

STATEMENT OF BASIC BELIEFS

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired, inerrant, infallible word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of The Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind and to minister to all. The ordinances of the Church are believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Essential Beliefs

The Bible – We believe the Bible to be the inspired, inerrant, infallible, sufficient and authoritative Word of God.

God – We believe that there is one God, who exists eternally in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We affirm the Doctrine of the Trinity.

Jesus Christ – We believe in the full deity and humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal bodily return in power and glory.

The Holy Spirit – We believe in the full deity of the Holy Spirit, who indwells every believer, enabling obedience and spiritual growth. He preserves each one unto eternity.

Salvation – We believe that all men are sinful, separated from God, and unable to save themselves. Salvation is only through grace alone by faith alone in Christ Jesus alone. Salvation is from God and available to all who will repent (turn from sin) and trust in Christ.

Baptism – We believe baptism is by immersion. It is an outward sign of the inward change that God has wrought in one whom He has caused to be born again. Salvation does not depend in any way on whether or not someone has been baptized but all Believers should be baptized in obedience to the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Church – We believe that the universal church is comprised of all the redeemed in Christ. We believe commitment to the local church is necessary for the spiritual health of all those who are saved.

Creation – We believe that God created the universe and all that is in it in six literal days. Adam and Eve and all the rest of creation were fully developed needing no 'evolution' to become what we are today. At the end of that creation, day seven, God rested from His creation to observe all He had made.

Marriage – We believe that God created the union of marriage and by His design made it to be a covenant relationship between one man and one woman. The marriage relationship is a picture of Christ's relationship with His church and so to define marriage as anything other than one man and one woman would distort and pervert the Gospel.

Scriptural Reliability – We teach the primacy of biblical expository preaching in the life of the church. The inerrancy, authority and sufficiency of Scripture demand its continuous ministry in the church and the world.

Divine Sovereignty – We teach that God is enthroned in the heavens, actively governing the affairs of providence. He is saving those whom He has chosen before time began and is directing the flow of human history and world events for the praise of His own glory.

Spiritual Gifts – We teach that many of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are in use today. However, the miraculous gifts were predominantly given to the apostolic age during which time the New Testament was being written. Any gifts that occur today will always be within Scriptural parameters and will never contradict or add to Scripture.

Last Things - We teach that physical death involves no loss of our immaterial consciousness, that the soul of the redeemed passes immediately into the presence of Christ, that there is a separation of soul and body, and that, for the redeemed, such separation will continue until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ when our soul and body will be reunited to be glorified forever. Until that time, the souls of the redeemed in Christ remain in Heaven enjoying fellowship with our Lord. We teach that the souls of the unsaved at death are kept under punishment until the second coming, when the soul and the resurrection body will be united. They shall then appear at the Great White Throne Judgment and shall be cast into hell, the lake of fire, cut off from the life of God forever. We teach that God has fixed a day when He will send Jesus Christ, who will return in His resurrected, bodily form in the same manner as His ascension, to judge the lost and reward believers according to their works. We teach the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ. We engage, 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 sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines.

As covenant members of this church we commit:

- To faithfully attend the church's worship services. (Acts 2:42; Heb.10:25),
- To diligently guard the truth, upholding the standard of sound words recorded in Scripture (1 Tim. 3:15; 6:3-4,20; 2 Tim. 1:13-14; 2:14-15, 24-26; 4:3-4)
- To wholeheartedly support, love, and care for the church's ministries and members, offering my prayers, support and gifts (2 Cor. 13:9; Eph. 1:15-20; 3:14-21; 6:18; Phil. 1:3-6; 9-11; Col. 1:3-12; 4:2-6; 1 Thes. 1:2-4; 5:17; 1 Pet. 1:22; Matt. 23:23; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Eph. 4:11-16; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 10:24; 1 Peter 2:5,9,12; 4:10; Jude 17-21; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; 12:4-11,25-26; Ezek. 36:23b)
- To lead our family in personal devotions and private worship (Eph 5:22-33, 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21)
- To boldly witness for the Lord Jesus Christ, living a transformed life and sharing the gospel as God gives opportunity (Matt. 4:19; 28:19; Acts 1:8; 5:42; 1 Pet. 3:15)
- To actively pursue personal holiness before God, loving others as Christ has loved us. Including a striving to avoid all things that may entangle me in sin. (2 Cor. 7:1; Eph 5:3; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Thes. 4:7; 1 Pet 1:15-16; 1 Jn. 3:3; Jn. 13:34-35)
- To diligently promote the unity of the church, being a peacemaker with all in the body of Christ watching over one another in brotherly love, remembering the brethren in prayer, being sympathetic and courteous in speech, being quick to listen and slow to speak and always ready for reconciliation (Matt. 5:9; 23-26; Rom 12:18-21; 14:19; Eph. 4:1-3; Phil. 2:1-4; Col. 3:12-14; 2 Tim. 2:22; Heb. 12:14)
- To respectfully follow the leaders of this church, trusting and supporting their leadership (1 Thes. 5:12-13; 1 Tim. 5:17-20; Heb. 13:7,17)
- To humbly submit to the church's discipline, graciously repenting when approached about personal sin, and lovingly restoring others who become entangled in sin (Matt. 18:15-20; 1 Cor. 5:6-13; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; Gal. 6:1; 1 Thes. 5:14-15; 2 Thes. 3:5-6; Eph. 4:29; Phil. 2:14).
- We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word (Heb. 10:23-25)