

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

I Concerning the Scriptures

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as originally written were God breathed, both verbally and in every part. We believe God, who is Truth, communicated through Spirit-controlled men so that the Scriptures are without error and therefore authoritative in all they teach and in all matters they touch. We believe the Bible is the supreme revelation of God's will and standard for man and constitutes the only infallible guide for faith and life.

Matthew 5:18; 15:4,5,6

Mark 12:36

John 10:34,35

Acts 1:16

Romans 3:1-4

Galatians 3:16

II Timothy 3:16

Hebrews 4:12

II Peter 1:19-21

Revelation 22:18,19

II Concerning the True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite, sovereign Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; 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

Revelation 4:11

I Corinthians 8:6

I John 5:7

III 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 as no other man was ever nor can be born of a woman. He is very God of very God, being "God manifest in the flesh." He lived a life of absolute sinlessness and in His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, dying not as a martyr, purchasing our salvation with His blood as a voluntary substitute in the sinner's place. He rose from the dead on the third day and ascended bodily into heaven. He is coming again to rapture His saints, and to set up the throne of David and establish His kingdom. The rapture coming is imminent and will be personal, pre-tribulational and pre-millennial.

Isaiah 7:14

Matthew 1:18-25; 28:6

John 1:1; 14:3

Acts 15:16

I Thessalonians 4:16

II Thessalonians 2:6-8

I Peter 2:22; 3:18

IV Concerning 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 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. The gifts of tongues and healing were "sign-gifts" until the Scriptures were completed.

John 14:16,17, and 26

Hebrews 2:4; 9:14

Luke 1:35; 24:49

Acts 5:30-32; 11:16

Mark 1:8

Romans 8:14,16,27; 15:19

John 1:33; 3:5,6; 16:8-11

Matthew 28:19

Genesis 1:1-3

Ephesians 1:13

I Corinthians 13:8

I Corinthians 12:4-11

V Concerning Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man, spirit, soul and body, was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race.

Genesis 1 and 2

John 1:3

Colossians 1:16,17

VI Concerning Man

We believe the Scriptures teach that man, in the form of Adam, was created by a direct act of God and not from any previously existing form of life. By voluntary transgression he fell from his state of innocence, in consequence of which all men are now sinners by nature and by choice, utterly devoid of the holiness required by law, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal punishment and everlasting existence separated from God without defense or excuse.

Genesis 1:27

Romans 3:23; 5:12-19

Isaiah 53:6

VII Concerning Salvation

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 by our sovereign God 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, faith and newness of life.

John 3:3; 6,7,8

I John 5:1

II Peter 1:4

Ephesians 2:1,5

II Corinthians 5:17 and 19

Acts 16:30-33

Romans 6:23

Colossians 2:13

VIII Concerning Justification

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares us to be righteous through faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's 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.

Acts 13:39

Zechariah 13:1

Romans 5:1,9; 8:1

Isaiah 53:11

II Corinthians 5:18-21

IX Concerning Repentance

We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit; that it is characterized by godly sorrow for sin as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; and that true repentance is inseparably related to true faith.

Luke 13:1-3; 15:7

Romans 2:4

Acts 20:21

Acts 8:22

II Corinthians 7:10

X Concerning Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.

Acts 16:31

Romans 3:28

Ephesians 2:8,9

John 3:3-6; 15,16

XI Concerning Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Saviour; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return.

Hebrews 10:10-14; 3:1

II Corinthians 3:18

Ephesians 5:25-27

I John 3:2

Revelation 22:1

John 17:17

I Corinthians 1:30

I Thessalonians 4:3,4; 5:23,24

Jude 24,25

XII Concerning Adoption

We believe that adoption is the gracious act whereby the Father, for the sake of Christ, places new believers into the honored position of mature sons, in contrast with regeneration whereby the believer receives the nature of God and becomes a child of God. The full benefit of the position accorded by adoption as the sons of God awaits the glorification of the believer at the coming of the Lord.

Ephesians 1:5 ASV

Ephesians 1:13,14

Galatians 4:1-7

I John 3:1,2

XIII Concerning the Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ, and are eternally secure. We further believe His Word guarantees that nothing (including ourselves) can separate us from Christ, or cause us to lose our Salvation.

