man has taken upon Himself the responsibility for its preservation (Psalms 12:6-7; Matthew 24:3; Mark 13:31; Luke 21:33).
3. We believe the incorruptible word of God, which cannot pass away, is available to the English-speaking world in the Authorized (King James) 1611 version.
4. We believe in one true God eternally existent in three distinct persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- each of Whom is fully and equally God, possesses all the divine nature and attributes, and is worthy of our worship and service (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 1:14 & 10:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14).
5. We believe that God the Father is the first person of the Trinity and is the eternal, unchanging, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise, all-loving, completely just and perfectly holy, sovereign Ruler and Sustainer of all things, visible and invisible (Genesis 1:1; Ephesians 4:6; John 1:12-13, 5:19-21, 17:1-5; Isaiah 40:21-28, 43:10-13, 46:8-11; Romans 8:14-16).
6. We believe that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity and is the only begotten eternal Son of God who became flesh to reveal God to man, to fulfill prophecy, and to become the Savior of the lost world. In becoming man, Jesus did not cease in any way to be God so that He is fully God and fully man, inseparably united in one person, forever. Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; lived a sinless life; died on the cross as the substitutionary, all-sufficient atoning sacrifice for all of the sins of all men of all time; was buried; bodily rose from the dead; physically ascended into heaven in His glorified, resurrected body; is seated at the right hand of the Father performing His ministry of intercession; will return in the air to claim His bride the church; and will come again to earth in bodily form, personally and visibly, to conclude human history and consummate God's eternal plan by executing judgment and ushering in His Millennial Kingdom reign to be followed by the eternal state (John 1:1, 14, 18, 29; 3:16; 20:20; Luke 1:30-35; Philippians 2:5-8; 3:20-21; Colossians. 2:3, 9; Mark 10:45; Acts 1:11; 2:22-24; Romans 3:25- 26; 8:34; Hebrews 1:3; 9:28; 10:5-14; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 1 John 2:1; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:7; Matthew 24:44; Revelation 19:11-21; 21-22).
7. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who specially came into the world on the day of Pentecost to glorify Christ and to enable men to appropriate the salvation wrought by Christ. He is the primary agent for the conviction of sin and for regeneration. Simultaneously with salvation, the Holy Spirit imparts new life, baptizes the believer into the body of Christ (His church), permanently indwells the believer, and securely seals the believer unto the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit fills (directs and controls) those believers who yield to Him, enables believers to bear fruit, and empowers believers to live a life free from sin's dominion. We also believe that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers for the purpose of edifying the church in accordance with the teachings of scripture (1 Corinthians 6:19, 12:13, 13:8; 14:22; John 16:7-15; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; Galatians 5:16-17, 22-23; Romans 8:5-13, 12:3-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11).
8. We believe that man was created in the image of God by the direct act of God and did not come into being as the result of evolution. Man was created to glorify God, worship Him in spirit and in truth, serve Him, and have fellowship with Him. Man fell through sin by disobeying God, thus

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incurring both physical and spiritual death, which alienated him from God. Man's nature was thus corrupted, and he is utterly lost, and totally incapable of saving himself and coming back into right relationship with God by his own merit or effort (Genesis 1:26; 2:6,17; 3:17-24; Isaiah 59:1-2; Romans 3:9-19, 23; 5:6-8; Luke 18:26-27; Ephesians 2:1-3).

9. We believe that Satan is the instigator of evil and a real spirit being, not simply the personification of evil. He is a fallen angel who, under the sovereign permission of God, has been given temporary rulership of the earth. He was utterly defeated at the cross, but the execution of his judgment has been postponed by God until after the Millennial Kingdom, when he will be cast into the eternal lake of fire. In the meantime, he deceives the world and seeks to establish his counterfeit kingdom on earth to discredit and blaspheme God and to tempt, accuse, attack, and destroy believers. He can be resisted by the believer through faith and reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit (Genesis 3:1-5; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Job 1-2; 1 John 5:19; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 1 Timothy 3:6; 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7; Revelation 12:9; 20:1-3, 7-10).
10. We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross provides the sole basis for forgiveness of sins and salvation, which is the gift of God's grace. Salvation is effected by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit and cannot be secured by man's works or personal merit. Salvation is only appropriated by a person placing his faith in the finished work of Christ. Repentance is a turning toward God and away from sin, and it is a part of, but not separate from, believing faith. Those who receive Jesus Christ by faith are born again, have their sins forgiven, become children of God, are a new creation in Christ, and are sealed by the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption, being kept by the power of God (Ephesians 1:7, 13-14; John 1:12-13; 3:1-7, 14-16; 10:27-29; 14:6; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 1:16; 8:14-17, 31-39; 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Acts 26:20; 1 Peter 1:3-5).
11. We believe that every Christian should live for Christ by the power of the indwelling Spirit and allow Christ to manifest His life through him to God's glory. By ever-increasing obedience to the Word of God, each believer should mature and become more like Jesus. In the power of the Spirit, each believer should live a holy life; not fulfill the lusts of the flesh; exercise his spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ; witness for Christ; be personally involved physically and financially in making disciples to fulfill the great commission; perform good works and bear fruit to the glory of God (Galatians 2:20; 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:11; 4:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; Romans 6:11-13; Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-12; 4:22-24; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Colossians 1:10; John 15:8, 16).
12. We believe salvation makes one a member of the body of Christ, of which He is the head. Thus, it is not a democracy to be run by the will of its members but is to conduct its temporal as well as its spiritual business in strict accordance with the word of God. Since all members of the body of Christ are united in Christ by the same Spirit, they should live in love, harmony, and unity, being intent on the same purpose; contributing their time, talents, and resources for the advancement of the ministry and furtherance of the Gospel; and accepting those practices which are based on a sincere interpretation of the Bible. The purpose of the church is to make Christ known to lost men, to make disciples, and glorify God on earth (Acts 1:8, 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:1-6, 12-16; Matthew 28:18-20; John 17; Colossians 1:24-29).
13. We believe that the only two ordinances of the church recognized by Scripture are water baptism and the Lord's Supper, neither of which has any merit toward salvation. Water baptism by immersion is an act of obedience following salvation, symbolizing the believer's death to sin, burial of the old life, and resurrection to new life. The Lord's Supper celebrates fellowship and

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communion with Christ, symbolically commemorates His death, and anticipates His second coming (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Romans 6:3-4).

14. We believe that at death every believer consciously and immediately enters the presence and fellowship of the Lord to wait for the physical resurrection and glorification of his body at Christ's return. The believer will thus enjoy life eternal with God in a literal place called Heaven— fellowshiping, serving, and worshipping Him forever (2 Corinthians 5:6; 1 Corinthians 15 12-58; Luke 23:39-43; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; John 3:16; Revelation 21-22). We believe that at death every unbeliever consciously and immediately enters into separation from the Lord in a literal place called Hell to wait for the physical resurrection of his body to everlasting condemnation, judgment, and punishment in the Lake of Fire (Luke 16:19-31; John 3:18, 36; Revelation 20:5, 11-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10).
15. We believe that any attempt by the state to interfere with the working of the church or an emphasis by the church to interfere with the working of the state is a violation of God's purpose for both (Matthew 22:15-21; John 18:28-40; Acts 5:17-29).
16. We believe that God created the institution of marriage to be between a man and a woman since He also intended to use the illustration to reflect the relationship between Christ and His bride, the church (Genesis 2:21-25, Ephesians 5:21-33).

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