



What We Teach

Doctrinal Statement

What We Believe

PREFACE

Accepting the Bible to be the very Word of God to man through men, and understanding the importance of knowing and obeying its truths, our church is committed to study and teach with diligence and authority. We strongly seek to teach the Scriptures to people that they may know God and serve Him in worship and ministry.

Through the years, this fellowship has come to convictions concerning the major theological truths of the Bible. This brochure presents an overview of those important doctrines. We believe these to be the primary doctrines of the Christian faith, and reflect the teaching of First Baptist Church.

1. THE SCRIPTURES: We teach the entire Bible. All 66 books of the combined Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired by God and are inerrant in the original writings. Through the providence of God, the Word of God has been protected and preserved, and is the only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

2. GOD: We teach that there is only one true, living, sovereign, holy, and eternally existent God. He exists in three co-equal persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - each being a distinct person with a distinct function, but all of one essence and all possessing the same nature, perfection, and attributes. The triune God is the creator and sustainer of all things, the source of all truth, and is worthy of worship, confidence, and obedience. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Genesis 1-31).

3. JESUS CHRIST: We teach that Jesus Christ is God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, performed many miracles, shed His blood on the cross as a vicarious substitute, was buried, bodily resurrected, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return literally, visibly, and personally in glory and power (John 1:1-3, 14; Matthew 1:18-25; Philippians 2:5-9; Colossians 1:15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Acts 1:11).

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT: We teach that the Holy Spirit is God; co-equal and co-existent with the Father and the Son. He is the chief convictor of sin, the chief agent of regeneration and sanctification. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer and empowers every believer to live a godly life. Through His gift of the Holy Spirit, God graces every believer with spiritual gifts, which are sovereignly-given abilities graciously bestowed upon every believer at salvation to enable him to perform a function effectively within the church, the Body of Christ (John 14:16-19; 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 8:9,11; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 4:11-16).

5. MANKIND: We teach that in the beginning God created mankind in His image, and is not in any sense the product of evolution. Mankind was originally created with the ability to live perfectly for God's glory. (Genesis 1:17, 31).

6. SIN: We teach that Adam, the first man, sinned by disobedience. This act resulted in the fall of all mankind. Therefore, all people have sinned and lost their ability to live for the glory of God. Mankind's fall has incurred both physical and spiritual death on all until there is forgiveness and salvation by the grace of God (Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 3:10-23; 5:12-21; 6:23).

7. SALVATION: We teach that the salvation of lost and sinful mankind is a free gift of God's grace apart from human works, based solely upon Christ's vicarious and atoning death, effected by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, and received only through faith in the person and finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21).

8. ETERNAL SECURITY: We teach that since God gives us eternal life through Christ, the believer is secure in that salvation is forever. Our salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the efforts of the believer (John 10:29-30; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 5:11-13).

9. THE CHURCH: We teach that the church is the body of Christ and the family of God. It is made up of saved and baptized, who regularly join together on the Lord's day for worship, fellowship, and ministry (Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Hebrews 10:25).

10. EVANGELISM: We believe that it is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to seek to make growing disciples (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).

11. THE HOME: In addition to these important beliefs, we also believe that God has given parents the responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 22:6).

12. ETERNITY: We believe man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or in union with God through salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally with God is heaven. Heaven and hell are places of eternal existence (John 3:16-25; 2:25; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15).

13. BAPTISM AND LORD'S SUPPER: Jesus instructed His followers to remember His death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders. These two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism by immersion is a one-time act of obedient identification with Jesus as Lord. It serves as an outward sign of conscious confession of repentance and faith. The Lord's Supper is an ongoing symbol remembering our Lord's death, burial, resurrection, and promised return (Matthew 28:18-20; Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

How Can I Become A Christian?

Admit you are a sinner in the eyes of God and in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23).

Believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose from the dead to be the very Savior you need (Romans 6:23; 5:8).

Come personally and transfer your trust to Christ alone to forgive your sins and give you the free gift of eternal life (Romans 10:9-10,13; John 1:12).

YOU CAN DO THIS RIGHT NOW

through this simple prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank you for making me and loving me. I realize I need you in my life. I am sorry for my sins. I ask You to forgive me. Thank you for dying on the cross for me. Please come into my life and save me from my sin. I accept your free gift of salvation. I want to follow you from this time as the Lord of my life. I love you. Please help me to grow as a Christian. In Jesus' name I pray (Romans 10:13).

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