

*42 Articles of the Essentials of a  
Christian World View*

---

Articles of Affirmation and Denial  
and the Foundational Theology of  
The Coalition on Revival

---

Dr. Jay Grimstead, D.Min., General Editor  
Mr. E. Calvin Beisner, M.A., Assistant to the General Editor

---

*42 Articles of the Essentials of a Christian World View*

Copyright 1989 and 1999, The Coalition on Revival, Inc. All rights reserved.  
Manufactured in the United States of America.

No part of this document may be reproduced in any form or by any electronic or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing from the Coalition on Revival, except by a reviewer, who may quote brief passages in a review.

**The Coalition on Revival, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box A**  
**Sunnyvale, California 94087**

# Contents

What is the Coalition on Revival? .....	4
About the 42 Articles on Historic Doctrine .....	4
The Essentials of a Christian World View .....	5
The Nature of God .....	5
The Nature of the Universe .....	6
The Nature of Truth .....	7
The Nature of True Values .....	7
The Nature of Authority .....	8
The Nature of Salvation .....	8
The Nature of Human Government .....	9
The Nature (and Purpose) of History .....	10

## What is the Coalition on Revival?

The Coalition on Revival is a network of evangelical leaders from every major denominational and theological perspective who share a vision for and a commitment to revival, renewal, and reformation in Church and society in America.

People of Anabaptist, Arminian, Lutheran, Calvinist, and Wesleyan denominational backgrounds are all represented among COR's leaders. Pre-, a-, and post-millennialists are cooperating with each other, sharing the exciting task of getting God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven insofar as that is possible between now and whenever Christ comes back to Earth. Charismatics and non-charismatics, covenant and dispensationalist theologians, have joined arm in arm in prayer and hard work to see revival, renewal, and reformation in the Christian Church and the American culture.

COR's vision is to see Christians everywhere doing all they can in the power of the Holy Spirit to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5), in every aspect of life. Toward that end, we have developed a series of worldview documents that set forth what we believe are the fundamental and essential points of the total Christian world and life view. The COR worldview documents state what we believe are the biblical principles for all spheres of human life including theology, evangelism, discipleship, law, civil governments, economics, education, family, medicine, psychology and counseling, arts and media, business and professions, and science and technology. We believe that the COR worldview documents state where the entire Church must stand and what action it must take to accomplish its task in the remaining years of the Twentieth Century and on into the next century.

COR steering committee members from all walks of life were joined by many hundreds of other interested Christian scholars, pastors, and laymen in developing the COR documents during many series of workshops and conventions. Each document therefore, reflects input from theologians, philosophers, professionals in their respective fields, pastors, and lay Christians. We have sought to avoid denominational and theological bias in the documents; our aim has been to focus on principles so fundamental that we are convinced no Bible-believing Christian who studied the major questions related to each sphere of life would come to a contradictory conclusion.

COR views itself as a "Bible obedience, holiness movement" that crosses denominational and theological lines. The next step on its agenda, now that its basic documents are complete, is to disseminate them widely and to educate hundreds of thousands of Christians on how to make Christ Lord of absolutely every aspect of life. We plan to do that through publications, and through seminars, and training workshops in the major cities of America and Canada. COR will also work in cooperation with other Christian networking groups to help unify the pastors in major population centers around the vision of mobilizing their people to "Get God's will done in their city as it is in heaven" to whatever degree that is possible before the return of Christ. We believe America can be turned around and once again function as a Christian nation as it did in its earlier years. We believe that wherever the pastors of any city in the world join together in unity to make Christ Lord of every sphere of life, and, with Spirit led strategy, mobilize their people into a unified spiritual army; that city can and will become "a city set upon a hill" and be "a place where righteousness dwells."

## About the 42 Articles on Historic Doctrine

In 1984, as 112 Christian leaders and theologians were coming together to form the Coalition on Revival, it became apparent that this broad-based, theologically diverse group of leaders would need a clearly defined statement of basic doctrine on which they could agree and which could also form the theological foundation for the 17 Worldview Sphere Documents they intended to write together. By consensus and input from many theologians, a group of COR theologians created a generic statement of faith which incorporated 2,000 years of the Church's orthodox, historically accepted theology and which would touch on all the theological and philosophical points necessary to outline the full, Biblical view of doctrine and reality. It also had to be broad enough to include all the major denominations and theological perspectives within the present Body of Christ on earth and yet leave untouched, unstated, and open to Christian freedom certain differences—those distinctives such as baptism and eschatology which now separate one denomination from another. No doctrinal statement of the past 200 years offers the greater Body of Christ on earth a more detailed, comprehensive, generic statement of the Biblical worldview.

