

Article II – Statement of Faith

2.1 God – We believe that there is one and only one living and true God, revealed to us as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection. We believe that God created man in his own image, innocent of sin, and having freedom of choice. By his free choice, man sinned against God and brought sin and death into the human race. We believe that God sent His Son into the world to save the world; God sends the believers into the world to continue the work of Christ. We believe that God is the source of all material and spiritual blessings; all that we have and are, we owe to Him. Therefore, we are obligated to serve Him with our time, talents and material possessions.

2.2 The Holy Bible – We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God’s revelation of Himself to man.

2.3 Salvation – We believe that salvation is God’s gift of grace to all who repent and accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10 ESV)

2.4 Church – We believe that Christ expressly commissions His church to reach into the world that everyone might be saved. We believe that Immanuel Baptist Church is the continuing expression of the body of Christ and as a local autonomous body, operates through democratic processes under the lordship of Christ. We recognize that this church, as the body of Christ, is among the redeemed of all ages. We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord’s Day, commemorating His resurrection from the dead and is to be used in worship and spiritual devotion.

2.5 Church and State - We believe that the church and state should be separate. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal. This implies the right of free access to God by all and the right to form and propagate religious beliefs without interference by the civil power.

2.6 Ordinances – We believe that the church has two ordinances: *Baptism and the Lord’s Supper*. Baptism is the immersion of a believer, upon the command of Christ, in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It unites the believer in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord, symbolizing the believer’s death to sin and resurrection to new life. The Lord’s Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the body of Christ partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine to memorialize the death of Christ and to anticipate His second coming.

2.7 Marriage and Sexuality – We believe God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a biological man, a biological woman, and Himself. Immanuel Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the Pastors/Ministers and staff of Immanuel Baptist Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one biological man and one biological woman. Finally, the facilities and property of Immanuel Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one biological man and one biological woman (see Appendix A).

2.8 Sanctity of Human Life - We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Psalm 139).

2.9 We believe that **The Baptist Faith and Message** as updated and adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000 is a further guide to our basic beliefs (copy is maintained in the church office).

2.10 Final Authority – We believe that this *Statement of Faith* does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Immanuel Baptist Church’s faith, doctrine, practices, policies and discipline, the Executive Council and Senior Pastor are Immanuel Baptist Church’s final interpretive authority on Bible’s meaning and application.

2.11 Conclusion – We believe that Ephesians 3:20-21 is a fitting conclusion for these statements of faith. “Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (ESV)