

Davisville Church Bylaw Revision

Article I: Statement of Faith

Proposed February 2023

A. Concerning God's Word, the Bible: We believe that...

the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments were God-breathed (inspired) *2 Tim. 3:16-17*

God inspired every part of Scripture equally, down to the very words *Matt. 5:17-18*

the Bible ~~it~~ was recorded by men as guided by the Holy Spirit and so was without error in the original writings *2 Peter 1:20-21*

God has preserved His Word over the centuries so that what we have is reliable and trustworthy

the Bible ~~it~~ is the only infallible rule of faith and practice and is ~~totally~~ ~~total~~ accurate in all matters which it addresses *Jn. 17:17; Ps. 19:7-11*

B. Concerning God: We believe that...

there is only one true God *Deut. 6:4*

God eternally exists in three persons- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit *Matt. 28:19*

these persons are equally God *Titus 1:3-4; Jn. 10:30-33; Titus 2:13; Acts 5:3-4*

these persons perform distinct but harmonious functions in the salvation of humanity

Titus 3:4-7

1. Concerning the Father: We believe that...

He is a person and He is fully God *Eph. 4:6*

He sent His Son to provide salvation for humanity *Jn. 3:16*

He will accomplish His eternal purposes *Ps. 33:11; Rom. 8:28-29; Eph. 1:3-6*

He is the Father of all believers *Jn. 1:12-13*

He preserves all believers by His power *1 Pet. 1:5*

2. Concerning the Son, Jesus Christ: We believe that...

He is the one and only Son of God *Jn. 3:16*

He was born of the virgin Mary *Luke 1:34-35*

He is ~~fully~~ perfect God and perfect man *Jn. 1:1-2,14,18; Php. 2:6-8; Heb. 4:15*

He died for our sins and rose again on the third day *1 Cor. 15:3-4*

He is now interceding for believers before the Father in heaven *Rom. 8:34*

He will one day return for all ~~believers~~ ~~Christians~~ *Jn. 14:1-3; 1 Thes. 4:13-17*

3. Concerning the Holy Spirit: We believe that...

He is a person and He is fully God *Acts 5:3-4*
at the moment of salvation He instantly:

1. makes us spiritually alive (regenerates) *Titus 3:4-7*
2. places us into the body of Christ (baptizes) *1 Cor. 12:13*
3. comes to live within us (indwells) *Rom. 8:9*
4. guarantees that we belong to God (seals) *Eph. 1:13-14*
5. gives special ability to serve God (gifts) *1 Cor. 12:7,11*

We believe the sign gifts **are not normative** ~~have ceased~~ for today. *1 Cor. 13:8*
He enables the **believer** ~~Christian~~ to serve God and live a life which is pleasing to Him *Gal. 5:16,22-23*

C. Concerning Humanity ~~Man~~: We believe that...

God created **humans** ~~man~~ perfect in His image, apart from any process of evolution
Gen. 1:26-31

God created male and female as two distinct, complementary genders to reflect His image and His nature, and that God's intent for each person's gender is demonstrated at their birth *Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:18-25; Psalm 139:13-16; Rom. 1:18-28*

God established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman *Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4-6,9*

human sex is a gift to be expressed only within marriage as established by God *Gen. 2:18-25; 1 Cor. 7:1-7; Heb. 13:4*

Adam, the first man, sinned voluntarily and by his action brought death into the world for all people *Rom. 5:12*

all people are born sinners and so commit acts of sin *Psa. 51:5*

all people are born spiritually dead and are completely unable to save themselves from their sin *Eph. 2:1-3*

all people are justly condemned to eternal punishment and separation from God because of their sin *Rom. 1:18-21; 3:10-12*

every person reflects God's image and therefore has inherent value and is to be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity *Gen. 1:26-27; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31*

D. Concerning Salvation: We believe that...

God offers salvation and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, and who seek His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus *Acts 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11*

salvation is totally by the grace of God through faith, not by human works of any kind *Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Jn. 5:11-13*

Jesus died in our place and paid for our sin by His death on the cross *1 Pet. 3:18*

to experience God's gift of salvation (become a **believer** ~~Christian~~), we must: acknowledge that we are guilty of sin *Rom. 3:23*

believe that Jesus died for our sins **as our substitute** and rose again *1 Cor. 15:1-5; Eph. 1:13*
trust Jesus alone as our Savior from sin *Acts 4:12; 16:30-31; Jn. 14:6; Jn. 3:16*
those who have trusted Jesus as their Savior are permanently adopted into God's
family and so are secure forever as His children *Eph. 1:5; Rom. 8:15-16, 38-39*

E. Concerning the Christian life: We believe that...

at salvation we are set apart (sanctified) to God *Heb. 10:10; 1 Cor. 6:11*
as we grow as **believers** ~~Christians~~, we will become more like Jesus and set apart
from our old sinful habits *Eph. 4:11-15; 2 Peter 3:18*
when we get to heaven we will be completely set apart from even the presence of sin *1 Jn. 3:2*

F. Concerning the Church: We believe that...

all who have trusted Jesus as their Savior are members of God's Church- Christ's body
1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18
a local church is a group of **believers** ~~Christians~~ which **gathers** ~~meet together~~ on a
regular basis to **worship God, equip believers and make disciples** ~~fulfill God's purposes~~
~~of worship, evangelism, fellowship, instruction, and service~~ *Acts 2:41-47; Eph. 4:11-13; Matt.*
28:19-20
the local church is to be led by shepherds (elders) under the authority of the Chief
Shepherd, Jesus Christ *1 Peter 5:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9; Heb. 13:7-8, 17*
the local church **practices** ~~should observe~~ the ordinances of baptism and communion *Matt. 28:19;*
1 Cor. 11:23-26
water baptism of a believer is a symbol of union with Christ and is a believer's
public declaration of faith ~~baptism is the immersion in water of a Christian as a public~~
~~declaration of their faith and symbol of their union with Christ~~ *Acts 8:35-38; Rom. 6:3-4*
communion is a memorial of Jesus' death to be **practiced** ~~observed~~ **by believers** until He
returns *1 Cor. 11:23-26*

G. Concerning the Lord's return: We believe that...

Jesus could return at any time for His bride, the Church, before the tribulation *Jn. 14:1-4;*
1 Thes. 4:13-17; 5:9-10
Jesus will return physically to the earth to rule for a period of one thousand years
Rev. 19:11-20:6
believers ~~the saved~~ will live with God in heaven forever, while **unbelievers** ~~the unsaved~~ will
suffer punishment in hell forever *1 Thes. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:11-15*