

STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE – James Carvin

- I believe in one God, the Creator, Sustainer and Orchestrator of all ultimate things, in three hypostases – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- I believe that the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life is our Helper. This Life is Grace, which now we see dimly by revelation, but soon face to face in the union of Christ and his Church.
- By the one Holy Spirit was given inspiration and revelation to a peculiar people, known as Israel. The knowledge of God was handed on first through Adam, then through Enoch, then through Noah, then through Abram, Isaac and Jacob on through Moses, Joshua, Judges, Kings and Prophets through John the Baptist. The Holy Spirit rested in Christ.
- All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. I believe that every jot and tittle of the Law will be fulfilled and that while many prophecies have already been fulfilled in Jesus the Christ that we are still waiting on certain prophecies to be fulfilled. I believe in the inerrancy of the original copy of the Scriptures.
- I believe that revelation is progressive. Often Israel failed to understand what it carried. Knowledge increases. I believe that exegesis is useful but not definitive. The only right interpretation is God's exegesis, which I call "theogesis."
- I believe that Jesus Christ is the Word of God in the flesh, which dwelt in our midst and declared the Father. He was hypostatically united both as God and as man, one person, with a dual nature, fully human in every way and tempted in all things like us yet without sin.
- I believe that God has provided man with solutions for sin over time in various dispensations. Christ's death on the cross paid for sin once for all, but God also is unchanging in his perfection so that everything Christ declared of God is from everlasting to everlasting, a priest and king forever in the order of Melchizedek.
- I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church from Pentecost to the end of time, which is the bride of Christ destined for glory in union with Him, first in a forthcoming millennial reign of Jesus Christ on Earth from Jerusalem, wherein all nations will serve him in a world where Satan is bound and afterwards, in an even higher eternally glorified state of being in a new heavens and a new earth.
- I believe in the uniting of the soul with Christ through spiritual birth in the thesis of regeneration and the separation of the soul from the body at death. I accept the holistic view of body and soul yet hold a trichotomous view of body, soul and spirit which parallels the triunion of God in a single indivisible essence. Theogesis supercedes exegesis.

- I believe in two resurrections and two deaths. Although I believe the first resurrection is of the soul and a second will be of the body, I understand that there will also be two special times for the resurrection of the body – first in the rapture, second in the final judgment.
- I believe the rapture will occur either at the beginning of a coming seven year tribulation or in the middle of it, maybe at the end of it.
- I believe in the communion of saints. This means that those who are in Christ are united in Him inseparably and Christ can not be divided.
- I believe that to be an “apostle” means to be “sent out.” Obviously this word has changed in meaning over time. To say that the church is “apostolic” means that she is genuinely united in the good will of Christ as his body. Historically, this also means that she has received her calling from the twelve apostles selected by Jesus, from Paul and from those to whom they delivered the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.
- I believe that prophecy continues in the church to this day as do all sorts of miracles but that the writing of Scripture ended with the last book of the New Testament. I believe in 66 definitely inspired books, but offer more leniency on deuterocanonical books and chapters than others in the Reformed tradition, as I believe some of the historical inconsistencies may have been deliberate literary devices. I also believe the church had greater authority than the pharisees to decide what was truly inspired. And I get a lot out of these books.
- I believe that speaking in tongues is a sign gift. To exercise it in a church one should glorify God in a language they know and let God do the work of converting it to another language others may interpret or understand. This way all will know that God is speaking. Speaking or singing in tongues alone or quietly may aid prayer but shamans also pray in tongues so any such prayers should be accompanied by prayers for purity of spirit.
- I believe that sacraments are more than acts of obedience. They are acts of Grace, which is the Life of the Holy Spirit. I believe that the Holy Spirit’s life in believers is our union with Christ and with the Father as we move from glory to glory. Baptism is not just an “outward sign of an inward commitment” it is an outward sign of a lifelong personal *reality*, which is death to sin and transformation to the newness of Life in the Spirit in totality.
- I believe other common actions may also be counted as “sacraments” and likewise all express a spiritual reality and there is no need to stop at the number seven or limit it to commands found in the New Testament. The goal is not to imitate or blindly obey but to live in the order of Melchizedek by the humble invocation of the Holy Spirit.
- Communion is likewise not simply a remembrance. It is an outward sign of an eternal *reality*. Christ remains in our midst to the end of the age ever unchanging, but we are transformed in Him. The sacraments proclaim this until He comes in glory.
- I count among sacraments, holy chrismation, matrimony, reconciliation, ordination and anointing of the dying. But I also count as sacraments more common moments of Grace when the Spirit moves the soul, such as mercy, intercession, giving and fellowship.

COMMITMENTS – James Carvin

- I will always act according to the promptings of my conscience.
- I will seek to strive for excellence in all things.
- I will remain in moral and ethical purity.
- I will fulfill my obligations to those I serve to the best of my ability.
- I will always be honest yet discreet and merciful, cultivating love.
- I will pray for you if I tell you I will pray for you.
- I will own up to my failures and seek to improve at all times.
- I will walk humbly before God and regard you as higher than myself.
- I will do my best to work as a team player.
- I will confront and overcome destructive fears.
- I will pray about priorities and manage responsibly what is given to me.
- I will keep our vision and goals before me.
- I will be fair to others. I will never slander another.
- I will be a problem solver. When I can't solve problems I will seek help.
- I will not act alone.
- I will put my pride and my feelings to the side when they well up. I will not act if I am angry.
- I will be a man of prayer and lead by example.