# Statement of Faith

Our adherence to the historical Baptist distinctives is based on the following:

THE WORD OF GOD

 We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, complete as the revelation of God’s will for salvation, and the supreme and final authority in all matters to which they speak.

(II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Jude 3)

THE TRINITY

We believe in one God, Creator and Sustainer of all things, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; we believe that these are equal in every divine perfection and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

(Genesis 1:1-2, John 1:1-5, Matthew 3:13-17, 6:1-18, 28:19, Acts 5:3-4)

GOD THE FATHER

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

(John 6:27; Hebrews 1:8, Acts 5:3-4; Matthew 28:18; II Corinthians 13:34; Genesis 1:26)

JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is God’s eternal Son, who has precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe further that He is not only true God, but true man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We also believe in His sinless life, His substitutionary atonement, His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His priestly intercession on behalf of His people, and His personal, visible, premillennial, pretribulational return from heaven.

(Romans 3:24; John 10:30; Hebrews 1:8; Galatians 4:4; Matthew 1:20-23; II Corinthians 5:21)

HOLY SPIRIT

We believe in the Holy Spirit, His personality and His work in conviction and regeneration, sanctification, and preservation by indwelling, baptizing and sealing. We believe the Spirit fills those who yield to Him. His ministry is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to implement Christ’s work of redeeming the lost, and to empower the believer for godly living and service. We believe the Holy Spirit gives gifts to all believers, but that some gifts are permanent while others are temporary.

(John 14:15-17, 26, Acts 1:5,8, 5:3-4, 1 Corinthians 12:13, 29-30, 13:8-10, Titus 3:5, Galatians 5:16-23, Ephesians 4:11-13, 5:18)

MAN

We believe God originally created persons, male and female, in the image of God free from sin. However, man disobeyed his Creator and incurred spiritual death, total corruption, and Divine condemnation. We also believe that those who repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

(Genesis 1-3; Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:12-19; II Corinthians 5:14, 15, 19: Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:16)

SALVATION

We believe in salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We further believe that this salvation is based upon the sovereign grace of God, was purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross, and is received by faith through repentance, apart from any human merit, works, or ritual. Because it is given wholly by grace, the believer’s salvation is eternally secure. Every believer is provided positional and progressive sanctification and is promised glorificationin Heaven. We further believe salvation results in righteous living, good works, and proper social concern.

(John 3:16; I Corinthians 15:3-4; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:6; John 10:28; John 19:30; Romans 8:29-30, Matthew 4:17, Acts 2:37-38, Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 4:30; I Thes. 5:23; I Timothy 2:4-5; Hebrews 9:22; I Peter 1:5)

THE CHURCH

We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of which Christ is the head. We believe that the true Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and are thus the priesthood of believers, called to serve God. We believe that this body expresses itself in local assemblies whose members have been immersed upon a credible confession of faith and have associated themselves for worship, for instruction, for evangelism, and for service. We believe the ordinances of the local church are believer’s baptism by immersion and the Lord’s Supper. We also believe in the interdependence of local churches and the mutual submission of believers to each other in love.

(Matthew 16:16-18; 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:23-24; 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:1-6, 411-16; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 13:7, 17; Romans 6:3-6, Revelation 1:6, 5:10, 20:6)

CHRISTIAN LIFE AND SERVICE

We believe that the fulfillment of the Great Commission and Great Commandment is the responsibility of every believer, that he or she is to be a personal soul winner, that he or she is to disciple new converts and to exhort them to follow the Lord in Believers Baptism and obedience to God’s Word. We should exhort others to use their spiritual gifts and talents in the local church.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 2 Corinthians 5:11-21; 2 Peter 3:9; Jude 22,23)

CHRISTIAN CONDUCT

We believe that the supreme task of believers is to glorify God in their life and that their conduct should be blameless before the world. We further believe that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions and that they should seek to realize for themselves the full stature of maturity in Christ.

(Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-47; II Corinthians 5:11-21; II Peter 3:9; Jude 22,23)

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that each local church is self-governing in function and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life. We also believe that Civil Government is of Divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that government leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things that are opposed to the Word of God and Will of our God.

(Matthew 22:21; Proverbs 14:34; Romans 13:1-7; I Timothy 2:1-3; Acts 5:29)

SATAN

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all powers of darkness, and he is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. He is the tempter and deceiver, the adversary of Christ and His people, and the accuser of the brethren.

(Isaiah 14:12-15; Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:3-4; I Peter 5:8; Revelation 12:9-10, 20-10)

THE LAST THINGS

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the saved and lost, the eternal existence of all people in heaven or hell, in divine judgment, rewards, and punishment. We believe in the imminent return of the Lord to Rapture His Church. This event is followed in order by the seven-year Tribulation Period, the Second Coming of Christ to the earth to rule for one thousand years, and the Great White Throne Judgment of the Lost. This sequence of events will issue in the conscious states of everlasting punishment for the unsaved and everlasting blessing for the saved.

(Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-58; II Peter 3:1-13; Revelation 3:10, 19, 20)

MARRIAGE

We believe that God's plan and original design for marriage was to establish a permanent covenant relationship between one man and one woman. We believe that marriage is to be a living and lifelong illustration of the relationship sustained between Christ and His Church. We further believe that God designed marriage to be severed only by death, but does allow rare exceptions for divorce and remarriage.

(Gene­sis 2:24; Matthew 5:32, 19:4-6, 9; Ephesians 5:22-33; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians­ 7:12-15, 39; Malachi 2:16)