

# An Element of ...Our Christian Walk

**1Th 5:21 (KJV)** Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

NKJV - Examine

ESV - Test

Knox - Scrutinize

Before we discuss “how” ... Let’s understand “Why” this is important

Deceivers

**1 John 4:1** Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

To know God’s will

**Romans 12:2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Misinformation, mistakes, error

**Proverbs 14:15** The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps.

It’s part of our evangelism

**1Peter 3:15** ... be ready always to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear

\*\* It’s part of our Church of God history!?! \*\* Rightly & *wrongly*!?!

## How? (... to prove, examine, test, scrutinize)

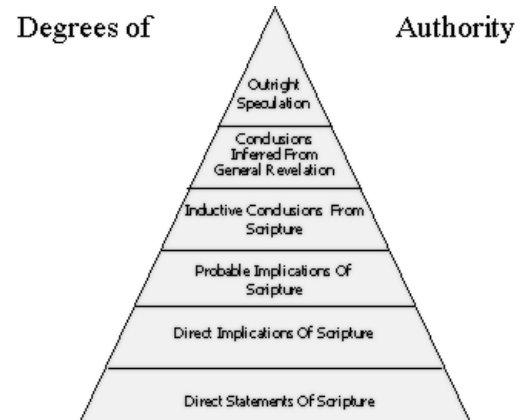
Agree on trusted sources

**Deu 32:4** He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, **A God of truth** and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

**John 17:17** Sanctify them by Your truth. **Your word is truth.**

**Acts 17:11** These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

**2 Timothy 3:16-17** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."



Stay humble...

**Jer 10:23** O LORD, I know the way of man *is* not in himself; *It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

**Proverbs 3:5-6** Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Be aware of the *spiritual* dimension of some errors & lies

**Revelation 12:9** So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil & Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, & his angels were cast out with him.

**2 Cor 11:14** And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

**2 Corinthians 11:3** But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

**John 8:44** You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

**Ephesians 6:11** Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Building blocks are ... the basic things that are put together to make something exist

- Complex concepts are made up of many points (truths)
- find or develop “points of agreement”



- Nothing is more frustrating than exploring a large concept with someone ... & having them make the same point (you already agree with) ... for the 12<sup>th</sup> time!



**Isa 28:10** For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."

### Be a Whole Body Listener



**Habit 5:**

**SEEK FIRST TO UNDERSTAND, THEN TO BE UNDERSTOOD**

**Listen BEFORE YOU TALK**

I am confident in voicing my ideas.

I look people in the eyes when talking.

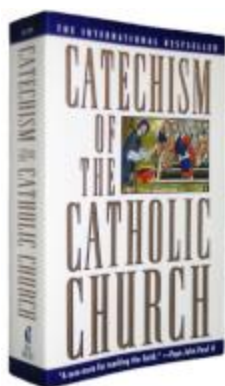
I listen to other people's ideas and feelings.

I try to see things from their viewpoints.

I listen to others without interrupting.



The Catechism of the Catholic Church (shown here) is a neat example of some building blocks...



It shows keen insight saying many excellent points eg. about the Sabbath ...

The Church of God is in full agreement with several of these

points! ... **but** ...

then they go “off course” ... with points that we do NOT agree with!

It is **great** to point out areas where “we agree”!

However ...

We usually want to focus on areas of *difference* to explore or “discuss” their “proofs”

## THE THIRD COMMANDMENT

Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work; but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; in it you shall not do any work.<sup>90</sup>

The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.<sup>91</sup>

### I. THE SABBATH DAY

**2168** The third commandment of the Decalogue recalls the holiness of the sabbath: “The seventh day is a sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the LORD.”<sup>92</sup>

**2169** In speaking of the sabbath Scripture recalls creation: “For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and hallowed it.”<sup>93</sup>

**2170** Scripture also reveals in the Lord’s day a *memorial of Israel’s liberation* from bondage in Egypt: “You shall remember that you were a servant in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out thence with mighty hand and outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.”<sup>94</sup>

**2171** God entrusted the sabbath to Israel to keep as a *sign of the irrevocable covenant*.<sup>95</sup> The sabbath is for the Lord, holy and set apart for the praise of God, his work of creation, and his saving actions on behalf of Israel.

