

Pastor Tom Swafford



Personal Information

Born: December 27, 1961 in Kansas City, KS
Raised: in Edwardsville, KS
Married: Lynda, on July 12, 1986 in Kansas City, KS
Children: Hollie - 25, Chrissy - 13, Rachel - 12, Matthew - 8, Mandy - 6,
Libby - 4, Becca - 3, Anna - 1
Education: Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary
Doctor of Ministry - currently writing dissertation, projected graduation - May 2010
Master of Divinity - May 1999
Kansas State University
Bachelor of Science Degree - December 1995

Brief Statement of Beliefs

The Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully Inspired and without error in the original manuscripts. They are the infallible rule by which we base our faith and our lives. All things must be tested in the light of Scripture.

I believe in the Holy Trinity. God exists eternally in three persons; God as Father, God as Son, and God as Holy Spirit. All three persons were present and created the universe.

Sin is willful disobedience of God's commands. Mankind was created with an original righteousness (Eccl. 7:29), but Adam and Eve chose to disobey God when they ignored His command. As a result, there was a separation between God and man.

The only way to overcome this separation and have a right relationship with God is through His Son, Jesus Christ. He became flesh and lived among us (John 1:14). We have peace with God by faith in our Savior Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1). God sent His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).

The Christian is eternally secure. Jesus said that all who come to Him will never perish (John 10:27-30). The Scripture teaches that nothing can separate us from the love of God (Romans 8).

For the Christian, death was overcome by the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Cor. Chapter 15). Jesus told His disciples that He would rise again on the third day which He did (Matt. 16:21)!

Jesus instituted two ordinances for believers. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of remembering the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross. It is a celebration of His resurrection and also looks forward to His second coming. Baptism is a symbol that a person has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Baptism is not for infants, but for those who repent and believe in Christ. Baptism is a command and we are to follow that command as an act of obedience (Acts 2:38).

Jesus said that He would return and that believers should be ready (Matt. 24:43-44). We must be ready when He comes back for His bride: the church.

Theological Position

I am a theological conservative. Above all, I try to be Biblical in my positions. I have found that if a person will look at Scripture in context, most of the time it is not hard to interpret. I realize that I do not know everything and am constantly learning. However, I hold STRONGLY to the historic Christian faith concerning issues such as (but not exclusive of):

The Trinity. / The deity of Jesus Christ.
Jesus as the only way of salvation. / The Bible as the Word of God.
The sanctity of human life

That marriage is between a man and a woman and all other relationships are against the will of God.