

The Christian and Missionary Alliance Doctrinal Questionnaire

SECTION A: *The numbered statements below comprise the Statement of Faith of The Christian and Missionary Alliance. Give Scripture references for your answers.*

1. There is one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- Why is it important that we know and believe that God is infinitely perfect? How do we know this?

It is important to know that God is infinitely perfect because God is infinitely greater than we are; therefore, we should not expect to be able to fully understand Him. [The Bible teaches that the Father is God, that Jesus is God, and that the Holy Spirit is God. The Bible also teaches that there is only one God. Though we can understand some facts about the relationship of the different Persons of the Trinity to one another, ultimately, it is incomprehensible to the human mind. [Deuteronomy 6:4]

We know this because Bible says: “Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite.” [Psalm 147:5]. “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have built? [1 Kings 8:27]

- Explain your understanding of “one God” and “existing eternally in three persons.”

The Bible shows very clearly that there is only one God, and yet that there are three personal distinctions in His complex nature, traditionally referred to as “three Persons in the Godhead”—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each is distinct from the others but never acts independently. They are one in nature and purpose. The teaching is present in seed form in the Old Testament and is revealed explicitly in the New Testament. [Matthew 28:19; John 10:30, 14:26].

- How do you know that the Spirit and the Son are members of the Trinity?

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- Does the Trinity play a vital role in your spiritual life? How?

Yes, the Trinity play a vital role in my spiritual life. I believe God Father is providentially in charge of the university, the God Son is successfully fulfilled the salvation's requirement, and the God Spirit is now working with the saints to complete the salvation tasks.

- What does the Trinity model for us that we can put to practice in our own life and within the church?

We should put the Trinity model to practice in our own life and within the church. As individually, I am a child of God, I am united with the Trinity God, praying to God Father as Abba, abiding in God Son Jesus Christ, and being filled by God Spirit. As corporately, the church is a fellowship of saints, and we should live in Christ as one body.

2. Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest. He will come again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and peace.

- Most Christological heresies deny either the deity or humanity of Jesus. Where in Scripture do we see evidence of both Jesus as fully man and fully God? How does this affect your faith or spiritual walk?

Philippians 2:6-11 is one of the Scripture which indicates evidence of both Jesus as fully man and fully God.

This doctrine teaches me that Jesus can understand my thinking and feeling because he is a fully man. Jesus can deliver me from sin because he is fully God.

- Why is substitutionary atonement at the very heart of what Christ accomplished in His death on the cross, and how does it impact your life and ministry? How can we move from death to life by His work on the cross?

The substitutionary atonement is at the very heart of salvation because God, who is rich in mercy, sent Jesus Christ to die in our place, so that He might be righteous in dealing with sin while at the same time providing His own righteousness to those who believe in Jesus Christ.

It impacts my life and ministry through the new life I obtained in Christ. We can move from death to life by His work on the cross, for we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, ..., and we will also live with Him (Romans 6:6-8).

- Why is the Resurrection pivotal for our faith? What are three proofs of Christ's Resurrection?

The resurrection is pivotal for our faith because it provides the evidence for our hope of eternal life. Below are three proofs of Christ's Resurrection:

1. The four Gospel books (Matthews, Mark, Luke, John) described Jesus's life journey and resurrection.
2. Pagan and Jewish writers report that Christians believed Jesus rose from the dead.
3. Many of the principal eyewitnesses to the resurrection of Jesus were martyred because of their claim that Jesus was resurrected.

- List three names given to Jesus in the New Testament and explain why they are important for you and those you disciple.

Three names given to Jesus in the New Testament are 1. Jesus and Emmanuel [Matthew 1:23]; 2. Jesus is also referred to as the Son of God [Mark:1:11]; and 3. the Lamb of God [John 1:29].

They are important for me and the disciples of the Lord because 1. Emmanuel reminds me that the Lord God is with me. 2. Jesus, the Son of God, He is God made manifest in human form (John 1:1, 14). 3. When Jesus is called the Lamb of God in John 1:29 and John 1:36, it is referring to Him as the perfect and ultimate sacrifice for sin.