**2172** God’s action is the model for human action. If God “rested and was refreshed” on the seventh day, man too ought to “rest” and should let others, especially the poor, “be refreshed.”<sup>96</sup> The sabbath brings everyday work to a halt and provides a respite. It is a day of protest against the servitude of work and the worship of money.<sup>97</sup>

**2173** The Gospel reports many incidents when Jesus was accused of violating the sabbath law. But Jesus never fails to respect the holiness of this day.<sup>98</sup> He gives this law its authentic and authoritative interpretation: “The sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath.”<sup>99</sup> With compassion, Christ declares the sabbath for doing good rather than harm, for saving life rather than killing.<sup>100</sup> The sabbath is the day of the Lord of mercies and a day to honor God.<sup>101</sup> “The Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath.”<sup>102</sup>

### II. THE LORD’S DAY

This is the day which the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.<sup>103</sup>

#### The day of the Resurrection: the new creation

**2174** Jesus rose from the dead “on the first day of the week.”<sup>104</sup> Because it is the “first day,” the day of Christ’s Resurrection recalls the first creation. Because it is the “eighth day” following the sabbath,<sup>105</sup> it symbolizes the new creation ushered in by Christ’s Resurrection. For Christians it has become the first of all days, the first of all feasts, the Lord’s Day (*he kuriake hemera, dies dominica*)—Sunday:

We all gather on the day of the sun, for it is the first day [after the Jewish sabbath, but also the first day] when God, separating matter from darkness, made the world; and on this same day Jesus Christ our Savior rose from the dead.<sup>106</sup>

#### Sunday—fulfillment of the sabbath

**2175** Sunday is expressly distinguished from the sabbath which it follows chronologically every week; for Christians its ceremonial observance replaces that of the sabbath.

Benefit from the wisdom & work of “trusted” others ... but STILL do your homework!  
eg our [Statement of Beliefs](#) & the [Systematic Theology Project](#)

# Statement of Beliefs of The Church of God International

## **INTRODUCTION**

The doctrinal tenets, practices, teachings, and beliefs of the Church of God International are based on the Word of God, the Holy Bible. God’s people believe that they are to live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4).

## **1. GOD**

God is the eternal, all-powerful, supreme creator and sustainer of the entire universe. God is one, composed of spirit and comprising a family presently consisting of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. God is a loving, kind, merciful being who wants to share His magnificent existence by reproducing Himself through man.

*Psalm 19:1; 50:1, 6–7; Isaiah 44:6; Nehemiah 9:6 16–17; John 1:12–13; 3:16; Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:1–2; 1 John 3:1–2*

## **2. BIBLE**

The whole Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God containing His plan of salvation, and the record of His participation in history. The Bible is God’s revelation of knowledge that man cannot discover for himself. It is the foundation of knowledge, and the guidebook of life. The Old and New Testaments comprise God’s written Word, which forms the basis of Christianity as taught by the church and as practiced by the Christian.

*Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4; John 17:17; Romans 8:16; 1 Corinthians 2:7–11; 2 Timothy 3:16–17; 2 Peter 1:20*

## **3. JESUS CHRIST**

Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of God, and the Son of Man. He was the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament, and is described in the New Testament as being fully human and fully divine. As the second member of the God family, He has existed throughout eternity as the “Word.” He divested Himself of this power and His majesty, and became a human being to die for the sins of all mankind as our loving and merciful Savior. He was then resurrected, and ascended to heaven to become our High Priest. Jesus Christ shall return to establish the Kingdom of God on earth, and rule as King of Kings with His saints forever.

