**Note: TOPICS** are in all caps, bold and underlined. Bible verses’ first lines are indented and in a font with serifs. They are taken from the EHV if New Testament or Psalms; NIV if Old Testament. Explanatory text is not indented and is in a san-serif font.)

**ABORTION:**

Three key points:

1. Murder – the taking of another life by an individual – is sinful.
2. The Bible presents God as the author of life, and the one who decides when death comes. This authority over life is rooted in God's status as the Creator of all life.
3. The Bible views unborn children as fully human. The Holy Scriptures clearly teach that the living yet unborn are persons in the sight of God and are under the protection of His Commandment against murder.

You shall not murder.

***Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17***

“You have heard that it was said to people long ago, ‘You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be subject to judgment.’

***Matthew 5:21***

And from each human being, too, I will demand an accounting for the life of another human being. “Whoever sheds human blood,  by humans shall their blood be shed;
for in the image of God has God made mankind.

**Gen. 9:5b-6**

See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal, and no one can deliver out of my hand"

***Deuteronomy 32:39***

In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind"

***Job 12:10***

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

***Psalm 51:5***

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb.

***Psalm 139:13***

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;

***Jeremiah 1:5a***

Just as Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She called out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why am I so favored that the mother of my Lord should come to me? In fact, just now, as soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy!

***Luke 1:41-44***

*(Also see: Job 10:9-11)*

**ADULTERY**

You shall not commit adultery.

***Exodus 20:14, Deuteronomy 5:18***

Marriage is to be held in honor by all, and the marriage bed is to be kept undefiled, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.

***Hebrews 13:4***

In the same way, husbands have an obligation to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. …  “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will be one flesh.”  This is a great mystery, but I am talking about Christ and the church. In any case, each one of you also is to love his wife as himself, and each wife is to respect her husband.

***Ephesians 5:28,31-33***

Indeed, this is God’s will: that you be sanctified, namely, that you keep yourselves away from sexual immorality. 4 He wants each of you to learn to obtain a wife[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+4%3A1-7&version=EHV#fen-EHV-8916b)] for yourself[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Thessalonians+4%3A1-7&version=EHV#fen-EHV-8916c)] in a way that is holy and honorable, 5 not in lustful passion like the heathen, who do not know God.

***1 Thessalonians 4:3-5***

After all, brothers, you were called to freedom. Only do not use your freedom as a starting point for your sinful flesh. Rather, serve one another through love.

***Galatians 5:13***

(Also see: 1 Peter 3:1-9)

**ANTICHRIST**

(From “This We Believe”) We reject the teaching that Christians should look for one individual to arise in the end times as the great Antichrist. The characteristics of the Antichrist as presented in Scripture have been, and are being fulfilled in the institution of the papacy.

Let no one deceive you in any way, because that day will not come until the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed—the son of destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above everyone who is called God or every object of worship, so that he sits in the temple of God, displaying himself as God.

Do you not remember that, while I was still with you, I kept telling you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed in his own time. In fact, the mystery of this lawlessness is already at work, but only until the one who is now holding him back moves out of the way. Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will consume with the breath of his mouth and destroy when he appears in splendor at his coming.

The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan, with every kind of miracle, that is, with false signs and wonders, and with every kind of unrighteousness that deceives those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.

 ***2 Thessalonians 2:4-10***

**ATONEMENT (Vicarious):**

If anyone does sin, we have an Advocate before the Father: Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the whole world.

***1John 2:1b-2***

**BAPTISM (esp. Infant Baptism)**

When Jesus instituted Baptism, He said “all nations” were to be instructed in his Word and baptized. He didn’t limit this command in any way – by age or any other constraint.

Besides the fact that infants are people who are part of a nation, infants are to be baptized because they have a need for the forgiveness of sins. The Bible does not speak of any age of innocence or any time in life when infants and children are not sinners and not responsible for their sins. Just the opposite, Scripture speaks of people being conceived and born in sin. King David spoke for the entire human race when he confessed that he was sinful at birth.

