

Introduction to Christian Doctrine: A Faithful Witness of Word and Spirit

A Pastoral Word to the Reader

Dear Reader,

It is with prayerful gratitude and deep love for Christ and His Church that I present to you this doctrinal handbook, *Christian Doctrine: A Faithful Witness of Word and Spirit*. This book is not merely a collection of theological teachings—it is a spiritual journey meant to strengthen your heart, deepen your mind, and anchor your soul in the unchanging truth of God's Word.

The Holy Christian Church International (THCCI) has been called to be a witness in the world, grounded in the full counsel of God and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Our *Statement of Faith* reflects that calling which stands as a testimony to the truth of Scripture, the continuity of the historic Church, and the transforming power of Christ in every generation.

This work was birthed from a pastoral desire to help you—whether you are a disciple, teacher, pastor, or new believer—see that what we believe is not new, isolated, or invented. It is rooted in the Bible, confirmed by the Church Fathers, articulated by Reformers, revived by Holiness leaders, and ignited again through Pentecostal fire. You are holding a bridge in your hands—a bridge that connects today's believer with the apostolic faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3).

The Purpose of This Book

This volume was written to:

- Demonstrate that THCCI's doctrine aligns with the clear teaching of Scripture.
- Show how our beliefs continue the theological stream of the early Church, the Reformers, the Wesleyan-Holiness movement, and classical Pentecostalism.
- Help believers walk in sound doctrine with biblical literacy, historical understanding, and Spirit-empowered conviction.

In a time when the winds of culture blow strong, this book is a foundation. When confusion clouds the minds of many, it offers clarity. When the Church is tempted to compromise, it holds the line.

How the Chapters Are Structured

Each chapter in this book follows a consistent structure for clarity and depth:

- **Introduction** – setting the stage for the doctrine.
- **Biblical Foundations** – explaining the Scriptures that ground each belief.
- **Theological Commentary** – drawing from systematic theologians, Church Fathers, Reformers, and Spirit-filled scholars.

- **Historical Witness** – highlighting the voices that shaped the Church through the ages.
- **Application and Response** – offering questions for reflection and spiritual growth.
- **Doctrinal Affirmation** – reaffirming the THCCI stance with conviction and grace.

This is not just a textbook. It is a discipleship tool, a reference guide, and a ministry companion.

A Word About Our Confession

The Holy Christian Church International holds fast to the authority of the Bible, the historic creeds of the Church (Apostles', Nicene, Chalcedonian), and the Wesleyan-Holiness Pentecostal tradition. We believe:

- The Bible is the final authority for faith and life.
- Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit empowers believers for sanctification and mission.
- Holiness and Spirit baptism are essential for Christian witness.
- The Church is Christ's Body and Bride—called to reflect His glory in the earth.

We stand alongside faithful witnesses from every age: the Apostolic fathers like Ignatius and Irenaeus, the Reformers like Luther and Calvin, the Wesleyan awakeners like John Wesley, and the Spirit-baptized pioneers like Phoebe Palmer, Charles Mason, William Seymour, and Mary Lena Tate. Modern scholars such as J. Rodman Williams, Craig Keener, Frank Macchia, Amos Yong, Wayne Grudem, Gregg Allison, Thomas Oden, and N. T. Wright have all contributed to this work through their insights and fidelity to the truth.

My Prayer for You

May this book equip you to:

- Know what you believe and why.
- Stand firm in the truth of Scripture.
- Walk humbly in the Spirit and in love.
- Defend the faith with boldness and gentleness.
- Rejoice in the beauty of the faith passed down through the saints.

With love in Christ,

++Wayne Randolph Felton

Pastor and Teacher in the Service of Christ and His Church

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