3. The Holy Spirit is a divine person, sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer, and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.

- How do we know that the Holy Spirit is a divine person?

We can understand the Holy Spirit as a divine person from the scripture "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all" (2 Corinthians 13:14). We know that the Holy Spirit is not an "it," but a divine person.

- Give two Scriptures which describe the deeper life/sanctifying work the Holy Spirit does in the believer. What is His role in the unbeliever's life?

Here are two Scriptures which describe the deeper life/sanctifying work the Holy Spirit does in the believer: Galatians 5:22–26; 1 Peter 1:2.

The Holy Spirit has a personal ministry in the unbeliever's life. He convicts them of sin and their need to receive Jesus Christ as Savior. [John 16:7-11]

- What is your belief concerning the gifts of the Spirit being present in the Church today?

I believe the gifts of the Spirit are present in the Church today abundantly as in the early church. Trinity God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is continuing work in the Church today to build the children of God to be matured in Christlike, to honor God and exalt the Lord Jesus Christ. Regarding the spiritual gifts as they are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, it is important to note especially verse 11 that the Holy Spirit gives the gifts according to His own will.

- Where in your own life have you specifically seen the Holy Spirit guide, teach, or empower you?

I have seen the Holy Spirit guide, teach, and empower me through different seasons of my life. After I believed Jesus as my savior and my Lord, the Holy Spirit continually guided me, taught me, and empower me to desire God more, serve the Lord willingly and proclaim the Gospel joyfully in my community.

4. The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are a complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice.

- Give three reasons why this statement about the Bible is important to the strength of The Christian and Missionary Alliance as a Christ-Centered, Acts 1:8 family.

The doctrine of biblical inerrancy is an extremely important one because the truth does matter. This issue reflects on the character of God and is foundational to our understanding of everything the Bible teaches. Here are three reasons why this doctrine is important:

1. The Bible is our only rule for faith and practice. Jesus asks for our trust, and that includes trust in what He says in His Word. [John 8:31-32]
 2. The Holy Scriptures can make people wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. [2 Timothy 3:15]
 3. God's expectations for those who would lead by teaching are to be faithful in the Word. [2 Timothy 2:2]
- Define your understanding of the doctrine of inerrancy and defend it from Scripture.

“Inerrancy,” or “infallibility,” means that when all the facts are known, the Bible, in the original autographs, when properly interpreted, will prove itself to be without error in all matters that it covers. These include areas of theology, history, science, and all other disciplines of knowledge—they will be in perfect accord with the truth. The Bible, therefore, is totally trustworthy in everything that it records or teaches. The defenses from Scripture:

1. The Bible itself claims to be perfect. “And the words of the Lord are flawless, like silver refined in a furnace of clay, purified seven times” [Psalm 12:6].
 2. The Bible reflects its Author. The Bible was written by God Himself as He worked through human authors in a process called “inspiration.” “All scripture is God-breathed” [2 Timothy 3:16].
- How have you come to trust the inerrancy of Scripture? Why can you trust it as a complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of men and as a guide for your Christian faith?

I came to trust the inerrancy of Scripture through the learning of Bible study and the testimonies of other Christians, as well as the peace granted by the Holy Spirit. Through God's word and the Holy Spirit's guide that I trust the Bible as a complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of men and as a guide for our Christian faith.

- What role should Scripture play in your own life?

Four roles Scripture play in my life: [2 Timothy 3:16-17]

1. Teaching: the standard. The truths of the Bible are God's ultimate standard.
2. Reproof: comparison to the standard. Reproof is the process by which I am compared to a standard and in some way found lacking.
3. Correction: closing the gap between where I am and where God wants me to be.
4. Training: faithfully putting God's standard into practice.

5. Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God. He fell through disobedience, incurring thereby both physical and spiritual death. 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. The prospect of the impenitent and unbelieving person is existence forever in conscious torment, and that of the believer in Christ is everlasting joy and bliss.