# The Essentials of a Christian World View

These 42 Articles of Affirmation and Denial comprise the theological foundation on which all of The Coalition on Revival's 17 Sphere Documents, *Manifesto for the Christian Church, Articles of Affirmation and Denial on the Kingdom of God*, and all other official documents must rest and to which they all must comply. These 42 Articles state what are the essentials of the Christian World View and in turn rest upon the foundation of the inerrant, written Word of God, the Bible.

## *The Nature of God*

1. We affirm that there is only one living God who is infinite in being and perfection, a most pure spirit, invisible, and absolutely distinct from His creation.

We deny any and all views of God that negate or deviate from the traditional Judeo-Christian concept of God, including Atheism, Deism, Finite-godism, Panentheism (Process God), Polytheism, and Pantheism.

2. We affirm that God is both transcendent over and immanent in His creation.

We deny that in His being God is totally Other or that He is identified with His creation.

3. We affirm that from time to time God supernaturally intervenes in the course of natural or human events to accomplish His redemptive purposes.

We deny any naturalistic view which either rejects a supernatural God or His miraculous intervention in nature or history.

4. We affirm that God is a personal, infinite, eternal, self-existent, unchangeable, indivisible, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, spiritual being Who is the creator and sustainer of the universe.

We deny that God is impersonal, finite, temporal, changeable, divisible, material, or is limited in His power, knowledge, or presence in the universe.

5. We affirm that God is absolutely holy, just, good, true, loving, and merciful in His being and all His activities.

We deny that God is any less than absolutely and totally perfect in all of His attributes.

6. We affirm that this one God exists eternally in three distinct Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), each of whom shares equally in all the divine attributes.

We deny that God is more than one Being (as in Tri-theism) or that He is less than three eternal Persons (as in strict Monotheism, Arianism, or Modalism).

### *The Nature of the Universe*

7. We affirm that the entire universe, including all finite beings, was created by God out of nothing (*ex nihilo*).

We deny that the universe is not created or that it was created out of God (*ex deo*) or out of pre-existing material (*ex materia*).

8. We affirm that the space/time universe is finite, temporal, and real.

We deny that the space/time universe is infinite, eternal, or illusory.

9. We affirm that the entire universe is absolutely distinct from and utterly dependent upon its Creator-God.

We deny that the universe is in any way to be identified with God or that it exists independently of God.

10. We affirm that man (male and female) was specially created by God.

We deny that man evolved from or is genetically derived from the lower forms of life.

11. We affirm that man was created in the image and likeness of God, and consequently is endowed by God with immeasurable dignity and worth.

We deny any view that tends to demean or diminish the God-given freedom, dignity, and value of man or reduce him to the status of a mere animal.

12. We affirm that man as a rational and moral being is ultimately responsible and accountable to God.

We deny that man's moral actions are determined genetically or environmentally, or that his responsibility is limited to himself or society.

13. We affirm that because of man's rebellion against God, both he and his environment exist in a corrupted state and stand under the condemnation of God.

We deny that either man or the world in their present corrupted state may be perfected by natural or human agencies alone.

14. We affirm that man, from the moment of conception, is a creature who has individual conscious existence eternally beyond physical death.

We deny that man is a merely mortal creature whose individual conscious existence terminates at physical death, or that man's unborn offspring are less than human.

### *The Nature of Truth*

15. We affirm that God is the ultimate author of all truth.

We deny that man can be the ultimate author and determiner of truth.

16. We affirm that truth is objective, absolute and ultimately non-contradictory.

We deny any view that reduces truth to a purely relative, subjective, experiential, or a paradoxical status.

17. We affirm truth to be that which corresponds to and accurately describes and explains reality.

We deny any view that conceives of reality as mere subjective experience, existential encounter, mere coherence, dialectical process, or that conceives of reality in any other relativistic manner.

18. We affirm that insofar as God has revealed truth, whether in general or special revelation, it is knowable by man even though it is neither exhaustive nor comprehensive.

We deny that the limitations of man's knowledge of God's truth leave him incapable of knowing, communicating, or using that truth.

19. We affirm that all truth disclosed in God's special revelation, the 66 books of the Bible, is propositional.

We deny that the human language of the Bible is an inadequate vehicle for communicating God's truth to man.

### *The Nature of True Values*

20. We affirm that God is the source of all right and just values and that they reflect His moral character.

We deny that true values are ultimately derived from man or any other finite source.

