



Doctrinal Basis

Duke Street Church is committed to the historic Christian faith revealed in Holy Scripture and expressed in the Creeds of the church universal and in the Confessions of the Reformation.

We believe,

(A) In one, holy, eternal, unchangeable God, the creator and Lord of the universe, who, as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, both governs all things according to His will and is accomplishing His purposes in the world and in the Church. He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(B) God has revealed Himself to our fathers through the prophets and apostles and in these last days supremely in Christ, God's final Word.

(C) The Scriptures (as originally given) are God breathed and infallible, the inerrant word of God. Christians must therefore submit to their supreme authority and sufficiency, both individually and corporately, in every matter.

(D) The inherent value of all human beings, made by God in His own likeness, and their sinfulness and guilt since the Fall. This has rendered them subject to God's wrath and condemnation, and has resulted in their alienation from His life, suppression of His truth, and hostility to His law.

(E) The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God and fully man; He is the radiance of God's glory, the exact imprint of His nature, and He upholds the universe by the word of His power. He was born of a virgin. As a human being He never sinned. On the cross He was made sin for us when He took our place and bore the punishment due to us. He offered a sufficient sacrifice for the sin of His people. He died, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth.

(F) Salvation from the guilt, penalty and power of sin is solely through the work of Jesus Christ – His perfect obedience, penal substitutionary death, bodily resurrection and exaltation as Lord. He alone is truly God and truly man, the only mediator between God and man. There is salvation through no other person, creed, process or power. The entirety of a sinner's justification, from beginning to end, is only by God's grace alone appropriated through faith alone.

(G) Before the foundation of the world God in His mercy chose a people for Himself out of

the human race. In love He predestined them for adoption through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, to the praise of his glorious grace. He did not choose them on the basis of their foreseen faith or works, but solely on the basis of His perfect desire to glorify Himself in His Son by their redemption.

(H) Through the Holy Spirit individuals not only hear the outward call of the gospel but also are effectually called by the Spirit and thus given new birth. The Holy Spirit by a process of sanctification and spiritual growth leads them to Christian maturity. The Holy Spirit is responsible for the Church's constant renewal in truth, wisdom, faith, holiness, love, power and mission.

(I) The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong. The Church's calling is to worship and serve God in the world, to make disciples of all nations, to observe the gospel sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, to proclaim and defend His truth, to exhibit His character and to demonstrate the reality of His new order. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between local churches by mutual love, care, correction and encouragement in accordance with the Bible. Fellowship within and between local churches is truly Christian fellowship insofar as they are faithful to Christ and his gospel.

(J) The personal and visible return in glory of the Lord Jesus Christ to raise the dead and to judge them, granting eternal life to His people and eternal punishment to those who have not believed the gospel. God will fully establish His kingdom when he creates a new heaven and new earth from which evil and evildoers, suffering and death will be excluded, and in which He will be glorified forever.

Notes

Creeds: The Apostles Creed; the Athanasian Creed; the Nicene Creed and the Chalcedonian Definition
Confessions: Principally the Westminster Confession of Faith along with the Larger and Shorter Catechisms with its offspring the London Baptist Confession and the Savoy Declaration; the 39 Articles; Heidelberg Confession, Second Helvetic Confession; Canons Of the Synod of Dordt; the Augsburg Confession.