- What does it mean to be 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.

- Explain spiritual death.

Spiritual death is a term used in the Christian religion to describe the separation of humans and God due to sin.

- What is the doctrine of original sin?

The doctrine of original sin is a Christian doctrine that 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.

- How do we see the story of the atonement in both the Old Testament and New Testament? Explain what the atoning work of Jesus is.

The Old Testament testifies of the Savior and His Atonement as the Lord said, "Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow [Isaiah 1:18]. In New Testament we see this atonement in passages of St. Paul: "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself" (2 Corinthians 5:19).

Jesus Christ's execution as a criminal on Golgotha was not just an execution carried out by the Romans, but also Christ's voluntary self-offering, a sacrifice which took away the sins of the world.

- What is the fate of those who have not heard the gospel? What should be the believer's response to this?

The fate of fallen humanity, those who have not heard the gospel, is spiritually separated from the life of God. The prospect of the unrepentant and unbelieving person is existence forever in conscious torment [Revelation 21:8]. And 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.

- What blessings does becoming a child of God bring to a believer (name at least three)?

Some of the blessings that bring to a believer as he/she becomes a child of God:

1. A new life (John 20:21).
2. Eternal spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3).
3. Justification that given to believers who are declared righteous by God (Romans 3:22-24).

6. Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men, and those who repent and believe in Him are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become children of God.

- You have befriended someone and now they want to understand how to become a child of God. What would you tell them? What is the gospel? What words would you use to explain how to become a part of God's family?

To become a child of God, I need to come to the Lord Jesus Christ as a sinner and accept him as my personal savior.

The gospel is the joyous proclamation of God's redemptive activity in Christ Jesus on behalf of man enslaved by sin [John 3:16].

I will use the scriptures to explain how to become a part of God's family: "But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God." [John 1:12-13]

- Are there other ways to heaven except through Jesus? Why or why not? What key Bible passages state this truth?

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Therefore, we know God is righteous, and there is no other way to Heaven except through Jesus.

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." [Acts 4:12]

- How has Christ's death, burial, and Resurrection enabled us to move from the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of light? What blessings does this bring?

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).

Salvation brings to us the blessings of hope and eternal security (1 Corinthians 15:12-23).

7. It is the will of God that each believer should be filled with the Holy Spirit and be sanctified wholly, being separated from sin and the world, and fully dedicated to the will of God, thereby receiving power for holy living and effective service. This is both a crisis and a progressive experience wrought in the life of the believer subsequent to conversion.

- As a part of your spiritual journey and following your salvation experience, can you describe a time when you came to the end of yourself and found the need to fully surrender everything to the Lord and to be filled with His Spirit? Is there a specific section of Scripture that helps you to understand and describe this experience?

As a part of my spiritual journey, I realized I was easily angered, many times I yelled at my wife and my children; I realized I came to the end of myself and found the need to fully surrender everything to the Lord.

Jesus desires that we bring him our struggles, wounds, or sins, in faith it can generate healing and hope. "by his wounds you have been healed." [1 Peter 2:24]

- Tell us about your spiritual life and journey following the experience you've just described. What changes have you seen in your life that evidence the Spirit's fullness? How do you handle the struggle with the flesh/old man differently now? Is there a specific section of Scripture that helps you understand and describe this ongoing experience?

I have seen in my life the changes of personal desires and my angry tempers calmed down as evidence of the Spirit's filled.

My handle of the struggle with the flesh/old man has been now more prayerful and surrender to God for guidance.

We're engaged in the battle between God's truth and the lies of Satan that captivate the minds of the unbelieving (2 Cor. 10:3-5). And there is a fierce inner battle that goes on between the flesh and the spirit, the old man and the new (Gal. 5:17). Paul describes this war within in Romans 7:14-25.

8. Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body. Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age.

- What is the scriptural basis for the position that physical healing is provided in the redemptive work of Christ?

The scriptural basis for the position that physical healing is provided in the redemptive work of Christ: Matthew 8:16-17: “When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to Jesus, and He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took on our infirmities and carried our diseases.”