*Deuteronomy 18:15; Matthew 17:15–17; John 1:1–14; 3:16; Acts 2:32–33; Romans 5:8; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 4:14–15; Revelation 1:13–16*

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# GOD

## DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

God is the eternal, omnipresent, all-powerful, supreme Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe. God is *one*, composed of spirit and comprising a family revealed presently as consisting of God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. God is a loving, kind, merciful being who wants to share His magnificent existence by reproducing Himself through man.

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## DOCTRINAL OVERVIEW

The most fundamental need facing mankind is to recognize God's existence and to understand His character, personality and master plan. Man will continue to flounder without real knowledge of the purpose of life until he gains an accurate and clear picture of his Creator (Matt. 23:37; Acts 17:23; Jer. 24:7; 31:34).

The question of whether God's existence can be proved has troubled mankind throughout millennia, stirring heated debate with arguments on both sides. Unfortunately, the form most of these debates take is one person tries to forcibly "prove" God's existence to another, attempting to formulate arguments or logic so airtight as to exclude any other possibil-

ity. This approach does not work. No argument, no matter how carefully thought out or logically constructed, can absolutely "prove" God's existence to one who will grasp at virtually *any other* unlikely explanation or remote possibility. No person can make another person believe in God!

Nevertheless, God's existence can be totally proved. Anyone who has individually and personally experienced the biblical miracle of conversion, or has received miraculous answers to their prayers, has truly and irrefutably proved God's existence to themselves and cannot be shaken from this proof by any argument, whether theological or philosophical, as long as they stay in this contact with God (John 20:29; Mark 9:24).

Also, God's existence is powerfully demonstrated by the creation. The reality of the material universe, the existence of life, and the interdependence and sustenance of the laws governing the physical dimension respectively require a Creator, a Life-Giver and Sustainer. Thus David said: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork" (Ps. 19:1). Likewise, Paul records that "the invisible things of Him [God] from [looking up at] the creation ... are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Rom. 1:20).

The Bible reveals that the one God is a family composed of two members—the Father and the Son, Jesus Christ. John's Gospel states these two have dwelt together from eternity and they share power, glory, and majesty, although Christ is second in authority (John 14:28; 1 Cor. 15:24-28). Additionally, the Bible explains the Holy Spirit to be equated with God (Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor. 3:17), and illustrates the Holy Spirit is the essence, power, mind, and spiritual extension and presence of God, rather than a third personal being. (Please see our STP statement on the Holy Spirit). From the biblical revelation we infer that God resembles man in certain aspects but is composed of spirit instead of flesh (Jn. 4:24), radiating spiritual energy and power. The few references to God's "appearance" emphasize His incredible brilliance (Rev. 1:14-16; Dan. 7:9-10).

The Father and Son, though two distinct persons are "one" in much the same way Adam and Eve were "one flesh" (Gen. 2:24). Throughout Scripture, the one God is described as a single per-

son, indicated by the frequent occurrence of singular pronouns such as "I," "Me," "He," "Him," and "His," all of which refer to the one true God. But we see similar usage in descriptions of humankind. In Genesis 6, for instance, humankind is described as a single person. God will not "strive with man forever, for *he* is indeed flesh," and "*his* days shall be" limited, for "the intent of the thoughts of *his* heart was only evil continually" (vv. 3, 5). Clearly, the one "man" is not a single human person, though singular pronouns are used in descriptions of man.

Similarly, the one God is not a single divine person, though singular pronouns are used to describe God.

God is not two Spirits, but one Spirit (that's the essence of God). Within that *one* Spirit, or essence, are the Father and the Son, and the two *are distinct* persons in the family of God. The *one* Spirit is called the "Spirit of Christ" because Christ sends it. It is also called the "Spirit of the Father" (or "Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead") because the Father sends it, too (Jn. 14–16). Also, it is the means whereby these two persons, Father and Son, dwell "in" or "with" Christ's disciples. ("I will send the Helper ... My Father will send the Helper ... We will come unto you ... make our abode with you..." etc). It is the one essence of God, both Father and Son, not two essences (which would be Semi-Arianism).

