

# FORTY-TWO ARTICLES OF THE ESSENTIALS OF A CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW

(Topic No. 3)

## THE NATURE OF GOD

I. **We affirm** that there is only one living God who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, and absolutely distinct from His creation.

**We deny** any and all views of God that negate or deviate from the traditional Judeo-Christian concept of God, including Atheism, Deism, Finite-godism, Panentheism (Process God), Polytheism, and Pantheism.

II. **We affirm** that God is both transcendent over and immanent in His creation.

**We deny** that in His being God is totally Other or that He is identified with His creation.

III. **We affirm** that from time to time God supernaturally intervenes in the course of natural or human events to accomplish His redemptive purposes.

**We deny** any naturalistic view which either rejects a supernatural God or His miraculous intervention in nature or history.

IV. **We affirm** that God is a personal, infinite, eternal, self-existent, unchangeable, indivisible, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, spiritual being Who is the creator and sustainer of the universe.

**We deny** that God is impersonal, finite, temporal, changeable, divisible, material, or is limited in His power, knowledge, or presence in the universe.

V. **We affirm** that God is absolutely holy, just, good, true, loving, and merciful in His being and all His activities.

**We deny** that God is any less than absolutely and totally perfect in all of His attributes.

VI. **We affirm** that this one God exists eternally in three distinct Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), each of whom shares equally in all the divine attributes.

**We deny** that God is more than one Being (as in Tri-theism) or that He is less than three eternal Persons (as in strict Monotheism, Arianism, or Modalism).

## THE NATURE OF THE UNIVERSE

VII. **We affirm** that the entire universe, including all finite beings, was created by God out of nothing (*ex nihilo*).

**We deny** that the universe is not created or that it was created out of God (*ex deo*) or out of pre-existing material (*ex materia*).

VIII. **We affirm** that the space/time universe is finite, temporal, and real.  
**We deny** that the space/time universe is infinite, eternal, or illusory.

IX. **We affirm** that the entire universe is absolutely distinct from and utterly dependent upon its Creator-God.  
**We deny** that the universe is in any way to be identified with God or that it exists independently of God.

X. **We affirm** that man (male and female) was specially created by God.  
**We deny** that man evolved from or is genetically derived from the lower forms of life.

XI. **We affirm** that man was created in the image and likeness of God, and consequently is endowed by God with immeasurable dignity and worth.  
**We deny** any view that tends to demean or diminish the God-given freedom, dignity, and value of man or reduce him to the status of a mere animal.

XII. **We affirm** that man as a rational and moral being is ultimately responsible and accountable to God.  
**We deny** that man's moral actions are determined genetically or environmentally, or that his responsibility is limited to himself or society.

XIII. **We affirm** that because of man's rebellion against God, both he and his environment exist in a corrupted state and stand under the condemnation of God.  
**We deny** that either man or the world in their present corrupted state may be perfected by natural or human agencies alone.

XIV. **We affirm** that man, from the moment of conception, is a creature who has individual conscious existence eternally beyond physical death.  
**We deny** that man is a merely mortal creature whose individual conscious existence terminates at physical death, or that man's unborn offspring are less than human.

#### **THE NATURE OF TRUTH**

XV. **We affirm** that God is the ultimate author of all truth.  
**We deny** that man can be the ultimate author and determiner of truth.

XVI. **We affirm** that truth is objective, absolute and ultimately non-contradictory.  
**We deny** any view that reduces truth to a purely relative, subjective, experiential, or a paradoxical status.

XVII. **We affirm** truth to be that which corresponds to and accurately describes and explains reality.  
**We deny** any view that conceives of reality as mere subjective experience, existential encounter, mere coherence, dialectical process, or that conceives of reality in any other relativistic manner.

XVIII. **We affirm** that insofar as God has revealed truth, whether in general or special revelation, it is knowable by man even though it is neither exhaustive nor comprehensive.

**We deny** that the limitations of man's knowledge of God's truth leave him incapable of knowing, communicating, or using that truth.

XIX. **We affirm** that all truth disclosed in God's special revelation, the 66 books of the Bible, is propositional.

**We deny** that the human language of the Bible is an inadequate vehicle for communicating God's truth to man.

### **THE NATURE OF TRUE VALUES**

XX. **We affirm** that God is the source of all right and just values and that they reflect His moral character.

**We deny** that true values are ultimately derived from man or any other finite source.

XXI. **We affirm** that the basis of all true values are objective and absolute.

**We deny** that the basis of all true values is merely subjective, relative, or cultural.

XXII. **We affirm** that true values are determined by God and merely discovered by man.

**We deny** that it is legitimate for man to create his own true values on either the personal or societal level.

XXIII. **We affirm** the true values revealed by God place a prescriptive obligation on man by which he must order his life.