- How would you walk someone in your church through prayer for physical healing? Give the steps you would take.

Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age. (James 5:13-16).

The steps I would take:

1. Practicing God’s healing presence
 2. Interview the Person Who Needs Healing: what’s going on with them, how they feel, and what they need from God.
 3. Discern The Best Prayer Strategy: Prayer ministers need to listen to God as they listen to people.
 4. Ask the Person Needing Healing to Act With Faith in Christ
 5. Pray With Faith and Authority
 6. Quietly Wait on God and Look For Manifestations of the Holy Spirit
 7. Receive God’s Special Words
- How would you walk someone in your church through healing prayer for their emotions or past emotional trauma? Give the steps you would take.

I think that the ministry of healing prayer for emotions or past emotional trauma is like those for physical healing.

The steps are like those listed on the above question.

- Has healing by Jesus been a part of your own journey? Please explain why or why not?

Yes, healing by Jesus has been a part of my own journey. Three years ago, I experienced a healing by Jesus occurred in my church’s prayer meeting. My suffered shoulder pain was cured during the prayer session.

9. The Church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations. The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

- What is the local church? What is your understanding of what constitutes the local church, and why is this important to understand?

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. A local church is a group of Christians who regularly gather in Christ's name to officially affirm and oversee one another's membership in Jesus Christ and his kingdom through gospel preaching and gospel ordinances. It is important to understand the local church because we can then focus on an understanding of the mission of the church.

- What are the essential corporate functions of the church, and why are they important? What are the signs of a healthy church?

The five essential corporate functions of the church are: evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, and worship. They are important because those functions can help the church grow healthy. The signs of a healthy church will be numerical growth, spiritual growth, expanding ministries, and expanding missions.

- What is the role of the church in the proclamation of the gospel both locally and globally? What happens when the church does not perform its role? Why do we as The Alliance emphasize church planting locally and globally?

Fulfilling the mission of the church is the responsibility and privilege of every local assembly. When the church does not perform its role, the Lord will abandon this church. The Alliance emphasizes church planting locally and globally because this is the Lord's Great Commission.

- What is the role of the church in discipleship? How important is it to the church? How can it be done well?

The church's role in discipleship is to build the church and the individual Christian to be maturing into the fullness of Christ. The church exists for discipleship; to disciple its members and to make disciple-makers of them. Discipleship in a local church is important because it empowers a growing Christian to discover his/her unique calling and gifting to build up Christ's body (1 Cor. 12.1-7). It can be done by every Christians. All Christians are to exhort each other every day to avoid sin and to stir each other up to love and good works (Hebrews 3:13; 10:24-25).

- What is the significance of baptism and Communion?

Baptism and Communion have a special place in the church because Jesus commanded them and participated in them. Baptism marks the beginning of our lifelong journey as disciples of Jesus Christ. Communion nourishes and sustains us on the journey.

10. There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection unto life; for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment.

- Explain what a bodily resurrection is.

Jesus' bodily resurrection is the guarantee of our own future resurrection. He rose literally, physically, and in a body that was visible and tangible, though remarkably transformed. We hope that "when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is." [1 John 3:2]

- Explain what the outcome is for the just and the unjust.

For the just, a resurrection unto life; for the unjust, a resurrection unto judgment. [John 5:28-29]

11. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal, visible, and premillennial. This is the believer's hope and is a vital truth that is an incentive to holy living and faithful service.

- What are your beliefs about Christ's Second Coming? How would you defend those views using Scripture? Why is Christ coming again?

I believe in the second coming of Christ. His return from heaven will be personal, visible, and glorious, a blessed hope for which I should constantly watch and pray. [Zechariah 14:4; Acts 1:11; Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7]

Jesus is coming back to set the world right, to restore Creation to its original intention.

- How does the realization of Christ's Second Coming impact how you live your life and do ministry?

Jesus is coming again, and he will make all things new. And that reality powers me to be able to live with hope and confidence, no matter the circumstances that I am dealing with.