Finally, the Bible reveals to us that children and infants can have faith. So rather than a single verse addressing infant Baptism, it is the case of numerous Bible passages demonstrating why little ones too are to be baptized.

Actual practice in the New Testament indicates that babies and small children were baptized by the Apostles. Acts 16:15 mentions that Lydia’s entire household was baptized – no exclusions. The story of the jailer at Philippi (later in Acts 16) is similar.

Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

***Matthew 28:19***

Peter answered them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

***Acts 2:38-39***

Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

***Psalm 51:5***

“But, if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a huge millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.

***Matthew 18:6***

People were bringing even their babies to Jesus, so that he would touch them. When the disciples saw this, they began to rebuke them. But Jesus invited them, saying, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen I tell you: Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”

***Luke 18:15-17***

…and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

***2 Timothy 3:15***

Without delay, he and all his family were baptized. Then he brought Paul and Silas into his house and set food before them. He rejoiced, because he and his whole household had come to believe in God.

***Acts 16:33b,34***

**BAPTISM (method of applying)**

While the New Testament sometimes speaks of baptisms being performed in rivers, it never mentions “immersion.” The Greek word for baptize simply means to apply water, and is used (for instance) in Mark 7:4 to simply mean ‘washing.’ So it is permissible to baptize by dipping or immersing into water, but it is not required.

**BAPTISM (is a means of grace)**

“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.”

***Acts 2:38***

… baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 3:21

**COMMUNION (esp. the Real Presence)**

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples. He said, “Take, eat, this is my body.” Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it all of you, for this is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

***Matthew 26:26-28***

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread,  and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, after the meal, he also took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new testament in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the Lord’s body and blood. Instead, let a person examine himself and after doing so, let him eat of the bread and drink from the cup. For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy way because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment on himself.

***1st Corinthians 11:23-29***

***(See also Mark 14 & Luke 22)***

**CREATION vs. Evolution/ Age of the Earth**

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.

***Genesis 1:31***

For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day.

***Exodus 20:11a***

It will be a sign between me and the Israelites forever, for in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, and
on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.’”

***Exodus 31:17***

**DIVORCE**

“The man who hates and divorces his wife,” says the Lord, the God of Israel, “does violence to the one he should protect,” says the Lord Almighty.

***Malachi 2:16***

Some Pharisees came in order to test him. They asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?”

He answered, “Haven’t you read that from the beginning their Maker ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will be one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

They asked him, “Then why did Moses command a man to give her a certificate of divorce and send her away?”

Jesus said to them, “Because of your hard hearts, Moses permitted you to divorce your wives, but it was not that way from the beginning. I tell you that whoever divorces his wife, except on the grounds of her sexual immorality, and marries another woman is committing adultery.”

***Matthew 19:3-9***

But if the unbeliever leaves, let him leave. The brother or the sister is not bound in such cases, and God has called us to live in peace.

***1 Corinthians 7:15***

**Discernment/ DOCTRINE/ “Judging”**

Pay close attention to yourself and to the doctrine. Persevere in them, because by doing this you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.

***1 Timothy 4:16***

But I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the teaching that you learned, and keep away from them. For such people are not serving Christ our Lord but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they seduce the hearts of the unsuspecting.

***Romans 16:17***

From your precepts I gain understanding. Therefore, I hate every false road.

**Psalm 119:104**

But test everything. Hold on to the good. Keep away from every kind of evil.

***1 Thessalonians 5:21-23***

Now, Israel, hear the decrees and laws I am about to teach you. Follow them so that you may live and may go in and take possession of the land the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. 2 Do not add to what I command you and do not subtract from it, but keep the commands of the Lord your God that I give you.

***Deuteronomy 4:1-2***

**END OF THE WORLD/ Eschatology**

* The date is unknown, and will come suddenly:

“No one knows when that day and hour will be, not the angels of heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father.

***Matthew 24:36***

(Similar statement in Mark 13:32)

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. On that day the heavens will pass away with a roar, the elements will be dissolved as they burn with great heat, and the earth and what was done on it will be burned up.

