

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT of VIDAS PLENAS, Guatemala

The Scriptures

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of the living God, plenary and verbally inspired by God, and without error in the original manuscripts. They are also the supreme and final authority in all matters of life and faith. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; 3:16; John 14:26; 16:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:18)

God

We believe that there is one God who exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each of these three persons possesses the same nature, attributes, and perfections of Deity. (Deut. 6:4; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Cor. 8:6; 1 Tim. 1:17; John 15:26; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14)

God the Son

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God the Son. Regarding His humanity, He was begotten by the Holy Spirit and conceived in the Virgin Mary; He is truly God and truly man, holy and sinless. (Matt. 1:18-20; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-14; 1 Tim. 3:16; Acts 7:26)

God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates every believer once and for all, baptizes them into the body of Christ, seals them, and permanently indwells them. The Holy Spirit empowers for life and service those who meet the biblical requirements of submission and total dependence on Him. (John 16:7-11; Eph. 4:30; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 5:16)

Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God by His direct act. He sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of physical and spiritual death, becoming separated from God. All human beings are born with a sinful nature and are accountable for their thoughts, words, and actions. (Gen. 1:26; Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Gal. 5:17-21)

The Work of Christ

We believe that Christ's death on the cross was a vicarious and atoning sacrifice. Based on the shedding of His blood, His bodily resurrection, and His ascension to the right hand of the Father, He provides salvation for all and is the Savior of all who believe. He is now in heaven

as the intercessor and advocate for believers. (1 Tim. 2:6; 1 Pet. 3:18; 1 Cor. 15:3-6; 1 John 2:1; Acts 7:25)

Salvation and Security

We believe that every person who receives the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, apart from any human work, is declared righteous before God based on Christ's sacrifice. They are born from above and become children of God, created in Christ Jesus for good works. All the redeemed are eternally kept by the power of God. (John 1:12-13; Rom. 3:21-28; 8:1, 29-30, 34; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:8-10; 1 John 5:11-12)

Sanctification

We believe that every person who is in Christ is already sanctified, meaning set apart for God, in terms of their position before Him. God has made provision through Christ's work and the ministry of the Holy Spirit for believers to overcome sin and grow in holiness. The believer's sanctification will not be complete until the day of final redemption. (1 Cor. 1:2; Rom. 6:6, 11-13; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 1:7; 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 John 3:2)

The Second Coming

We believe that the Lord will come a second time imminently, personally, and bodily. He will come in the clouds to take His church before the tribulation, and later He will come to this earth in His Father's glory to establish His millennial kingdom. (Acts 1:11; John 14:3; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; Rev. 3:10; 11:15; 19:11-16; Dan. 2:44)

The Resurrection

We believe in the resurrection of the dead: the just and the unjust. The former will rise to eternal blessing, and the latter to eternal condemnation. Those who die in Christ immediately enter the presence of the Lord, and their bodies will be raised on the day of resurrection. (John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:51-52; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:23; Rev. 20:11-15)

Angels

We believe in the existence and personality of angelic beings: both unfallen and fallen angels. The unfallen angels serve God in fulfilling His purposes. The fallen angels, Satan and his demons, oppose God. They were defeated by Christ on the cross and will meet their end in the lake of fire. (Heb. 1:7, 14; Rev. 12:9; Col. 2:15; Matt. 25:41)

The Church

We believe that God progressively revealed Himself in human history and has been forming a people for Himself. The local and universal church began on the day of Pentecost and

represents God's special purpose during this present age. Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper for the church. (1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:22-23; Acts 1:6; 2:41; 11:15-16; Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25)

Civil Authority

We believe that God established civil authority after the Fall to control violence and regulate social responsibilities among men. Christians must respect the government and obey the laws in everything that does not contradict the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. Every human government is imperfect, but man's hope lies in a perfect government, which Christ will establish in His millennial kingdom. (Gen. 8:21; 9:6; Acts 4:19; Rom. 13:1-7; Matt. 22:21; 1 Pet. 2:13-17; Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-10)