

South-West Evangelical Church believes and affirms the following:

1. About God:

There is only one God in Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. From eternity to eternity he is the sovereign and loving Creator, Judge, and Redeemer. He alone is to be worshipped and served above all else.

(Deut. 6:4; Psa. 90:2; Psa. 103; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 4:11)

2. About the Bible:

The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are God's Word. They are inspired by God, completely truthful and trustworthy as originally given, and have supreme authority in all matters of faith, conduct, and experience.

(Luke 24:25-27; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 3:16)

3. About Humanity:

Men and women together are created in the image of God and are completely equal in worth and dignity. Our gender is part of God's good design and is not interchangeable. Our sexuality is a good gift from God and is to be enjoyed only in the covenant relationship of a one man, one woman marriage relationship voluntarily entered into for life.

(Gen. 1:26-27; Matt. 19:4-5; Gal. 3:26-29; Heb. 13:4)

4. About the Fall:

Humanity is universally sinful since the Fall and are all guilty before God. Left to ourselves, we are justly under God's wrath and deserving of eternal condemnation.

(Matt. 25:41; Rom. 1:18-32, 3:10-12, 23)

5. About Jesus Christ:

Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He is both fully God and fully human. He lived a perfect and sinless life but died on the cross in our place as a once for all sacrifice for our sins, turning God's wrath away from us. On the third day he was raised bodily from the dead and now reigns in heaven as Lord of all. From there he will return to judge the living and the dead and usher in the new creation.

(1 Cor. 15:1-8; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:15-19; 1 Pet. 3:18; 2 Pet. 3:10-13)

6. About Salvation:

It is only through Jesus Christ that humanity can be saved from the guilt, penalty, and power of sin. A person is saved when they are born again by the work of the Holy Spirit, and by his power repent of their sins, put their trust in Jesus Christ, and follow Christ as Lord. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, not by good works. The final goal of salvation is the bodily resurrection from the dead of all God's people so that they might live and reign eternally with Christ in a new creation.

(Eph. 2:8-10; 1 Thess. 1:8-10, 4:13-18; 1 Tim. 2:5; Tit. 3:5; Rev. 20:6)

7. About the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with God the Father and the Son and indwells all who have been born again and saved. He brings glory to Jesus and illuminates hearts and minds to hear and obey God's Word. He produces holiness and good works in God's people. He empowers and gifts all believers for service and ministry, for the building up of Christ's body, the church, and as a witness to the world.

(John 14:25-26, 15:26, 16:7-11; Rom. 8:5-13; 1 Cor. 12:-11; 2 Cor. 3:12-18)

8. About the church:

The church is the gathering of God's people around the Lord Jesus. The local church is the visible expression of the heavenly and universal church, and as the body of Christ is key to God's saving purposes for his world and to the growth and flourishing of his people.

The local church submits to Jesus as its Chief Shepherd, and is governed by God's Word and Spirit through its own converted, baptised, and committed members, while overseen and led by a plurality of biblically-qualified elders. It meets regularly for worship, prayer, hearing of God's Word, mutual edification, the sacraments of baptism and holy communion, and church discipline, in order that God's people might be sent into the world for the purpose of service and mission.

(Matt. 16:18, 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47, 20:28; 1 Cor. 1:2, Eph. 1:22-23, 3:10-11, 4:11-16; Heb. 12:22-24)