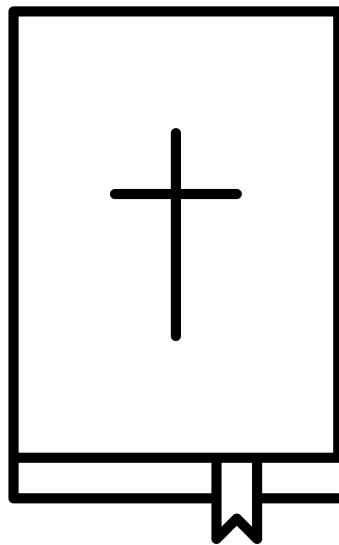




# **I N E R R A N C Y**

A G F C D I S T I N C T I V E



**THE INERRANCY OF THE BIBLE IS THE  
DOCTRINE WHICH TEACHES THAT THE BIBLE  
HAS NO ERRORS IN IT. AS THE WORD OF  
GOD, THE BIBLE IS ACCURATE AND  
TRUSTWORTHY IN ALL THAT IT SAYS. WE  
BELIEVE THIS FOR THE FOLLOWING  
REASONS:**

## **1. JESUS CHRIST AFFIRMED INERRANCY**

If we call ourselves "Christians," then we need to believe what Jesus believed. We should submit to His judgment and, if we do so, we will discover that Jesus was an overwhelming supporter of the doctrine of inerrancy.

For example, Jesus consistently treated historical statements in the Old Testament as if they were true. In His public ministry, the Lord referred to such people as Abel, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Elijah, and Elisha as if they existed. He also referred to events such as creation, circumcision, the Ten Commandments, and the Sabbath as if they actually occurred.

John 10:35 quotes Jesus as saying that "the Scripture cannot be broken." The Greek word for broken is *luo*, which means "to loose or to release." It means that the Scripture cannot be undone. Its words cannot be changed or altered in any way.

He also said in Matthew 5:17-18: *"Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."*

Jesus believed that everything in Scripture will be accomplished because everything in Scripture is perfect. It is without error down to the smallest letter or stroke of a pen. He believed that heaven and earth would pass away before the Scriptures could be questioned.

## 2. THE APOSTLES AFFIRMED INERRANCY

Not only did Jesus affirm this doctrine but His closest followers affirmed it as well. In fact, it has been estimated that ten percent of the New Testament is an allusion to or a quotation from the Old Testament. To put that in perspective, the New Testament cites the Old Testament 1,600 times and not once does it ever question its veracity. As one author put it, "To the Apostles, the Old Testament Scripture was clearly their supreme authority!" [1]

Just like Jesus, the Apostles believed passionately in the inerrancy of the Bible. For example, the Apostle Paul says in Second Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is God-breathed." The word "God-breathed" is a compound word in Greek from *theos* or "God" and *neustos* or "spirit." It means that the Bible has God's Spirit in it. It has His very breath in its pages.

The Apostle Peter says in Second Peter 1:20-21: *"But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."*

The image here is of a ship being moved along upon the waters. It is guided along by the wind. As a fisherman, Peter knew what it meant to feel the wind in his sails and he says that the Holy Spirit guided the authors of the Bible like that.

This is important to mention because, when we approach the Bible, we do not approach an ordinary book. We approach a book that has the very fingerprint of God upon it. The writers of Scripture wrote their own words under the Lord's supervision so that it could be without error.

## 3. THE CHARACTER OF GOD AFFIRMS INERRANCY

If the Bible claims to be God's Word, then it should be a reflection of Who He is and that is exactly what we see when we open it. It is a perfect book because its Author is perfect. His character affirms inerrancy.

God is a God of love and, therefore, the Bible is a loving book. He is God of righteousness and, therefore, the Bible is a righteous book. It never leads us to sin. However, the most important attribute for the doctrine of inerrancy is that God is true and, therefore, the Bible is true. It is dependable in all that it says.

After all, God would not inspire a book full of lies. He would not give us a book that was a mixture of truth and error. Titus 1:2 says that God "cannot lie." It is not in His nature to do so. First John 5:6 also says, "It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is truth."

John 17:17 adds to this when it says, "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth." This last text is important because it means that the process of sanctification would not be possible if the Bible was not inerrant. It would not be possible to grow in our walk with God if the Bible was an erroneous book. Therefore, God gave us a flawless one.

## **4. THE CHURCH HAS ALWAYS AFFIRMED INERRANCY**

On top of all of these other points, a final reason we believe in the doctrine of inerrancy is that the church has always upheld it. We are not the first ones to believe in it. Christians have taught that the Bible is inerrant for centuries.

In fact, until recently this doctrine has been proclaimed by the vast majority of the church. Every orthodox pastor, scholar, and theologian taught that the Bible is a perfect book. Men like Augustine, John Chrysostom, William Tyndale, John Huss, John Wycliffe, Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Bunyan, Charles Spurgeon, J. C. Ryle, Jonathan Edwards, and Martyn Lloyd-Jones all had the highest regard for it. So did the various confessions in church history like the Heidelberg Confession, the Westminster Confession, and the London Baptist Confession. Various creeds like the Apostles Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Chalcedon Creed all make reference to it.

In fact, when it comes to conservative Christians, there has been no other position to take on this issue. It has the overwhelming support of history. Jonathan Edwards summed it up best when he said, "What the Bible says, God says." [2]

# CONCLUSION

Inerrancy is a vital doctrine of the Christian faith because without it our lives would be riddled with confusion. We would have nowhere to go for guidance.

However, we do not have that problem because Jesus said that it has no errors in it, and this was echoed by the Apostles. The character of God makes the same claim, and so does a quick review of church history. There is overwhelming support for the doctrine of inerrancy, which is why this is a distinctive for our church.

If you have any questions about inerrancy or anything in this pamphlet, we would love to hear from you!

[1] Edwin A. Blum in Inerrancy, ed.  
by Normal L. Geisler (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1980) 41.  
[2] Quoted in Inerrancy., 405.



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