21. We affirm that the basis of all true values are objective and absolute.

We deny that the basis of all true values is merely subjective, relative, or cultural.

22. We affirm that true values are determined by God and merely discovered by man.

We deny that it is legitimate for man to create his own true values on either the personal or societal level.

23. We affirm the true values revealed by God place a prescriptive obligation on man by which he must order his life.

We deny that true values are merely descriptive of human behavior or that man is not obliged to live by them.

24. We affirm that the only perfect, comprehensive, and complete expression of God's values is to be found in the Bible.

We deny that those who are unaware of the Bible are thereby excused from moral obligations revealed by God in the hearts of men.

### *The Nature of Authority*

25. We affirm that the ultimate source of authority is God.

We deny that man has the authority to create his own moral standards.

26. We affirm that God has expressed His authority to His creatures in general revelation and most clearly and fully in special revelation.

We deny that human society, culture, or consensus is a legitimate basis for man's moral conduct.

27. We affirm that God in his general revelation, through the works of creation and the consciences of men, have revealed His eternal power and deity with His moral law in the hearts of all men, even though they in their corrupted state suppress this truth in unrighteousness.

We deny that man is either an amoral creature or that he is inherently good or naturally perfectible.

28. We affirm that God's normative, special revelation is expressed in and limited to His authoritative, inerrant, written Word, the Bible, which is the final bar of appeal in all matters of faith and life and stands in judgement over all reason, revelation, and experience.

We deny that God has left man without any normative special revelation or that there is any other or additional normative special revelation from God.

29. We affirm that the laws of man must be based upon the laws of God.

We deny that the laws of man have any inherent authority of their own or that their ultimate authority is rightly derived from or created by man.

### *The Nature of Salvation*

30. We affirm that God alone is the source of man's salvation.

We deny that man can initiate or attain his own salvation.

31. We affirm that Jesus Christ, the God-Man, by virtue of His perfect life, His substitutionary, atoning death, and His bodily resurrection, is the only Mediator between a Holy God and sinful man.

We deny that man can achieve salvation by means of secular education, social programs, political action, genetic engineering, psychology, or self realization, or by any other means.

32. We affirm that Jesus Christ in His Incarnation is wholly God and wholly man, two natures in one person, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation.

We deny that the two natures of Jesus Christ can be confused, changed, or divided, or that the one Divine Person can be separated from either nature.

33. We affirm that God's gift of salvation is supernaturally applied to those who believe by the gracious working of God the Holy Spirit.

We deny that in the matter of his salvation, man is left to his own resources or that he can merit this salvation by his own works.

34. We affirm that salvation is from the presence, power, and penalty of sin and to joyful obedience and service to God in His present and future kingdom.

We deny that salvation applies only to the eternal destinies of man.

### *The Nature of Human Government*

35. We affirm that the institution of human government has been ordained by God.

We deny that any form of government (or ruler) has authority from any source other than God or that God approves governments indiscriminately.

36. We affirm that God has established a multiplicity of human governments such as individual, familial, ecclesiastical, and civil.

We deny that any form of human government (or ruler) has valid authority from any source but God or that any human government has either absolute or complete jurisdiction over all other governments.

37. We affirm that it is the duty of all citizens to obey God ordained authority.

We deny that any citizen is obliged to obey any government when it transgresses its God given mandate or requires him to disobey God's Laws.

38. We affirm that it is always the obligation of believers to participate in promoting good government.

We deny that a Christian can fully discharge his duty to God apart from social, cultural, and political action aimed at influencing society for God and for human good.

### *The Nature (and Purpose) of History*

39. We affirm that the Sovereign God is providentially directing the course of human history and that the saving purposes of God in Christ are accomplished within the same history.

We deny any philosophy which espouses a naturalistic, chaotic, cyclical, dialectical, two-leveled or any other view that neglects or negates the directive activity of God in history.

40. We affirm that the purpose and meaning history is to bring praise and glory to God and abundant life to His children.

We deny any view which rejects meaning or purpose in history or which has man, nature, or anything other than God enshrined as its ultimate object.

41. We affirm that although man may be the primary focus and subject of history, God is its ultimate author and finisher.

We deny any view in which man is elevated to the level of architect, director, or determiner of the course of historical events.

42. We affirm that the consummation of history is the final triumph of God over all death and evil and their consequences, and its ultimate goal is the manifestation of the glory of God.

We deny any view which embraces reincarnation, universalism, the ultimate overpowering of good by evil, the annihilation of man, or the elimination of a place of eternal punishment and separation from God.