God is the total embodiment of love; He is the originator of law and the giver of every good and perfect gift. His many titles and names (Creator, Counselor, Healer, Self-Existent One, Father, Almighty, etc.) reveal His special qualities of character and personality. Yet it is God's mercy and compassion that are paramount in giving full hope and confidence to fallible human beings who are all sinners.

Perhaps the most outstanding single characteristic of God is His total and complete unselfish *love*. This one quality is so much a part of God's entire makeup that He is in actuality its ultimate quintessential personification and hence "*is love*" (1 Jn. 4:8). God has demonstrated His love for us in many ways: through the sacrifice of His Son (Jn. 3:16), by forgiving our sins, by strengthening our will and determination in the face of trials; and in a variety of countless other ways. But perhaps the single greatest expression of God's love is that He devised a plan to share Himself, by *reproducing Himself*

through man (Rom. 8:15; Jn. 20:17; Heb. 2).

This master plan is indeed the most remarkable truth and, incredibly, the very reason why the entire universe was created (Heb. 2:7–8). All human beings from all times, since Adam and Eve, shall have a fair and full opportunity to become members of God's family. Mankind has been created in God's image (Gen. 1:26) and put on earth to reject evil and thereby build character so each human being can spiritually be born into God's kingdom and family (1 Cor. 15; Rom. 5:1–5; Phil. 2:12–16; 2 Pet. 1:5–7; Rev. 2:7, 10–11, 17, 26–27; 3:5, 12, 21). Thus God's family of two revealed persons shall grow to an innumerable multitude, and God's greatness shall be multiplied by many times as an incredible number of sons and daughters are added to His family (Rev. 7).

The God of the Bible is both cosmic and personal. He is the Creator of the universe and at the same time is concerned for each human being. He sustains galaxies and controls the full scope of human history, while at the same time He focuses intense concern on each man, woman, and child who seeks Him. God is involved with the whole of mankind: in the rise and fall of governments, in the sweep of generations, in the ultimate direction of human society. Yet, this same being is intimately involved in the personal lives of human beings from every social stratum, race, and intellect. God is merciful to sinners; He is compassionate and deeply desires that we attain the greatest possible happiness and success (Joel 2:13; Jn. 3:16).

For now, God rules the spiritual and material universe from His throne in heaven, although His mind and Spirit reach everywhere (Ps. 139:7–10; 1 Kings 8:27). Beside Him sits His Son, Jesus Christ, and the two of them, surrounded and aided by myriads of angels of differing ranks and authority, direct the working out of their master plan (Rev. 5). Eventually, God's throne will be moved to the "new earth" of Revelation 21 from where He and His innumerable multitude of sons will rule His Kingdom and the unfathomable vastness of the infinite universe for all eternity.

### ***To Know More...***

Please visit [www.CGL.org](http://www.CGL.org). The **Topics Menu** features booklets, articles, and sermons for most of the subjects of the *Systematic Theology Project*, including the subject of "God."

More ideas around “how” to Prove all Things ... or present ideas

**Apologetics:** The branch of theology and philosophy that aims to provide reasoned justifications or defenses for religious beliefs, particularly in response to skepticism or criticism.

**Exegesis and Hermeneutics:** The interpretation of sacred texts using **exegesis** (legitimate interpretation which "reads out of" the text what the original author or authors meant to convey. *Eisegesis*, on the other hand, reads into the text what the interpreter wishes to find or thinks he finds there) and **hermeneutics** (interpreting scripture within a specific cultural, historical, and linguistic context).



