



INDIANAPOLIS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The ITS Statement of Common Beliefs

The ITS leadership is intentionally ecumenical within the stream of the historic Protestant and Evangelical tradition. The following “Statement of Common Beliefs” has been crafted to clearly articulate our common doctrinal core. It must be affirmed by board and faculty members. The board reviews any exceptions taken to this document.

1) GOD

We believe there is one true God who subsists eternally in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2) THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the sixty-six books of the Bible are verbally and plenary inspired by God and are thus inerrant in the original autographs. The Bible is the final and sufficient authority for all matters of faith and practice, the only locus of God’s revealed will.

3) CREATION

We believe God sovereignly and effortlessly created the cosmos, for his own joy and glory, by the power of his word. As sovereign creator, he has every right and every beneficent purpose to impose his good design on creation. Accordingly, he created humanity in his image as either biological male or biological female, each with full ontological value and dignity and distinct gender roles in the created order, as summarized in the Danvers Statement. Humanity’s original state was sinless, joyful, and free.

4) HUMANITY'S FALLEN STATE

We believe our first parents fell from that felicitous and innocent state by rebelling against their Creator, thus becoming sinners. Every human being fell with them and now, therefore, possesses a sinful nature from conception and performs acts of sin in likewise rebellion. It is utterly beyond the capacities of fallen humans to love God, to keep His laws, to understand his will, to repent of sin, or to trust in Christ for salvation.

5) JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the preexistence and the deity of Jesus Christ, the eternally begotten Son of God, who with the Father is equally worshipped and glorified. He became incarnate, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and is thus and always will be fully divine and fully human. He came to the earth in order to redeem sinners through His perfect obedience to the Father, vicarious death, and true resurrection. He thus is, and always will remain, the sole mediator between God and sinners.

6) THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S ATONEMENT

We believe that Christ lived, died, and rose in order to secure, and did actually secure, the salvation of His elect as a penal substitutionary sacrifice for their sins.

7) THE NATURE OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION & ASCENSION

We believe that on the third day after Christ's death that he was bodily raised back to life in a glorified state, never again to taste death. He then ascended to the right hand of the Father, from where he now makes intercession for his people, rules the nations, and together with the Father pours out the Holy Spirit on His church.

8) THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is with the Father and the Son equally worshipped and glorified. He inspired the Scriptures and indwells the church. He convicts of sin and sovereignly regenerates rebellious hearts.

9) THE NATURE OF SAVING GRACE

We believe that God, before the foundation of the world, in love and for His own glory, did graciously elect a great multitude of men and women to eternal life as an act of free and sovereign grace. This election was in no way dependent upon His foresight of human faith, decision, works, or merit, but is wholly of grace alone.

10) EFFECTUAL CALLING

We believe that the Holy Spirit regenerates the hearts' of the elect by sovereign grace through the proclamation of Christ's person and work. They are thus made willing and able to come freely and gladly to Christ in faith.



11) REGENERATION

We believe that at the appointed time the Holy Spirit fundamentally changes the hearts' of the elect to liberate them from the deceitfulness of sin, reveal to them the glory of God through Christ, bring understanding of their own fallen state and need for salvation, convict them of the truth and beauty of the work of Christ, and plant repentance and faith in their hearts.

12) JUSTIFICATION

We believe that sinners are declared righteous in the sight of God on account of the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, received by faith alone.

13) SANCTIFICATION & THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe that all who are regenerated will grow in Christ-likeness, at varying rates, throughout their lives. They will persevere through the proclamation of Christ's person and work, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the normal means of grace, and will never finally fall away from the faith.

14) EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

We believe God's people are to participate in fulfilling the Great Commission by making disciples of all nations. As to motivation and efficacy, we believe that the doctrines of grace impel evangelism, missions, and prayer.

15) THE CHURCH

We believe the church is the duly authorized institution for the accomplishment of God's work on earth. As such, it is under the authority of Christ alone, whose will is expressed in the Scriptures alone.

16) MARRIAGE & FAMILY

God established marriage to be between one man and one woman for life; therefore divorce and all forms of *porneia* (e.g., adultery, divorce, homosexual activity, so-called same-sex "marriage," etc.) are sinful to God. Likewise, self-identifying as any gender that does not cohere with God's assigned sex at birth (either male or female) is equally sinful to God. The family is the most basic cultural social unit where one man and one woman, united in marriage, raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Though these institutions are ruined by sin, God has promised to make all things new, including fallen humanity, through the redemption of his elect.

17) LAST THINGS

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall come again to raise the dead bodily, both righteous and unrighteous, and that the righteous shall enjoy everlasting life and the wicked endure everlasting punishment.