***2 Peter 3:10***

… for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

***1st Thessalonians 5:2-6***

* The date is near, so we should be ready at all times:

So be alert, because you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. …  You also need to be ready for this reason: The Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not expect him.

***Matthew 24:42,44***

The end of all things is near. So have sound judgment and be self-controlled for the sake of your prayers.

***1 Peter 4:7*** (The entire section in 2 Peter 3:3-12 discusses this topic.)

Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

***Matthew 25:13***

* All the dead will rise; together with those still living, all will appear before Jesus on the throne of judgment:

Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, but those who have practiced evil will rise to be condemned.

***John 5:28-29***

**EUTHANASIA**

You shall not murder.

***Exodus 20:13, Deuteronomy 5:17***

“The Lord brings death and makes alive;
  he brings down to the grave and raises up.”

***1 Samuel 2:6***

**FAITH ALONE** (“sola fide”)

Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

***Ephesians 2: 8-9***

**Church FELLOWSHIP**

But I urge you, brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the teaching that you learned, and keep away from them. For such people are not serving Christ our Lord but their own appetites. By smooth talk and flattery, they seduce the hearts of the unsuspecting.

***Romans 16:17-18***

Make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

***Ephesians 4:3***

If someone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not receive him into your house. Do not even wish him well. For the one who wishes him well shares in his wicked works.

***2 John 10-11***

 Reject a divisive person after a first and second warning.

***Titus 3:10***

(Also see 2 Timothy 2:24-26)

**GOOD WORKS**

For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.

***Ephesians 2:10*** *(best if read in context, from verse 1, which makes it clear that our salvation is entirely through God’s undeserved love – grace)*

**GOVERNMENT**

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God.

***Romans 13:1***

**GRACE ALONE** (Sola Gratia)

You were dead in your trespasses and sins… But God, because he is rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in trespasses. It is by grace you have been saved!  … Indeed, it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast.

***Ephesians 2:1a, 4-5, 8-9***

However, an unspiritual person does not accept the truths taught by God’s Spirit, because they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually evaluated.

1 Corinthians 2:14

Now if it is by grace, then it is not the result of works—otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Romans 11:6

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will endure, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

***John 15:16***

**HELL**

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left.

… “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire, which is prepared for the Devil and his angels.

…  And they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.

***Matthew 25:31-33, 41, 46***

**HOMOSEXUALITY**

Note that all of the scriptural references that apply to adultery also apply to homosexual behavior.

Do not have sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman; that is detestable.

***Leviticus 18:22***

If a man has sexual relations with a man as one does with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They are to be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.

***Leviticus 20:13***

**(**Also see the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, in Genesis 19)

For this reason God handed them over to disgraceful passions. Even their females exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. And, in the same way, their males, after abandoning natural sexual relations with females, were consumed by their lust for one another. Males perform indecent acts with males and receive in themselves the penalty that is fitting for their perversion.

***Romans 1:26-27*** (part of a longer passage: 1:21-32)

Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.

***1 Corinthians 6:9-10***

**JESUS CHRIST**

**Fully human and fully divine**

For all the fullness of God’s being dwells bodily in Christ.

***Colossians 2:9***

**Two states of Christ**

Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.  Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

***Philippians 2:5-11***

**“Judging”/ being JUDGEMENTAL
(also see “Doctrine”)**

“Stop judging, so that you will not be judged. For with whatever standard you judge, you will be judged, and with whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you. Why do you focus on the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not consider the beam that is in your own eye?  How will you tell your brother, ‘Let me remove the speck from your eye,’ when, in fact, you have a beam in your own eye?  Hypocrite! First remove the beam from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

***Matthew 7:1-5***

But you, why do you pass judgment on your brother? And you, why do you look down on your brother?

