

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

1. We believe that the Bible, composed of the Old and New Testaments, is God's Word; that it is verbally inspired by God, and without error in the original writings, and that it is the one supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct. II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; I Peter 1:25.
2. We believe in one God, perfect in holiness, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Gen. 1:1; Matt. 28:19; John 10:30; Acts 5:3-4; Isaiah 6:3; Rev. 4:8
3. We believe in the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, of judgment to come, and who regenerates, sanctifies and comforts the believer. We believe that the Holy Spirit immediately takes up His permanent residence within the believer at the moment of salvation. We believe the Holy Spirit's office was not to glorify Himself, but to glorify Jesus Christ. John 3:5-8; 14:16-18; 26; John 16:7-14.
4. We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, that He was begotten by the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, that He was sinless in His life, and is true God and true man. Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:1, 18; Col. 2:9; I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 7:26; I John 5:20.
5. We believe in the Bible account of creation, as accomplished in six successive, literal, 24-hour days of creative activity, with God resting on the seventh day. We disavow as unscriptural any form of atheistic or theistic evolution and the gap theory. Gen. 1:1 - 2:3.
6. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, and are now sinners by birth and by choice, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, in a literal Hell, without defense or excuse. Gen. 1:26-27, 2:17; Rom. 5:12-21; Psalm 58:3; I Cor. 2:14; Rom. 1:20; Rev. 20:14-15.
7. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him and receive Him are justified on the basis of His shed blood, the once-for-all sacrifice for sin. John 1:12; Rom. 5:8, 9; I Cor. 15:1-4; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:12, 10:10; I Peter 1:18-19, 2:24.
8. We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ arose bodily from the grave, ascended bodily and visibly into Heaven, and is bodily present there for us a High Priest and Advocate. Acts 1:9-11; I Cor. 15:1-4; I Cor. 15:20-25; Heb. 7:25.
9. We believe in the "blessed hope", the personal, visible and bodily, imminent, pre-tribulational return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the clouds to rapture the believers, and His subsequent Millennial enthronement in an earthly kingdom, in fulfillment of His promise. Acts 1:10-11; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Thess. 5:9; Matt. 24:44; John 14:1-3; Rev. 20:4-6.
10. We believe that all who accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and are thereby children of God, and are eternally saved. John 1:12; John 3:3-6; Gal. 3:24-26; I John 5:13.
11. We believe that Satan is literal and personal, the agent of man's initial fall from innocence, the god of this world, the prince and power of the air and that he will be judged and eternally punished. Gen.3:1-7; I Cor. 4:3-4; Eph. 2:1-4; Rev. 20:1-10.
12. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead; both of the just and unjust. We believe in a literal heaven and a literal hell; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment (Luke 12:19-31; II Peter 2:9), at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, they shall be judged according to their works, and cast into the place of final and everlasting punishment. Mark 9:43-48; I Thess. 4:16-18; Jude 13; Rev. 20:11-15, 21:8.
13. We believe that immersion, one-time-immersed, pictures Christ's death, burial and resurrection, and is the only form of baptism revealed and commanded in the Scriptures, that it has no power to wash away sin--NO SAVING POWER WHATSOEVER--but is only for those who are already saved. We believe the new birth, which comes through repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, is the Scriptural prerequisite to baptism; therefore, only those who are old enough to believe for themselves should be baptized. Matt. 3:16; Acts 2:28, 8:35-39; Rom. 6:3-7. (Continued on back of this sheet)

14. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a MEMORIAL of the death of Christ; it has NO SAVING POWER; it is NOT a sacrament. Only those who have been saved through faith in His atoning blood and are walking in obedient fellowship with Him ought to partake of it. We do not believe in closed communion. I Cor. 11:23-32.
15. We believe that a New Testament Church is a local body of baptized believers, assembled for worship, service, fellowship and the spread of the Gospel into all the world. We disavow an unscriptural emphasis on a "universal church". Acts 1:8, 2:41-47; Matt. 28:19-20, 18:17.
16. We believe that the Bible teaches that the following offices of the church should be held by men only: Pastor, Assistant Pastor, Deacons and Moderator. I Tim. 2:12, 3:2; I Tim. 3:12; Acts 15.
17. We believe that all the saved are called into a life of separation (II Cor. 6:14 - 7:1). This separation is in at least three areas: moral, personal and ecclesiastical.
 - a. Moral: The Ten Commandments are God's perfect standard for a perfect man. We are commanded to perfect holiness in the fear of God (II Cor. 7:1). The believer is to never suffer as an evil doer (I Peter 4:15), but is commanded to be clean in body and mind (II Cor. 10:5).
 - b. Personal: Romans 14 explains that there are going to be areas where the believers are going to disagree in matters which they call sin. The weaker will do things that the stronger will not. In matters of eating, holy days, etc., every man should be fully persuaded in his own mind. Rom. 14:5.
 - c. Ecclesiastical: While recognizing the unity of all true believers, it is also evident that unbelief and error in many organized fellowships have developed to the point where recognized and indisputable apostasy exists. We, therefore, disavow the position of the World Council of Churches, the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), the National Council of Churches and any other associations or fellowships that would be in sympathy with them. We stand in opposition to the Ecumenical Movement, New Evangelicalism, New Orthodoxy and cooperative evangelistic programs between churches and people not of like precious faith. II Cor. 6:14-18; Eph. 5:11-12; Luke 12:51.
18. We believe that the healing and tongues movement of today is unscriptural and contrary to sound doctrine, and those who believe and practice these are in error. I Cor. 14:33, 40; I Cor. 13:8-11.
19. 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 Faith Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Faith Baptist Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Faith Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; 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 Faith Baptist Church.