

Biblical Philosophy

CHEC Doctrinal Statement

1. The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and constitutes completed and final revelation. The Bible, in its original autograph, is without error in whole or in part; including theological concepts as well as geographical, historical and scientific details.
2. God has existed from all eternity in three persons; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ was God come in the human flesh being fully God and fully man, yet without sin.
3. All men are in violation of God's righteous requirements and His holy character, both by nature and act, and are therefore under His wrath and just condemnation. The central purpose of the coming of Jesus Christ was to pay the penalty for man's sin through His substitutionary death on the cross, the successful accomplishment of which was attested to by His subsequent visible, bodily resurrection.
4. Salvation is offered as a gift free to the sinner. This gift must be responded to individually, by faith, believing in God's Word and not trusting in any personal good works whatsoever, but trusting only in the atoning sacrificial death of Jesus Christ

Biblical Principles of Christian Midwifery

1. Broad Principles
 - Let all be done in prayer.
 - Let all be done in faith. Whatsoever is not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23)
 - Let all be done in the fear of God and not in the fear of man that only brings a snare (Exod. 1:17, Prov. 29:25)
 - Let all be done to the glory of God (1 Cor. 10:31)
 - Let all seek the kingdom first, trusting that God will provide for the material and health needs (Matt. 6:33)
 - Let all be done in humility.
 - Let all be done with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance against such there is no law (Gal. 5: 22-26)
2. An Appreciation for the Blessing of Children
 - Christian midwives always view children as a blessing from the Lord. "The fruit of the womb is His reward. Blessed is the man who has his quiver full of them."
 - While respecting the bounds of Christian liberty (Section 3), Christian midwives will not recommend birth control pills bearing abortifacient qualities.
 - When asked concerning birth control. It is safest to appeal directly to Scripture (1 Cor. 7:5), where a natural method of abstinence is permitted by the Apostle for "prayer and fasting."
3. A respect for family jurisdiction (and Christian liberty.)
 - The Christian midwife respects family jurisdictions. She graciously allows for differing perspectives concerning the use of her own services, the use of hospital services, the use of herbs vs. processed medicines, and diet.
 - The Christian midwife understands the importance of humility in all scientific and medical work.
 - The Christian midwife must be humble to acknowledge that though a method or diet supplement or medicinal aid may be helpful for one or some persons, it may not be helpful for all.
 - The Christian midwife must be humble to acknowledge her own lack of knowledge concerning anything.
 - The Christian midwife must be humble to acknowledge when there is limited data to support the helpfulness of some method or diet supplement or medical aid. (In God we trust, all else bring data.)
 - The Christian midwife must be humble to acknowledge when she is acting on limited information, hearsay, or mere isolated, anecdotal testimony concerning some method or diet supplement or medicinal aid.
 - The Christian midwife may make recommendations concerning certain methods, diet supplements, or medicinal aid, but graciously allows for the final decision to rest with the family jurisdiction.
 - The Christian midwife must be careful not to recommend something that might stumble the weaker brother or sister (Rom. 14:13).

- The Christian midwife must remember that there is Christian liberty in the area of diet (Rom. 14:1-4).
 - The Christian midwife understands all physical, material things to be lawful, but not all things expedient or helpful (1 Cor. 6:12).
4. The Civil Magistrate
- The Christian midwife understands that the civil magistrate is the ordinance of God, as the powers that be are ordained of God (Rom. 13:1). She ought therefore to render honor to whom honor is due (Rom. 13:7).
 - Nevertheless, the Hebrew midwives are commended for their fear of God as they disobeyed the King's order, and the Apostles insisted that they were to obey God rather than men (when the command of the civil magistrate contradicted God's commands). (Exod. 1:17, Acts 5:29)
 - The Christian midwife understands the safety in counselors, when making difficult decisions (to include their own husbands, fathers, elders, pastors in the church, etc.). (Prov. 11:14)
 - The Christian midwife accepts Jesus' teaching that it is better to pay a tax than to offend, and that one ought to agree with his adversary quickly while he is in the way with him (Matt. 17:27, Matt. 5:25).
5. Miscarriage
- The Christian midwife understands something of the pain of miscarriage, and endeavors to show compassion to those who suffer this loss.
 - The Christian midwife encourages hope in the resurrection of Christ and the grace of God working in the Christian covenant family. She will point to the several available biblical references concerning the children of Christian parents referred to as "godly seed" and "holy or special" (Mal. 3, 1 Cor. 7:21). She will point to David's faith that he was confident he would go to be with his child lost in childbirth (2 Sam. 12:23)
6. Worldview and New Age Philosophies
- The Christian midwife understands that knowledge is universally accessible in a Christian worldview (Rom. 10:6-8, 1 Tim. 1:4, Acts 26:26). There is no secret or Gnostic knowledge only available to a privileged few.
 - The Christian midwife rejects spells and formulaic prayers or incantations that are intended to achieve some set purpose or objective. God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is the source of all power, all healing, and all cause and effect in this universe. God is in sovereign control of all of reality (Dan. 4:35, Rom. 11:36). Nature is not sovereign, and the angelic and demonic world is not sovereign, and man and scientists are not sovereign.
 - The Christian midwife rejects the idea that there is a single energy source in the universe apart from God.
 - The Christian midwife believes in the Creator – creature distinction.
 - The Christian midwife considers witchcraft, necromancy, divination, and all forms of occultism to be abominable sins against God (Deut. 18:10-12).
 - The Christian midwife understands the dangers or risks of food offered to idols (pagan practices and associations), and the relationship of Christian liberty to these things (as Paul outlines it in 1 Cor. 8:1ff, 1 Cor. 10:23-29).
 - The Christian midwife does not endorse other pagan practices related to birth that are forbidden in Scripture.
7. Do no harm.
- Christian are pro-life (Exodus 21:22-23). Early Christian writings from the Didache onwards have opposed intentional abortion.
 - Christian midwives will not assist in an intentional abortion nor will they recommend one.
 - Should the mother's life be threatened, efforts will be taken to preserve the mother's life and the baby's life. In whatever course of action is taken, no Christian midwife will assist in the willful destruction of a human life. Always, the intention is to save both lives.
 - In the case of triage (the sorting by urgency), the midwife may prioritize one life over another, but never shall she determine, desire, or cause the death of any.
 - For the Christian midwife, the first, fundamental and the final course of action is always prayer. We believe in the sovereign power of God and the infinite capacity of the divine hand to heal.