

Central Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

- A. We believe the Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity. It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error; the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct. It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity (II Timothy 3:16; I Peter 1:23-25; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; John 20:31, I John 5:9-12; Matthew 4:4; I Peter 2:2).
- B. We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy and love. He exists eternally in three coequal persons who act together in creation, providence and redemption (I Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4. The Trinity: Genesis 1:26; I Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:1-3). .
- a. The Father reigns with providential care over all life and history in the created universe; He hears and answers prayer. He initiated salvation by sending His Son, and He is Father to those who by faith accept His Son as Lord and Saviour (I Chronicles 29:11-13; Matthew 7:11; I John 4:9-10; John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31).
 - b. The Son became man, Jesus Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Being fully God and fully man, He revealed God through His sinless life, miracles and teaching. He provided salvation through His atoning death in our place and by His bodily resurrection. He ascended into heaven where He rules over all creation. He intercedes for all believers and dwells in them as their ever-present Lord (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18; John 14:9; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:23-24; I Corinthians 15:3-4; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:23-25; Philippians 2:5-11; Romans 8:34; John 14:23).
 - c. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures. Through this Word, he convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of their righteousness of Christ, draws them to the Saviour, and bears witness to their new birth. At regeneration and conversion, the believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Spirit indwells, seals and gives spiritual gifts to all believers for ministry in the church and society. He empowers, guides, teaches, fills, sanctifies and produces the fruit of Christ-likeness in all who yield to Him (II Peter 1:21; James 1:18; John 16:7-11; I Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16; I Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 12:5-8; I Peter 4:10; Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14; I Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 5:18; II Thessalonians 2:13; Galatians 5:16; 22-23).
- C. We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will. The holy angels are obedient spirits ministering to the heirs of salvation and glorifying God. Certain angels, called demons, Satan being their chief, through deliberate choice revolted and fell from their exalted position. They now tempt individuals to rebel against God. Their destiny in hell has been sealed by Christ's victory over sin and death (Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:6-7; 13-14; Revelation 12:7-9; I Timothy 4:1; I Peter 5:8; Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10).
- D. We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be steward over His creation. As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity and is worthy of respect. Through the temptation of Satan, Adam and Eve chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation. Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God. Satan tempts people to rebel against God, even those who love Him.

Nonetheless, everyone is personally responsible to God for thoughts, actions and beliefs and has the right to approach Him directly through Jesus Christ, the only mediator (Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 139:13-17. The Fall: Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8-22; Romans 3:9-18, 23; Ephesians 4:27; II Corinthians 2:11; Matthew 16:23; Romans 14:12; I Timothy 2:5).

- E.** We believe the Bible clearly teaches that the family is the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability. We affirm marriage as the spiritual and legal union of one man and one woman, and therefore reserve the term “marriage” for the covenant relationship between one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4).
- F.** We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death. It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit. As a child of God, the believer is acquitted of all guilt and brought into a new relationship of peace. Christians grow as the Holy Spirit enables them to understand and obey the Word of God (II Timothy 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:23; I Timothy 2:4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 20:21; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:27; Romans 5:1; II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15; I Thessalonians 3:12).
- G.** We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members. Christians are commanded to be baptized upon profession of faith and to unite with a local church for mutual encouragement and growth in discipleship through worship, nurture, service and the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the World. Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility. The form of government is understood to be congregational (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5; Acts 2:41-42, 47; Luke 24:45- 48; Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28; Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3-6; 15:22-23).
- H.** The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord’s Supper.
 - a. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer’s identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Saviour Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-5).
 - b. The Lord’s Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. It is an act of thankful dedication to Him and serves to unite His people until He returns (I Corinthians 11:23-26).
- I.** We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God. Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other. Christians should pray for civil leaders, and obey and support government in matters not contrary to Scripture. The state should guarantee religious liberty to all persons and groups regardless of their religious preferences, consistent with the common good (Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; II Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29; Matthew 22:21; I Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1- 7; I Peter 2:13-16).
- J.** We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society. In a Christ-like spirit, they oppose greed, selfishness and vice; they promote truth, justice and peace; they aid the needy and preserve the dignity of people of all races and conditions (Matthew 5:13-16; Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; I John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4).

- K.** We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring all things to their appropriate end and establish the new heaven and the new earth. The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally and visibly in glory according to His promise. The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels. The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord (Ephesians 1:9-10, Revelation 21:1; Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; John 14:1-3; John 5:28-29; Matthew 25-41, 46; Revelation 20;10; Philippians 3:20-21; II Corinthians 5:10; I Thessalonians 4:13-18).