



## **ARTICLE II — DOCTRINE**

From the Central Bible Church Constitution  
(Adopted January 28, 2018)

### **SECTION 1 — AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH:**

*The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members, staff and volunteers. All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith. All activities permitted or performed in any facilities owned, rented or leased by this church, or engaged in by any member of the church staff (volunteer or paid), and all decisions of the administration of this church shall not conflict with the Statement of Faith. In all conflicts regarding interpretation of the Statement of Faith, the Pastor and Official Board, on behalf of the church, have the final authority.*

### **SECTION 2 — THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:**

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:21; Matt. 5:18; Jn. 16:12,13).

### **SECTION 3 — THE GODHEAD:**

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three Persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; 2 Cor. 13:14).

### **SECTION 4 — THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST:**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Luke 1:35; Jn. 1:12,14).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Rom. 3:24,25; Eph. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 2:24).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9,10; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; 1 Jn. 2:1,2).

### **SECTION 5 — THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling, and sealing them unto the day of redemption (Jn. 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12: 12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13, 14).

We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (Jn. 16:13; Eph. 5:18; 1 Jn. 2:20,27).

## **SECTION 6 — THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN:**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God, and that man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26,27; Rom. 3:22,23; 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3,12).

## **SECTION 7 — SALVATION:**

We believe that 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 (Jn. 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18,19).

## **SECTION 8 — THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS:**

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (Jn. 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,38,39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:5).

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Rom. 13:13,14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

## **SECTION 9 — THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER:**

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Rom. 6:13; 8:12,13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; 1 Jn. 3:5-9).

## **SECTION 10 — SEPARATION:**

We believe that all the saved should live in such manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded by God (Rom. 12:1,2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 2 Jn. 9-11).

## **SECTION 11 — MISSIONS:**

We believe that 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 mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:19,20).

## **SECTION 12 — THE MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS:**

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that the gifts of evangelists, pastors and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12).

We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith in accord with His own will for the sick and afflicted (Jn. 15:7; 1 Jn. 5:14,15).

## **SECTION 13 — THE CHURCH:**

We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organization made up of all born again persons of this present age (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22,23; 5:25-27).

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

#### **SECTION 14 — DISPENSATIONALISM:**

We believe in the dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as “Hyper-Dispensationalism,” such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord’s Table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age (Matt. 28: 10,20; Acts 2:41,42; 18:8; 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

#### **SECTION 15 — THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN:**

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6,7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

#### **SECTION 16 — THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST:**

We believe in that “Blessed Hope,” the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation, and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom (Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

#### **SECTION 17 — THE ETERNAL STATE:**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt. 25:46; Jn. 5:28, 29; 11:25,26; Rev. 20:4,6,12,13).

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Philp. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16,17; Rev. 20:4-6).

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Rev. 20:11-15).

### **BELIEFS RELATING TO CULTURAL ISSUES:**

#### **SECTION 18 — MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY:**

We believe that God, as humanity’s Creator, has graciously designed and given the gift of human sexuality and therefore has every right to ordain its appropriate boundaries. We believe that the term 'marriage' has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive covenantal union, as delineated in Scripture. Marriage ceremonies performed in any facility owned, leased or rented by this church will be only those ceremonies sanctioned by God, joining one man with one woman as their genders were determined at birth. Whenever there is a conflict between the church’s position and any new legal standard for marriage, the church’s statement of faith, doctrines and biblical positions will govern. (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:22-23; Mark 10:6-9; I Cor. 7:1-9)

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity, identity or expression be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman as, described in Section 18, paragraph 1 above. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, or pornography (including those that are becoming more accepted in the culture and the

courts) are contradictory to God's natural design and purpose for sexual activity and are therefore sinful, spiritually dangerous and forbidden for those who profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. (Gen. 2:24; 19:5; 19:13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; 7:2; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23; 1Thes. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

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 and the rejection of one's biological gender is a sinful rejection of God's sovereign creative choice and of the image of God within that person. (Gen. 1:26-27; Ps. 139:13-17)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, should abide by and agree to this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. (Heb. 13:17; Rom. 2:13; 1 Pet. 4:17; 1 Jn. 2:4-6; 1 Pet. 1:14-16)

### **SECTION 19 — LOVE TOWARD OTHERS:**

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. 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 the church. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; Jn. 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 Pet. 3:8-9; 1 Jn. 3:17-18)

### **SECTION 20 — FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS:**

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors, elders and deacons) of the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a wonderful gift and heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate training and discipline. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Pro. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)

### **SECTION 21 — DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE:**

We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce, particularly for Christians, except on the grounds of adultery or in the case of an unbelieving spouse who wishes to leave. Even in these cases however, divorce is merely allowed and not prescribed, rather, God's desire is that forgiveness, reconciliation and restoration occur. Because of the clear teaching of Scripture on these points, a careful examination of the appropriateness of a past divorce must be undertaken before a CBC pastor agrees to marry a couple who has a divorce in their past. While we do not believe that a divorce automatically disqualifies someone from service as a church leader, close scrutiny of the circumstances surrounding a divorce must be undertaken by the Pastor and the Official Board to ensure that other biblical character disqualifications are not still in play which may have been relevant to the divorce in question. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Mark 10:11-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6; 1 Cor. 7:10-16)

## **SECTION 22 — ABORTION:**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being at all stages of development. Abortion constitutes the unjustified taking of unborn human life and is, therefore, murder. But because God is a God of mercy and grace, we affirm that there is hope, healing and forgiveness available to all who repent of their sin and seek forgiveness through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:13-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:36, 44; Jas. 5:16; 1 Jn. 1:9)

## **SECTION 23 — EUTHANASIA:**

We believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, facilitates premature death, is assuming a decision that is to be reserved for God. We do not, however, believe that discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome constitutes euthanasia. (Ex. 20:13; 23:7; Matt. 5:21; Acts 17:28)

## **SECTION 24 — LAWSUITS WITHIN THE CHURCH:**

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits within the Church. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

## **SECTION 25 — PROTECTION OF CHILDREN:**

We believe that children are a heritage from the Lord and must be absolutely protected within the church from any form of abuse or molestation. The church has zero tolerance for any person, whether paid staff, volunteer, member, or visitor, who abuses or molests a child. (Ps. 127:3-5; Matt. 18:6, 19:14; Mark 10:14)