**THE PRINCIPLES OF HERMENEUTICS**  
HOW TO CORRECTLY INTERPRET THE BIBLE

- 1. SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE**  
Often Scripture interprets itself. In some instances, another Biblical writer interprets another Biblical passage.
- 2. CONTEXT INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE**  
The surrounding verses, chapters, and Book of the Bible provide immediate context to any Bible verse, as does the historical, cultural, linguistic context of a verse.
- 3. INTENT INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE**  
All Scripture has an intended meaning. It is therefore true that a Scripture has one correct interpretation while it may have many correct applications.
- 4. THE CLEAR INTERPRETS THE OBSCURE**  
No verse of Scripture should be interpreted to contradict the overall message of Scripture. When we are faced with an obscure verse, we find a clear verse to help interpret it.

**In writing** ... is best for preserving ideas and allowing later study -- less “games”

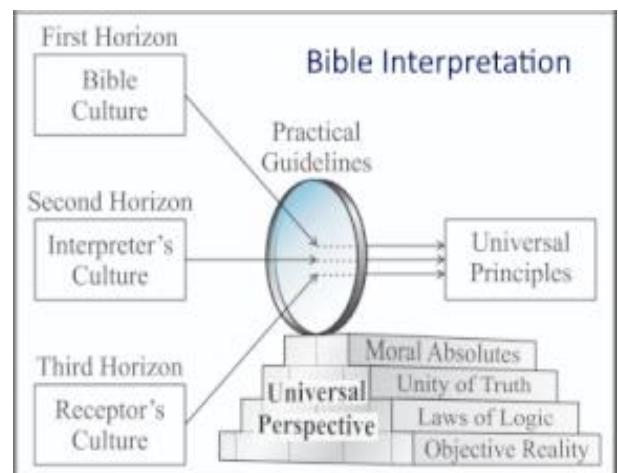
Matt 4:4 But He answered and said, "It is **written**, 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE BY BREAD ALONE...' (*“it is written”* occurs 64 times!)

**Testimony:** The reporting or recounting of personal experiences, beliefs, or knowledge by individuals. In the context of religious truths, testimonies may be used to support claims of divine experiences or miracles. May not be “proof” to another person, but can be effective!

**Peer Review:** A process in which experts or others evaluate the validity and quality of research or arguments before they are accepted as valid.

**Proverbs 11:14** Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

**Proverbs 1:5** A wise man will hear and increase learning, and a man of understanding will attain wise counsel.





**Bible Helps** - Bible Dictionaries, Concordances, Handbooks, Topical Bibles, Atlases, etc can provide great insights and help you find the **best scriptures** for a subject ... making your work “proving things” even more effective.

**Computer Assistance** - Different translations, definitions, etc, etc, can be a great help in Proving and promoting truth (evangelism) via writing articles / blogs or posts to social media to stir up interest in timely topics.

**Mark 8:38** For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.

**Asking great questions!** This can direct the conversation into areas you are prepared to discuss, and others may be curious about .

**Isa 45:15** Truly You *are* God, who hide Yourself, O God of Israel, the Savior! **Why?**

**Psa\_8:4** What is man that You are mindful of him? ...

**Matt 19:16** Now behold, one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"

**Burden of Proof:** The obligation to provide evidence or argumentation in support of a claim. In many cases, the burden of proof falls on the party making the claim.

**Matt 21:27** (*Jesus chose to NOT answer provoking or trick questions*)

**Prov 14:7** Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.

**Definitions:** A clear concise definition is like wonderful poetry - a delight to hear & explore

**Prov 25:11** A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver.

**Proving ...ALL things! ... It's about sharing knowledge, NOT being the “smarty pants”**

**Ecc 12:12** And further, my son, be admonished by these. Of **making many books *there is no end***, and much study *is* wearisome to the flesh.

**John 21:25** And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even **the world itself could not contain the books** that would be written.

**The Best Posture for learning & teaching??**

**James 1:19** So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to **hear**, slow to **speak**, slow to **wrath**

