

Doug Hooley's Statement of Faith

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My name is Doug Hooley. Among other things in my life, I have a multi-media teaching ministry. What does that mean? It means that I write books, produce videos, do some blogging, and have a regular podcast all centered around things pertaining to the God of the Bible. Since I have a social media presence that is public, I occasionally I get people asking me about what they call my statement of faith. What my statement of faith is. This is essentially asking me to identify what version of Christian I am so they know if they can trust what I am saying or not. Fair enough.

I know the easy answer would be to say I identify with the Apostolic or Nicene creeds. The problem is, there is no creed that was ever written after the New Testament which I completely can align myself with. Those creeds are finite man's attempts to sum up what the Bible is saying about our infinite God, and all of them fall short. They are an attempt to describe God by committee. As they say, "a camel is a horse designed by a committee."

I don't even like the label of "Christian" placed on me as a follower of Jesus. There are too many definitions of that word. Too many stereotypes. Too many different versions of Jesus that are being followed. I considered myself a Called-Out follower of the authentic Jesus of the Bible.

So, with that in mind, let me relay to you my personal statement of faith.

The Bible

Because of the research I have done, evidence I have examined, the observations I have made, and my own personal experiences, I believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired word of God. Although we can learn a great deal about God by observing what it is He has created, the Bible is the only reliable source of documentation concerning what the Creator of the Universe has communicated to humans. As originally handed down to the humans that authored it on behalf of God, what the Bible says is infallible. What the Bible says is God's pure truth when it is properly translated and understood.

God Is the Creator of Everything

I believe that God is spirit. He is a unique being. There are none like Him. He created two realms out of nothing: Heaven and Earth. the unseen spirit realm, and the physical realm. There is nothing that exists in either realm that was not created by Him.

Sin and Reconciliation to God

I believe that every human is inherently self-centered and has chosen to follow their own will instead of the will of their Creator. That is called "sin." Sin has caused all humans to not be in right relationship with God. The cost or consequences of sinning is death. The spirits of those who die who are not in right relationship with God have been sentenced to eternal damnation.

Man has endeavored to create many different religious systems designed to reconcile himself to God. But God has decreed there is but one way to be put back into right relationship

with Himself. It is only through His Son, Jesus and because of what Jesus accomplished when He walked this earth 2000 years ago.

The Credentials of Jesus

When Jesus was here the first time, he gained the credentials necessary to be the Messiah: the Savior of all who believe in and trust Him with their eternal well-being. God recognized Jesus as His only Son. Jesus overcame Satan, and he overcame physical death after being crucified on a Roman cross. He rose from the dead and lives to this day. His rank is that of the most high king and he sits in the highest position of authority, at the right hand of His father in Heaven. The Creator of the Universe.

The Ekklesia (what others may call the “Church”)

I believe in what Jesus called, the Kingdom of Heaven, He also called it His Ekklesia, which is populated with people who have been called-out from among the rest one person at a time. Jesus is the only head of His Ekklesia. Jesus said that He would build His called-out people based on their belief that He is God’s Son and the Messiah. The ability to believe who Jesus is and what He accomplished only comes through the work of the Holy Spirit. This ability is only given to those who God the Father appointed to believe before He even created the earth. Until those who are alive now and are a part of Jesus’s Ekklesia die physically and go to be with Jesus, their status is that of sojourners or foreigners living in a foreign and hostile land here on this earth. This earth is still subject to Satan, who the Bible calls the prince of this world.

The Return of Jesus

One day, Jesus will physically return to this earth and establish His Kingdom here. He will put all His enemies under His feet, and put all things in order. He will resurrect the called out ones who have died and give them new eternal bodies. He will do the same for those Called-Out Ones who are alive when he returns.

The Nature of God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit

God is sovereign. He is all knowing and all powerful. God has authored the story of creation down to the last detail. From our human perspective, we have total freewill to make choices. No one will stop us. We don’t know what God has written on the next page for us. Our place is to be the characters in the story God has written, with all our ability, knowing that He is in control.

I believe the character and nature of God is as recorded in the totality of scripture, not as articulated in a particular creed. I believe the same to be true for His Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I believe their nature and relationship with one another defies any finite and imperfect human label that has ever been conceived.

My Relationship to Jesus

Jesus is my prophet: As He alone is the Truth, and He alone is the one I trust. He is my priest: He is the one who stands on my behalf before God the Father and was sacrificed on my behalf to make things right with God for me. He is my king. He is the absolute authority in my life who I surrender to. The only one I bend my knee to. He is my Master. I am His voluntary

bond-servant. He has purchased me with His blood that He shed on the Roman Cross. I have been adopted into His family and household. He has branded my heart with His family name. I am jealous for and protective of His household. My responsibility is to Him alone and what He dictates for my life.

I don't know if I checked all the right boxes regarding my faith for you or not. But that is who I am and what I believe. My hope is that I have checked my Master's boxes.

Grace and peace to whoever reads this. May you find yourself also adopted into the household of Jesus. He is a kind and gentle Master and a great and mighty King.

Doug Hooley