

THE TRIUNE GOD⁽¹⁾

There is one living and true God, an infinite, all knowing Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in **three separate distinct Persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**, who subsist in unity and are each equally deserving of worship and obedience. God is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, without body or passions, immutable, immense, eternal, incomprehensible, and almighty; working all things according to the counsel of his own immutable and most righteous will, for his own glory; most loving, gracious, merciful and long-suffering; a rewarder of them who diligently seek him. (*Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24; 1 Corinthians 8:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 11:6*)

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 loving, and all wise. **He is the Creator of all things.** As the only absolute and omnipotent Ruler in the universe, He is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption. His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with mankind. As Creator He is Father to all men, but He is spiritual Father only to believers. He continually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and events. In His sovereignty He is neither author nor approver of sin, but he saves from sin all that come to Him through Jesus Christ; He adopts as his own all those who come to Him; and He becomes, upon adoption, Father to His own. (*Genesis 1:1-31; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 103:19, 145:8-9; Habakkuk 1:13; John 1:12, 8:38-47; Romans 8:14-15, 11:36; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 3:9, 4:6; Hebrews 12:5-9*)

GOD THE SON

Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God and second Person of the Trinity, possesses all the divine attributes, and in these He is coequal, consubstantial (of the same substance), and coeternal with the Father. God the Father created all things according to His own will, through His Son, Jesus Christ, by whom all things continue in existence and in operation. In the incarnation (God becoming man), Christ surrendered only the rights of deity but nothing of the divine essence, either in degree or kind. In His incarnation, the eternally existing second Person of the Trinity accepted all the essential characteristics of humanity and so became the God Man. **Jesus Christ represents humanity and deity in indivisible oneness.** (*Micah 5:2; John 1:3, 5:23, 10:30, 14:9-10; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:15-17, 2:9; Hebrews 1:2*)

He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Christ accomplished our redemption through the shedding of His blood and sacrificial death on the cross and that His death was voluntary, vicarious, substitutionary, propitiatory, and redemptive. Our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead and that He is now ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He now mediates as our **Advocate** and High Priest. Jesus' bodily resurrection is also the guarantee of a future resurrection life for all believers. (*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23-25, 28:6; Luke 1:26-35, 24:38-39; John 10:15; Acts 2:30-31; Romans 3:24-25, 4:25, 5:8, 8:34; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Hebrews 7:25, 9:24; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:1*)

Jesus Christ will return to receive the church, which is His Body, unto Himself at the rapture, and returning with His church in glory, will establish His millennial kingdom on earth. The Lord Jesus Christ is the One through whom God will judge all mankind. As the Mediator between God and man, the Head of His Body the church, and the coming universal King, who will reign on the throne of David, He is the final Judge of all who fail to place their trust in Him as Lord and Savior. (*Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 25:14-46;*

Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:22, 5:23; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Timothy 2:5; Revelation 20)

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity, who possesses all the divine attributes, and in these He is coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the Father and the Son. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to execute the divine will with relation to all mankind. The work of the Holy Spirit in this age began at Pentecost when He came from the Father as promised by Christ to initiate and complete the building of the Body of Christ, which is His church. The broad scope of His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and transforming believers into the image of Christ. (*Psalm 139:7-10; Isaiah 40:13-14; Matthew 28:19; John 14:16-17, 15:26, 16:7-11; Acts 1:5, 2:4, 5:3-4; Romans 8:29, 15:13; 1 Corinthians 2:10-13; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 2:22; Hebrews 9:14*)

The Holy Spirit is the **supernatural** and **sovereign Agent** in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit also indwells, sanctifies, instructs, empowers them for service, and seals them unto the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher, who inspired holy men of old to write the Holy Scriptures⁽²⁾ and who through illumination enables men to understand truth. Every believer possesses the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit from the moment of salvation, and it is the duty of all those born of the Spirit to be filled with (controlled by) the Spirit. He is the divine **Comforter** and the **Producer** of spiritual fruit in the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the church for the perfecting of the saints today. The Holy Spirit glorifies neither Himself nor His gifts by vainglorious displays, but He does glorify Christ by implementing His work of redeeming the lost and building up believers in the most holy faith. (*John 14:16, 16:13-14; Acts 1:5-8, 2:4, 28:25-26; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 13; 2 Corinthians 3:6, 18; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 1 John 2:20, 27*)

(1) Compilation of Grace To You “What We Believe”, The Baptist Faith and Message and Willmington’s Guide to the Bible.

(2) Refer to Elder Position Paper “The Holy Scriptures”.