

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH **DOCTRINAL STATEMENT**

1. OF THE BIBLE:

We believe in the Verbal-Plenary inspiration of the Bible; that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God" and holy men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of Scripture. We believe this divine inspiration extends to all parts of Scripture; historical, poetical, doctrinal and prophetic; and that all Scripture is without error in the original manuscripts. We also believe the Bible to be infallible on all matters of faith and conduct (Mark 12:26, 36; Romans 15:4; I Corinthians 2:13, 10:11; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21).

2. Of God:

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; each having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfection and are therefore worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, and obedience. We believe this living being to be an all-wise, providential, and supreme ruler; who is a self-existent, everlasting, personal God, the creator of the heavens and the earth, a just, holy judge and guiding Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4; Acts 5:3,4; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:4-6).

3. Of Christ:

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal second person of the Godhead, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, and took upon Himself a human form and therefore possesses undiminished deity and perfect humanity; thereby as such He is the only sufficient (being God) and suitable (being man) substitutionary sacrifice able to redeem a sinful and lost world, thus providing on the cross an eternal redemption for mankind. We believe Jesus Christ rose bodily from the grave, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father, and intercedes on behalf of the saved, is the head of the church, and will return someday for all believers. Without the person and work of Christ our faith is vain (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; 24:36-44; John 1:1-4; 14:1-6; 17:5; Romans 3:24-26; I Corinthians 15:3-7; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:14,15; 4:15; 7:25; 9:26-28; I Peter 2:22-24; I John 2:1,2).

4. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We believe the Holy Spirit is a personal spirit being, God in every respect, who convicts the world of sin, draws the sinner to repentance, indwells all born again Christians, baptizes them into the Body of Christ, and seals them unto the day of redemption. He also intercedes for, comforts, teaches, empowers, and guides believers in all truth and it is the responsibility of every born again Christian to be filled (more completely controlled) by the Holy Spirit continuously (John 14:16,17,26; 15:26; 16:7-11; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9-16, 26, 27; I Corinthians 2:12-16, 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:13,14; 5:18).

5. OF ANGELS, SATAN and DEMONS:

We believe in the creation of angels in the past and their existence today as holy and possessing great power and knowledge as taught in both the Old and New Testaments. The purpose of angels is to serve God and His believers, but never should angels be worshipped by men. Only God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit are to be worshipped.

Satan, being an angel, was originally created as holy and perfect, but through pride he rebelled against God along with a host of other angels. Satan is the enemy of God and His people, although his powers are strictly limited by God. He and his fallen angels (or demons) are opposed to all that is holy and are destined for judgment and eternal punishment (Exodus 20:11; Ezekiel 28; Isaiah 14:12-20; Matthew 4:6; 22:30; 25:41; Luke 1:26-38; 4:10; 20:36; 22:43; Romans 8:38; II Corinthians 4:4; 11:14; Colossians 2:18; I Thessalonians 3:5, 13; II Thessalonians 1:7; I Timothy 5:21; Hebrews 1:14; 2:7-9; 13:3; II Peter 2:4, 11; Jude 1:6; Revelation 20:2-10; 22:8,9).

6. OF CREATION;

We believe the Biblical account of creation to be literally accurate, and that man came into being by direct creation. We accept the literal six day creation account as six 24 hour days and reject the gap theory between Genesis 1:1 and 1:2 (Genesis 1:1- 2:3; Isaiah 66:1,2; Psalm 148:3-5; Mark 10:6; 13:19; Acts 17:24-26).

7. OF MAN, THE FALL AND REDEMPTION:

We believe man was created in the image and likeness of God, having a relationship with God and rulership over the creation. Through Adam's one sin all men are now sinners from birth by nature and by choice, all of creation is fallen, and all men experience physical and spiritual death. Men can be restored to God's favor only by the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ and not by effort or merit of his own (Genesis 1:26-28; 3:1-24; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-2).

We believe that the only way of salvation from spiritual death, caused by sin, is through the substitutionary and sacrificial work of Christ on the cross. It is through the personal repentance and faith of an individual in the work of Jesus Christ, led by the Holy Spirit through the power of God's Word, that a person is saved. Salvation is the entire process of God delivering man from sin to Himself, involving the indwelling Holy Spirit which baptizes them into the body of Christ, declaring men to be justified by God, and showing a newness in life. Every believer, being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, can never lose their salvation (John 3:16; 10:28,29; 14:6; Acts 16:30,31; Romans 5:12-19; 6:23; 10:9; II Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:13,14; 2:8,9; 4:20; Titus 3:5; I John 5:11,12).

