

CD 513 – Alliance Doctrine and Polity
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Final Paper

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This paper summarizes the highlights of the History of Alliance and the Alliance Doctrine and Polity. I will also discuss how I will engage in the Alliance mission. The first part includes the highlights of the history of the Alliance, Alliance theology, polity, and positions. The second part discusses my next step of engaging in the Alliance service, and how I will prepare myself for Alliance ministry.

Part one

● **The History of the Alliance**

In 1887, A. B. Simpson began the Christian Alliance. The Christian Alliance was a group of evangelical Christians in various churches who believed in the Fourfold Gospel. Simpson also formed the Evangelical Missionary Alliance in the same year, shortly after the Christian Alliance. It was an association within the Christian Alliance that was to support missions and missionaries. Simpson was the leader of both societies. Ten years later, in 1897, these societies combined to form one society called the Christian and Missionary Alliance (C&MA). This was the forerunner of the present denomination.

● **Alliance Theology**

The Fourfold Gospel

The Fourfold Gospel is an evangelical doctrine that summarizes the Gospel in four aspects, namely, Salvation, Sanctification, Faith Healing and Second Coming of Christ. It was given to Simpson after he had experienced the fullness of the Gospel in his own life, on which the core values of The Christian and Missionary Alliance are based.

The C&MA Faith

1. The doctrine of Trinity plays a vital role in C&MA's faith. We believe God Father is providentially in charge of the university, the God Son has successfully fulfilled the requirement for salvation, and the God Spirit is now working with the saints to complete the salvation tasks.
2. The doctrine of Original Sin teaches that human nature is morally and ethically corrupted due to the disobedience of Adam and Eve, the first human parents, who ate the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden. The fate of fallen humanity is spiritual separation from the life of God. The prospect of the unrepentant and unbelieving person is existence forever in conscious torment [Revelation 21:8]. All human beings can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ [1 Corinthians 15:20-23]. To spread the gospel to those who have not heard the gospel is the responsibility of the believers.

Polity

Our identity in The Christian and Missionary Alliance is rooted in Jesus Christ. Our mission is to know Him, exalt Him as Savior, Sanctifier, Healer, and Coming King and to complete His Great Commission. We call ourselves a Christ-centered, Acts 1:8 family.

Positions

The Sanctity of Human Life

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God. Being made in the image and likeness of God, or Imago Dei, means that humans share some of God's characteristics, such as love, creativity, rationality, and free will. All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

By His death, burial, and resurrection, he broke the power of the devil, set us free from the fear of death, and enabled us to move from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light (Hebrews 2:14-15). While Jesus inaugurates the restoration of all Creation, its full restoration is not yet realized. However, because of Christ's provision, it is our privilege to choose to walk by the Spirit and by so doing not gratify the desires of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:16). Therefore, we are freed from condemnation (Romans 8:1) and can overcome the power of sin (Romans 5:17) and Satan (Revelation 12:11) by the power of the cross of Jesus Christ!

Sexuality

Sexuality is created by God and is good. We are created for a committed intimate community, free from shame (Genesis 2:24-25). For a man and a woman, this intimacy may be expressed and consummated sexually when they are united as one flesh in marriage (Genesis 2:24). The pleasure of sexual union is intended to express not only bodily intimacy but also an intimacy of heart, soul, and mind (Song of Solomon). Sex and sexuality are gifts from the Creator to be embraced with gratitude and worship.

Any rebellion against God's perfect design is sin. It separates us from God and distorts intimacy. All of us have experienced sexual brokenness in some fashion. Some desire the intimacy or pleasure of sex apart from the divinely established context of marriage between a man and woman (1 Corinthians 6:16; cf. Genesis 2:24), such as homosexual or extra-marital sexual activity. Others seek an illusion of intimacy through actively indulging in lust, fantasizing, and/or pornography. All of these are indicators of our rebellion against God.

As the body of Christ, we walk together in our sexual brokenness towards maturity in Christ. We do so by speaking the truth with understanding, love, and compassion (Ephesians 4:15). We can experience the promised blessing that God desires to fill us with all joy and peace

as we trust in Him, so that we may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13). While death on the cross freed us from the penalty and power of sin, only His second coming will free us completely from the presence of sin. On that day, we will see Him face to face (1 John 3:2; 1 Corinthians 13:12), enjoying a true intimacy without shame. The battle for purity will be won (Revelation 19:8), and we will be presented blameless in His presence with great joy (Jude 24).

Part two

● Next steps of engaging in the Alliance service

1. I will continue to finish my Master of Divinity degree in Alliance Theological Seminary. In the meantime, I will finish my C&MA credential application that will approve me to serve in the licensed Alliance ministry.
2. I will follow the Alliance website 'Serve' guideline, pursue the pathway of the U.S. Alliance ministry, and serve in a local Alliance church.
3. I participated in a C&MA associated church last year, and my wife and I became new members of the Queens Herald Church (QHC), C&MA. Currently, I joined the QHC Chinese Bible School ministry.

● How will I prepare myself for Alliance ministry

I am preparing myself for ministry in the church's Small Group Ministry, through small group fellowships that gather for Bible study, prayer, support, and friendship, I lead people into a transforming relationship with Jesus. In the summer of each year, we conduct a new small Group called 'Alpha,' which is an 11-week course that creates a space for people to talk openly and honestly about faith, life, and God.