

## **First Baptist Church Statement of Faith**

Section 1. Of the Scriptures: We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally and plerarily inspired, 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 conducts, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21.

Section 2. Of the True God: We believe there is one and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressively 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. Ex. 20:2, 3; I Cor. 8:6; I Jn. 5:7; Rev. 4:11.

Section 3. Of the Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in 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. We do not subscribe to the teaching that spirituals gifts include speaking in unearthly languages, nor is the baptism of the Holy Spirit a separate event from salvation. Gen. 1-3; Mt. 28:19; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 1:35; Jn. 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17, 26; 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Rom. 8:14, 16, 26, 27; I Cor. 14; Eph. 1:13-14; Heb. 9:14.

Section 4. Of 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 powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matt 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10.

Section 5. Of the Creation: We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. Gen. 1-2; John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17.

Section 6. Of 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 by choice; and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Gen. 3:1-6; Rom. 1:18-32; 3:10-20.

Section 7. Of 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 nor can be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son. Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:31-35; John 1:14.

Section 8. Of the Atonement of Sins: 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 Himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement

consisted not in setting us as example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ the Lord bearing our sins 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 an all-sufficient Savior. Isa. 53:4-7; Matt. 18:11; John 3:16; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24-25; I Cor. 15:3-4; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:8-9; Phil. 2:5-11; Heb. 2:14; I John 4:10.

Section 9. Of Grace in the New Creation: We believe that in order to be saved, a sinner 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 living 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 3:3-8; Acts 16:30-33; Rom. 6:23; II Cor. 5:17, 19; Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 2:13; II Pet. 1:4; I John 5:1-5.

Section 10. Of 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 the principles of righteousness which 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. Isa. 53:11; Acts 13:39; Rom. 5:1; 8:1.

Section 11. Of Faith and Salvation: We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31.

Section 12. Of the Local Church: We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by a 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 Pastor 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 inheritance of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to co-operate 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 co-operation; on all matters of membership, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2:41; 13:1-4; 15:13-18; 20:17, 28; Rom. 10:13-15; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:20-23; 5:23-24; Col. 1:18; I Tim. 3:1-13.

Section 13. Of 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 sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded by solemn self-examination. Matt. 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5; I Cor. 11:23-28; Col. 2:12.

Section 14. Of the Security of the Saints: We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:35-39; Phil. 1:6.

Section 15. Of 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 Spirit of our God, 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 and after death, in the everlasting joy of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Gen. 18:23; Prov. 14:32; Mal. 3:18; Matt. 25:34-46; Luke 16:25; John 8:21; Rom. 6:16-17, 23; 7:6; I John 5:19.

Section 16. Of Civil Government: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest 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. Exod. 18:21-22; II Sam. 23:3; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 22:21; Acts 4:19-20; 5:29. 23:5; Rom 13:1-7.

Section 17. Of the Resurrection: Personal, visible, pretribulational, premillennial return of Christ and related events: We believe in the Bodily Resurrection. Matt 28:6-7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; We believe in the Ascension. Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9, 11; Heb. 12:2; Rev. 3:21. We believe in the High Priesthood. I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:17, 5:5-6, 9-10; I John 2:1. We believe in the Second Coming. John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16; Heb. 9:28; James 5:8. We believe in the Resurrection of the Righteous Dead. I Cor. 15:42-44, 52; I Thess. 4:13-18; We believe in the Change (Rapture) of the Living in Christ. I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20-21; We believe in the Throne of David. Isa. 9:6-7; Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30. We believe in the Millennial Reign. Ps. 72:8; Isa. 11:4-5; 32:1; I Cor. 15:24-25; Rev. 20:1-7.

Section 18. Of Marriage, Gender and Sexuality: We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Gen. 1:26-27.

Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. Gen. 2:18-25. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. I Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. Matt. 15:18-20; I Cor. 6:9-10.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of First Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the First Baptist Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by First Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. Matt. 5:16, 27-31; Phil. 2:14-16; I Thess. 5:22.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; I Cor. 6:9-11.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of First Baptist Church.