

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible, composed of 66 canonical books, contains the absolute, verbally-inspired Word of God. We believe the Scriptures, in the original autographs, to be the ultimate authority by which all Christians should live and are complete, inerrant, infallible, God-breathed, sufficient, never-changing, never-ending (Psalms 19:7-11; Psalm 119:105; Matthew 5:18; Luke 21:33; Luke 24:44-45; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21;).

TRINITY OF THE GODHEAD

We believe in the trinity of the Godhead; one God eternally existing in three equal persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They exist co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and have the same attributes and perfection (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 1:9-11; Acts 5:1-4; Acts 20:28; Romans 14:17-18; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Thessalonians. 5:18-19; 2 Thessalonians. 2:13-14; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 4:13-14; Jude 20-21).

THE PERSON AND WORK OF GOD THE FATHER

We believe God the Father is the first person of the Trinity and is the eternal, unchanging, all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise, all-loving, completely just and perfectly holy, sovereign Ruler and Sustainer of the universe. He is the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Father of all true believers. (Gen. 1:1; Deuteronomy 4:35; Psalms 90:2; Isaiah 40:28; Isaiah 43:10-13; Isaiah 46:8-11; John 1:12-13; John 5:19-21; John 17:1-5; Romans 8:14-16; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:4-6;).

THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

We believe Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity and is the only-begotten, eternal Son of God who became flesh to reveal God to man, to fulfill prophecy, and to become the Savior of the lost world. In becoming man, Jesus did not cease in any way to be God, therefore He was fully God and fully man. inseparably united in one person forever. Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; lived a sinless life; died on the cross as the substitutionary, all-sufficient atoning sacrifice for all of the sins of all men of all time; was buried; bodily rose from the dead; physically ascended into heaven in His glorified, resurrected body; is seated at the right hand of the Father performing His ministry of intercession, and will come again (Luke 1:35; John 1:1-5,14; John 3:16-17; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 3:24-25; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 7:24-25; Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 13:81; Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:1-2).

THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ and indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. He is the divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth (John 4:24; John 16:5-15; Acts 2:1-4; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; Ephesians 4:30; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5: 19; 1 John 2:20,27).

CREATION

We believe God created the universe and everything in it in six literal, consecutive, 24-hour days. God created something from nothing by the power of His word for His glory and His purpose (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11; Mark 10:6; Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16-17; Revelation 4:11).

MAN

We believe man (male and female) was created in the image and likeness of God, but due to Adam's sin the race fell and inherited a sinful nature and became alienated from God; man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. We affirm the dignity and value of each human life including the unborn and affirm that all people have intrinsic value and worth irrespective of gender, age, race and socio-economic status. We believe every believer possesses the new nature; whereby, he is no longer dominated by sin but can still fall prey to it and must walk in the Holy Spirit's power to prevent indulgence in the flesh and to achieve the fulfillment of God's will. We believe all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord and that separation from religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures and practices is commanded of God (Genesis 1-3; Genesis 1:26-27; Acts 17:23-28; Romans 3:22-23; Romans 5:12; Romans 6:11-13; Romans 8:12-13; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:5-17; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 2:15-17; 1 John 3:5-9).

IN GOD'S SOVEREIGN ELECTION

We believe in God's sovereign election; whereby, in eternity past, He chose some to be recipients of His grace in Christ (Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:3-6; Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 3:13; Titus 1:1-3; 1 Peter 1:1-2).

SALVATION

We believe salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (John 3:14-16; John 10:27-29; Romans 1:16; Romans 8:31-39; Romans 10:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:7, 13-14; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 1:6; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS

We believe all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. It is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation (John 6:37-40; John 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).

MARRIAGE

We believe God instituted the marriage relationship between a man and a woman at creation. The husband and wife are one entity but two distinct persons. Both partners in the relationship are equal before God, but each has a distinct role. The husband is the head of the home, sacrificially loving his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is his help and teammate who willingly submits herself to his loving care and leadership. Marriage is a lifelong commitment that demands complete loyalty and fidelity from each partner. Consequently, we affirm the dignity and absolute moral correctness of the monogamous marital relationship between one man and one woman who are brought together in a covenant relationship with their creator God as the only legitimate marital expression. (Genesis 2:22-24; Matthew 19:1-11; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; Hebrews 13:4).

MISSIONS

We believe it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all humanity (Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 10:2-3; John 4:34-38; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We believe God is sovereign in the granting of all spiritual gifts to equip the saints for the work of ministries and for building up the body of Christ (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12: 27-28; Ephesians 4:7-12; 1 Peter 4:10-11).

THE CHURCH

We believe in the local church as a body of baptized believers, independent and self-governing, which should fellowship with other churches of like faith. It is the responsibility of the local church to evangelize its immediate community, edify and equip its members, and to promote such priorities in discipleship throughout the world. The church is also obligated to regularly observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe the only biblical mode of believer's baptism is that of immersion and that it is administered in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The ordinance of baptism is for believers only and is a prerequisite for church membership. The officers of a New Testament church are pastors/elders and deacons (Matthew 28:18-20; John 17; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 1:20-23; Ephesians 4:1-6, Ephesians 4:11-16; Colossians 1:24-29).

THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe Satan is a created being, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and God will eternally punish him in the lake of fire (Genesis 3:1-15; Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 4:2-11; Matthew 25:41; Romans 16:20; Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10).

THE EXISTENCE AND WORK OF ANGELS AND DEMONS

We believe in the personal existence of angels whom God created for His service, and they are not to be worshipped. They protect, bring specific messages, execute judgment, and transport God's people (Psalm 91:10-13; Matthew 1:20; Matthew 4:11; Luke 1:19; Luke 2:8-15; Luke 16:22; Hebrews 1:6-7,14; Revelation 16:1).

We believe in the existence of fallen angels (demons) whom God created as perfect beings but who fell with Satan in rebellion against God; while some are imprisoned, others are roaming the earth as the Devil's representatives, but all will be thrown into hell with Satan at the final judgment (Matthew 25:41; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-12, Revelation 20:10).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST/RAPTURE/TRIBULATION

We believe in the personal, imminent, pretribulational return of Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones followed by a literal seven-year tribulation then by Christ's return for His thousand-year (millennial) reign (Daniel 9:24-27; Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 3:10; Revelation 19:11-16; Revelation 20:1-6).

THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. We believe the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where in conscious bliss they await the resurrection when spirit, soul and body are reunited and glorified forever with the Lord. We believe the souls of the unbelieving remain in conscious misery following death until the second resurrection when the soul and body are reunited; they shall then appear before the great white throne judgment and cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; Luke 23:43; John 5:28-29, John 11:25-26; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Phil. 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 20:5-6).

