



faith  
baptist church

## Doctrinal Statement and Covenant

### Church Doctrine

#### Concerning the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore, has truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:19-21

#### Concerning the True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker, and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2,3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; Matthew 28:19,20

#### Concerning the Lord Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. He is God in the flesh. He lived a life of absolute sinlessness and in His death made a full and vicarious atonement of our sins, dying not as a martyr, but as a voluntary substitute in the sinner's place. He arose from the dead on the third day and ascended bodily into heaven, where He sits at the right hand of the Father as our faithful High Priest, offering help and mercy to the church in their time of need. He is coming again to rapture His saints and to set up the throne of David and establish His kingdom on the earth. Isaiah 7:14; I Thessalonians 4:16; I Peter 2:22; 3:18; Hebrews 4:14-16; Matthew 1:18-25; 28:6; II Thessalonians 2:6-8; John 1:1; 14:3; Acts 15:16

#### Concerning the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person, with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world, He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the Agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. John 14:16, 17; Matthew 28:19, 20; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:3; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5, 6; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, & 27

#### Concerning the Devil, or Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal punishment in the lake of fire. Mathew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10

#### Concerning Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. Genesis 1-2; Colossians 1:16; Colossians 1:17; John 1:3

#### Concerning the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of His maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners not only by constraint, but of choice and therefore under just condemnation without defense of excuse. Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:18, 32, 5:10-19

#### Concerning the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son. Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4

#### Concerning the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior. Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Romans 3:25; 1 John 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21

#### Concerning Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth, the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 1 John 3:6, 7; Acts 16:33; 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8

#### Concerning Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which

we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed to us. Acts 13:39; Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Romans 5:1, 9; 8:1

#### Concerning Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31

#### Concerning the Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41,42; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Timothy 3:17; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23,24; Acts 15:13-18

#### Concerning Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to self and resurrection to a new life; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. Acts 8:26-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28

#### Concerning the Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6; John 10:28,29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1

#### Concerning the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in life and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Malachi 3:8; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17, 18; 1 John 5:19; Romans 7:6, 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 6:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21

#### Concerning Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth. Romans 13:1-7; 2 Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21,22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:20; Acts 4:19,20; Daniel 3:17, 18

## Concerning the Resurrection, Personal, Visible, Pre-millennial Return of Christ, and Related Events

We believe:

- A. In the bodily resurrection; Matthew 28:6,7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6
- B. In the ascension; Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 12:2
- C. The High Priesthood of Christ; Hebrews 8:6; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17, 5:9,10
- D. The Second Coming of Christ; John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; James 5:8; Hebrews 9:28
- E. The resurrection of the righteous dead; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 52
- F. The change of the living in Christ; 1 Corinthians 13:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-18; Philippians 3:20, 21
- G. The tribulation of seven years for Israel on the earth with the Church already in heaven; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 3:10
- H. The Throne of David with Christ as Ruler over all the earth; Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6,7; Acts 2:29,30
- I. The Millennial Reign of Christ on the above-mentioned throne for 1,000 years; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Isaiah 32:1; 11:4,5; Psalm 72:8; Revelation 20:6,14 (This statement of doctrine was adapted by the church on December 4, 1974.)

## Concerning when life begins

We believe life is sacred and begins at conception; Psalm 139:13-16; Psalm 100:3; Exodus 4:11; Deuteronomy 24:16; Isaiah 44:24; Psalm 127:3

## Concerning Marriage

We believe that marriage is defined in Scripture as one man being legally married to one woman. Any alteration to this Divine plan (such as polygamy, homosexuality, extramarital cohabitation) is contrary to God's purpose for marriage and family. Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-9; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Timothy 4:3; 1 Timothy 5:14; 1 Corinthians 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Ephesians 5:21-33

## Our Church Covenant

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the public confession of our faith, having been immersed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We purpose, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to attend its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a Sacred preeminence over all institutions of human origin; to give faithfully of time and talent in its activities; to contribute cheerfully and regularly, as God has prospered us, to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel throughout all nations.

We also purpose to maintain family and private devotions; to train our children according to the Word of God; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings; faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct; to avoid all gossip, backbiting and unrighteous anger; to abstain from all forms of activity which dishonor our Lord Jesus

Christ, cause stumbling to a fellow believer or hinder the winning of a soul to Christ; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of Christ, our Savior; and to give Him preeminence in all things.

We further purpose to encourage one another in the blessed hope of our Lord's return; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and, mindful of the rules of our Savior, to seek it without delay.

We moreover purpose that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church of like faith and order where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. In the event there is no such church, we will seek, with the Lord's help, to establish one.

(Adopted by the church on October 21, 1964.)