Philippians 1:6

Romans 8:35-39

John 10:28,29

Jude 1, ASV

XIV Concerning the Church

We believe in the unity of all true believers in the Church which is the body of Christ, which was established on the "Day of Pentecost," and that all believers, from Pentecost to the Rapture, both Jews and Gentiles, are added to this Church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that this Church is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers associated by the covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; and that the offices of pastor and deacon, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly limited to men. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all people 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; 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; and that on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. This definition of the local church leads to these Scriptural distinctives:

1. Sole authority of the Scriptures for faith and practice;
2. Autonomy of the local church;
3. Believers' baptism by immersion before church membership;
4. Two offices, pastor (also Scripturally designated as elder, bishop) and deacon;
5. Two symbolic ordinances, baptism and the Lord's table;
6. Individual priesthood of the believer and soul liberty. Each person has the right through the aide of the Holy Spirit to interpret the Scripture.
7. Separation of church and state.

The "church which is His body" is the entire company of believers in Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, regardless of denominational affiliation and present position in heaven or on earth.

Matthew 28:19,20

Acts 1:5; 2:1-4; 41,42; 15:13-18

Acts 10:44,45; 11:15,16

Hebrews 12:23

Ephesians 1:22,23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23

I Timothy 2:11-14; 3:1-7

Acts 20:17-28

Titus 1

I Corinthians 12:13; 11:2

Colossians 1:18

XV Concerning Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. 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. Observance of the Lord's Supper is for believers only. The ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper must be observed under the discipline of the local church.

Acts 8:36-39; 2:41,42

Romans 6:3-5

Matthew 3:16; 28:19,20

I Corinthians 11:23-28

John 3:23

Colossians 2:12

XVI Concerning the Eternal State

We believe the Scriptures teach the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust. All those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in full enjoyment of God's presence in Heaven, and those who through unrepentance and unbelief refuse to accept God's offer of mercy will spend eternity in everlasting punishment in the "lake of fire".

Psalms 16:11

Matthew 25:46

John 5:28,29; 14:2

Revelation 20:14,15; 21:4

XVII Concerning Satan

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a personal devil who is "the god of this age" and "the prince of the power of the air," who in his prior state existed as Lucifer an Archangel and through disobedience and sin was cast out of Heaven; who is full of all subtlety, who seeks continually to frustrate the purposes of God and to ensnare the sons of men, and who was conquered by Christ on the cross and condemned to everlasting punishment.

II Corinthians 4:4; 11:13-15

Ephesians 2:2

Hebrews 2:14

Revelation 12:9

XVIII Concerning Personal Separation

We believe the Scriptures teach that every believer should be separated unto God from the world, and by the aid of the Holy Spirit, should walk in Christian love and holiness, exhibiting qualities of honesty, integrity, forgiveness and loving-kindness. We further believe that any achievement in these characteristics will be evidenced by sincere humility and genuine zeal for the advancement of the cause of Christ. We also believe the Scriptures admonish every believer not to love the world or the things of the world, but rather to flee evil desires, avoid every kind of evil and refrain from questionable practices which destroy one's testimony, offend one's brother and fail to glorify God.

Proverbs 15:33

Romans 14:19-21

I Corinthians 6:18-20; 8:9-13

II Corinthians 7:1

I Peter 5:5,6

Galatians 5:22-25

Ephesians 4:32; 5:1,2; 7:10; 15-20

Philippians 4:8

I Thessalonians 4:7

XIX Concerning Ecclesiastical Separation

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Church should be separated from apostasy (as evidenced by false teachings) exemplified in ecclesiastical organizations which sanction theological compromise. We encourage fellowship with Fundamental Bible believing Churches and organizations. This doctrine is based upon God's eternal principle of division between truth and error and His specific command not to be joined with unbelievers and disobedient brethren. "This truth is to be practiced with an attitude of devotion to God, humility, compassion, and yet with conviction, to create the proper condition and atmosphere for the main objective, i.e., the salvation of the lost through the Gospel of God. We believe ecumenical evangelism which involves apostates violates the principles taught in God's Word.

Matthew 10:34-39; 18:15

Romans 16:17

I Corinthians 5:11-13

Galatians 1:8,9

I Timothy 6:3-6

II Timothy 2:16-18

Titus 3:10

II John 9:11

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