**We deny** that true values are merely descriptive of human behavior or that man is not obliged to live by them.

XXIV. **We affirm** that the only perfect, comprehensive, and complete expression of God's values is to be found in the Bible.

**We deny** that those who are unaware of the Bible are thereby excused from moral obligations revealed by God in the hearts of men.

### **THE NATURE OF AUTHORITY**

XXV. **We affirm** that the ultimate source of authority is God.

**We deny** that man has the authority to create his own moral standards.

XXVI. **We affirm** that God has expressed His authority to His creatures in general revelation and most clearly and fully in special revelation.

**We deny** that human society, culture, or consensus is a legitimate basis for man's moral conduct.

XXVII. **We affirm** that God in his general revelation, through the works of creation and the consciences of men, have revealed His eternal power and deity with His moral law in the hearts of all men, even though they in their corrupted state suppress this truth in unrighteousness.

**We deny** that man is either an amoral creature or that he is inherently good or naturally perfectible.

XXVIII. **We affirm** that God's normative, special revelation is expressed in and limited to His authoritative, inerrant, written Word, the Bible, which is the final bar of appeal in all matters of faith and life and stands in judgment over all reason, revelation, and experience.

**We deny** that God has left man without any normative special revelation or that there is any other or additional normative special revelation from God.

XXIX. **We affirm** that the laws of man must be based upon the laws of God.

**We deny** that the laws of man have any inherent authority of their own or that their ultimate authority is rightly derived from or created by man.

#### **THE NATURE OF SALVATION**

XXX. **We affirm** that God alone is the source of man's salvation.

**We deny** that man can initiate or attain his own salvation.

XXXI. **We affirm** that Jesus Christ, the God-Man, by virtue of His perfect life, His substitutionary, atoning death, and His bodily resurrection, is the only Mediator between a Holy God and sinful man.

**We deny** that man can achieve salvation by means of secular education, social programs, political action, genetic engineering, psychology, or self realization, or by any other means.

XXXII. **We affirm** that Jesus Christ in His Incarnation is wholly God and wholly man, two natures in one person, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation.

**We deny** that the two natures of Jesus Christ can be confused, changed, or divided, or that the one Divine Person can be separated from either nature.

XXXIII. **We affirm** that God's gift of salvation is supernaturally applied to those who believe by the gracious working of God the Holy Spirit.

**We deny** that in the matter of his salvation, man is left to his own resources or that he can merit this salvation by his own works.

XXXIV. **We affirm** that salvation is from the presence, power, and penalty of sin and to joyful obedience and service to God in His present and future kingdom.

**We deny** that salvation applies only to the eternal destinies of man.

## **THE NATURE OF HUMAN GOVERNMENT**

XXXV. **We affirm** that the institution of human government has been ordained by God.

**We deny** that any form of government (or ruler) has authority from any source other than God or that God approves governments indiscriminately.

XXXVI. **We affirm** that God has established a multiplicity of human governments such as individual, familial, ecclesiastical, and civil.

**We deny** that any form of human government (or ruler) has valid authority from any source but God or that any human government has either absolute or complete jurisdiction over all other governments.

XXXVII. **We affirm** that it is the duty of all citizens to obey God ordained authority. **We deny** that any citizen is obliged to obey any government when it transgresses its God given mandate or requires him to disobey God's Laws.

XXXVIII. **We affirm** that it is always the obligation of believers to participate in promoting good government.

**We deny** that a Christian can fully discharge his duty to God apart from social, cultural, and political action aimed at influencing society for God and for human good.

## **THE NATURE (AND PURPOSE) OF HISTORY**

XXXIX. **We affirm** that the Sovereign God is providentially directing the course of human history and that the saving purposes of God in Christ are accomplished within the same history.

**We deny** any philosophy which espouses a naturalistic, chaotic, cyclical, dialectical, two-leveled or any other view that neglects or negates the directive activity of God in history.

XL. **We affirm** that the purpose and meaning history is to bring praise and glory to God and abundant life to His children.

**We deny** any view which rejects meaning or purpose in history or which has man, nature, or anything other than God enshrined as its ultimate object.

XLI. **We affirm** that although man may be the primary focus and subject of history, God is its ultimate author and finisher.

**We deny** any view in which man is elevated to the level of architect, director, or determiner of the course of historical events.

XLII. **We affirm** that the consummation of history is the final triumph of God over all death and evil and their consequences, and its ultimate goal is the manifestation of the glory of God.

**We deny** any view which embraces reincarnation, universalism, the ultimate overpowering of good by evil, the annihilation of man, or the elimination of a place of eternal punishment and separation from God.