8. Of THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

State of the Regenerate:

We believe that those who are born of the Spirit of God are justified, sanctified, and complete in Christ; that, because of God's unmerited grace, the nature of His love, the ongoing intercession of Christ, the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and the promise of God. All true believers are kept secure in their justified position before the Father (John 3:16; Romans 3:24-26; 8:29; I Corinthians 1:30; 6:11,19; Philippians 1:6; Hebrews 7:25; I Peter 1:4,5, 13).

We believe all truly born again Christians possess two natures, retaining the old fleshly nature while receiving a new spiritual nature from God. Provision is made for victory of the new nature over the old nature in Christian experience by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 10:13; Galations 5:16-25; Colossians 3:9,10; I Peter 1:14-16; Jude 24).

Christian Walk and Service:

We believe God has given a Christian new life in Christ and that this new life is manifest in as a holy walk. It is the believer's continual yielding to the Holy Spirit's control that causes an ever deepening walk with God, characterized by a growing degree of separation from worldliness and conformity to the image of Christ. We deem it essential for a Christian's life to show evidence of this growth process, and that by this growth comes recognition and use of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for services.

We believe at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit bestows a gift(s) on believers for the use in service and that these gifts vary between believers. We consider every believer a servant with responsibility to teach, and minister to the lost, the sick, and bereaved (Romans 6:19, 22; 12:4-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 3:18; Galations 2:20; Ephesians 4:11-15; I Thessalonians 4:3,4).

9. OF THE CHURCH

A. Universal: We believe the Church, the body of Christ, to be composed of all genuine believers in Jesus Christ and that it is essentially an organism, rather than an organization (Matthew 16:15-18; Romans 12:5; I Corinthians 12:25-27; Ephesians 5:25-31; I Peter 5:2).

B. Local: We believe a local church to be an organized body of baptized believers who meet statedly for the purpose of worship, observance of the ordinances, the proclamation of the gospel (Acts 14:23; I Thessalonians 1:1; I Timothy 3:1-13; I Peter 5:2).

10. OF THE ORDINANCES:

We believe that the ordinances authorized in the New Testament are two:

- A. The Lord's Supper:** wherein we partake of bread and the fruit of the vine, to show forth our Lord's death "until He come" (Mark 14:22-25; Acts 2:42; I Corinthians 11:26).
- B. Baptism:** the immersion of believers in water as an outward symbol of participation by faith, in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and of the newness of life, in which it is now expected we shall walk (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:41; 8:12; 10:46-48; Romans 6).

11. OF FUTURE THINGS:

A. The Blessed Hope:

We believe in the "Blessed Hope" (rapture) that the Lord will come in the air to receive to Himself both those alive and those fallen asleep in Christ; that His coming will be as that of a thief and that this translation of true believers will spare them the wrath of God in the coming tribulation (John 14:1-3; Philippians 3:20,21; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:2-4,9; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 3:3,10).

B. The Tribulation:

We believe the translation of the church will be followed by a time of God's wrath and judgment on the whole earth; that this period of seven years is a fulfillment of Israel's seventieth week called the tribulation and the great tribulation (Jeremiah 30:7-9; Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-22, 29, 30; Revelation 6:1-19,21).

C. The Second Advent:

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ will return to earth as He went, in person, in power and great glory; to end the great tribulation and final "Armageddon"; to bind Satan in the abyss and to set up His earthly reign, the millennial kingdom (Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:9; Ezekiel 37:21-28; II Thessalonians 2:8; Revelation 7:14; 16:12-16; 20:1-3).

12. OF FINAL JUDGMENT:

We believe in the conscious existence of all persons after physical death. All persons will experience resurrection. At death, the believers' spirits are absent from the body and present with the Lord as they await the first resurrection. At the time of the rapture, a believer's soul and body will be reunited and changed into the likeness of Christ's own glorious body and await judgment, reward and eternal life. At death, the unbelievers, spirits are absent from the body and present in Hades where they are kept under constant punishment until the Great White Throne Judgment. At this judgment, the second resurrection will occur when soul and body are reunited and appear before the Great White Throne Judgment where they shall be judged according to their works and cast into the place of final and everlasting punishment (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 23:43; 16:19-31; John 5:28,29; Acts 24:15; Romans 8:23; 14:10-12; I Corinthians 3:8-15; 15:12-54; II Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 1:23; 3:20,21; II Peter 2:9; I John 3:2; Revelation 20:11-15; 22:1-6).