***Romans 14:10a***

**JUDGEMENT DAY: see (“End of the World”)**

**The LORD’S SUPPER (see “Communion”)**

**MILLENIALISM (see “End of the World”)**

(Millenialism is generally based on Revelation 20, which clearly uses figurative language. Further, to interpret the 1000 years mentioned in Rev. 20 as literal 1000 years on earth requires very selective interpretation of the chapter – “picking and choosing” verses rather than letting Scripture interpret Scripture or taking the verses in context.)

Jesus said, “My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place.”

***John 18:36***

**OBJECTIVE (Universal) JUSTIFICATION**

That is, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them. And he has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation. … God made him, who did not know sin, to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

***2: Corinthians 5:19,21***

**Only ONE TRUE GOD:**

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

***Deuteronomy 6:4***

Jesus answered, “The most important is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord, our God, the Lord is one.

***Mark 12:29***

Then Jesus said to him, “Go away, Satan! For it is written: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”

**Matthew 4:10**

…we know that an idol is not anything real in the world and that there is no God but one.

***1 Corinthians 8:4***

“I am the Lord; that is my name!
    I will not yield my glory to another
    or my praise to idols.”

***Isaiah 42:8***

**Universal PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS**

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God’s own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

*1 Peter 2:9*

**The “RAPTURE” (see “End of the World”)**

**SALVATION is through Jesus Christ alone**

Jesus said to him, “I am the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.

***John 14:6***

The one who believes in the Son has eternal life, but the one who rejects the Son will not see life; instead, God’s wrath remains on him.

***John 3:36***

This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone. There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.

***Acts 4:12***

**SAME-SEX MARRIAGE**

The Bible teaches that marriage was established and given by God at the time of creation. Marriage is not simply a contract between two consenting individuals, nor is it merely a creation of human society, culture, or tradition.

God designed marriage as the life-long union of one man and one woman:

That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

***Genesis 2:24***

He answered, “Haven’t you read that from the beginning their Maker ‘made them male and female,’ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will be one flesh’? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, man must not separate.”

***Matthew 19:4-6***

Marriage is a relationship that is to be honored and kept pure:

Marriage is to be held in honor by all, and the marriage bed is to be kept undefiled, for God will judge sexually immoral people and adulterers.

***Hebrews 13:4***

Husbands, love your wives, in the same way as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

*Ephesians 5:25* (entire passage from verse 22 to verse 33 is useful)

**SCRIPTURE’s origin, use and purpose:**

… from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

*2nd Timothy 3:15-17*

**Proper Use & Interpretation of SCRIPTURE**

**SCRIPTURE ALONE** (Sola Scriptura)

(Passages below focus on the fact that only Scripture comes from God; we should not trust in human wisdom or other human words.)

In fact, no prophecy ever came by the will of man, but men spoke from God[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Peter+1%3A21&version=EHV#fen-EHV-9809a)] as they were being carried along by the Holy Spirit.

***2 Peter 1:21***

We also speak about these things, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in words taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual truths with spiritual words.

***1 Corinthians 2:13***

**1**5 and that from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God breathed[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=2+Timothy+3%3A15-16&version=EHV#fen-EHV-9178a)] and is useful for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, and for training in righteousness,

***2 Timothy 3:15-16***

But he said, “Even more blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.”

 ***Luke 11:28***

You search the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them. They testify about me!

***John 5:39***

**TOLERANCE / “many paths to heaven” & “doctrine doesn’t matter”**

**See DOCTRINE**

**Also:**

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

***John 17:3***

Turn to me and be saved,
    all you ends of the earth;
    for I am God, and there is no other.

***Isaiah 45:22***

**The TRINITY**

God is both one being, and three persons. This distinguishes Christianity from every other faith, as well as Mormonism and the Jehovah’s Witnesses. See also ONE TRUE GOD.

Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

***Matthew 28:19***

After Jesus was baptized, he immediately went up out of the water. Suddenly, the heavens were opened for him! He saw the Spirit of God, descending like a dove and landing on him, and a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my Son, whom I love. I am well pleased with him.”

***Matthew 3:16-17***

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***2 Corinthians 13:14***

…so that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

***John 5:23***

Also see: Deuteronomy 6:4

Numbers 6:24-26