

Felida Bible Church Teaching Statement

Note: an asterisk (*) indicates a word or phrase defined in the glossary.

Revelation

We believe that God has taken the initiative to reveal to humanity truth regarding himself and his creation which could not have been otherwise discovered.¹ God has revealed certain truths about himself through the created order, including his existence, his glory, his power and divine nature, and his kind providence.² Though this general revelation is sufficient to make people accountable for their rejection of God, it is insufficient to convey a knowledge of Christ leading to salvation.³ God has revealed himself more completely by means of special revelation, including angelic messengers, direct discourse, dreams and visions, audible voices, and human prophets and authors uniquely influenced by the Holy Spirit.⁴ The expression of God's special revelation is properly called the word of God, which has been manifested both in verbal form and most completely in the living Word, Jesus Christ.⁵

Scripture

We believe that the Bible is God's written revelation complete in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments.⁶ Because it is breathed out in its entirety by God, it is without error in the original writings and trustworthy.⁷ We believe the Holy Spirit superintended human authors so that, through their individual personalities and literary styles, they composed and recorded God's Word for humanity.⁸ It is the supreme authority in all matters to which it speaks and is the sufficient and complete guide for living according to God's will.⁹ We believe that the Bible must be understood through normal contextual, grammatical and historical principles of interpretation in pursuit of the author's intended meaning, and applied under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.¹⁰

God

We believe in the one personal, transcendent*, immanent*, eternal, living God who is the creator, sustainer, and sovereign ruler of all things.¹¹ He is uncreated, unchanging, and works all things according to the counsel of his will in order to bring glory to himself.¹² Because God is righteous, he loves what is best; therefore, his ultimate loyalty is to his own glory.¹³ The supreme display of God's glory is seen in his mercy and grace in Christ toward undeserving sinners.¹⁴ God's foreknowledge is exhaustive and not dependent on human decisions and actions.¹⁵ He exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.¹⁶ They exercise distinguishable but

¹ Isaiah 55:8-9; Hebrews 1:1

² Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20-21; Acts 14:17

³ Romans 1:20; 10:14

⁴ Genesis 18; Jeremiah 1:1-2; Daniel 9:21-22; Acts 10:9-16; John 12:28; 2 Peter 1:21

⁵ Jeremiah 36:2; John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 1:1-2

⁶ Matthew 5:17; Luke 24:44; John 16:12-14; Galatians 1:11-12

⁷ 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; Matthew 5:18; John 10:35

⁸ 1 Corinthians 2:12-13; 2 Peter 1:20-21

⁹ Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 5:17-19; Acts 17:11; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4; Jude 3

¹⁰ 1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 2 Peter 1:20

¹¹ Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 83:18; Isaiah 44:8; Jeremiah 10:10; Romans 11:36; Hebrews 3:4; James 2:19

¹² Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:9-10; Isaiah 14:24; 43:7; Malachi 3:6; Ephesians 1:5-6, 11-12, 14; James 1:17

¹³ Isaiah 48:9-11; Ezekiel 36:20-23

¹⁴ Romans 9:22-24

¹⁵ Romans 8:29-30; Psalm 139:1-6, 13-17; 147:5; John 6:64; Isaiah 40:13

¹⁶ Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Philippians 2:5-6

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harmonious roles in creation, providence, redemption, and consummation*.¹⁷ They are equal in nature, attributes, and perfections.¹⁸ The holy triune God is worthy of our worship, confidence, and obedience.¹⁹

The Father

We believe in God the Father: one in essence with the Son and the Spirit.²⁰ He is an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in all his attributes.²¹ He is the creator, sustainer, and sovereign ruler of all things through his Son Jesus Christ.²² We believe that he concerns himself perfectly in the affairs of humanity.²³ His fatherhood involves both his designation within the Trinity and his relationship with the redeemed.²⁴ Everything he does is in accordance with his perfect will, though his sovereignty does not eliminate or minimize human responsibility.²⁵ The Father adopts as his own, through Jesus Christ, all those he calls to himself.²⁶

The Son

We believe in God the Son: one in essence with the Father and the Spirit.²⁷ He is the one and only eternal Son of God, the preeminent revelation of God.²⁸ At the right time he emptied himself, taking the form of a bond-slave.²⁹ He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary as Jesus, the Christ – fully God and fully man.³⁰ He is one person with two unmingled, unchangeable, inseparable natures (divine and human).³¹ We believe in his sinless life, his voluntary submission to his Father's will that culminated in his substitutionary death on the cross, his burial, and his bodily resurrection.³² He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father.³³ His death on the cross atoned for our sin and satisfied the righteous demands of the holy God.³⁴ He is the Mediator between God and man.³⁵ He is Prophet, Priest, and King; the Head and Savior of his Church; the Heir of all things; the Judge of the entire world; and the exact representation of God the Father.³⁶ We believe in the personal return of Christ for his Church and in the establishment of his Kingdom on earth.³⁷

¹⁷ Genesis 1:1-2; Luke 3:22; John 1:3; 5:17; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 12:4-6; Ephesians 2:18; Colossians 1:16-17

¹⁸ John 10:30; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Philippians 2:5-6

¹⁹ Isaiah 6:3; Jeremiah 2:12-13; Mark 12:30; Revelation 5:13

²⁰ Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 3:16, 8:6

²¹ Exodus 3:14; John 4:24; 14:7

²² Genesis 1:1; Psalm 19:1; Psalm 104; Acts 17:28; Colossians 1:17

²³ Psalm 8:4-6; Matthew 5:45; 6:26-32; 10:29-31

²⁴ Matthew 6:1, 4; 10:20; John 20:17, 21; 17:1; Ephesians 1:2-3; Colossians 1:2-3

²⁵ Romans 1:18-20; 8:29; Colossians 1:10

²⁶ John 6:44; Romans 8:23; Ephesians 1:5

²⁷ Matthew 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14

²⁸ John 1:1; 8:58; Philippians 2:5-6; Revelation 1:8

²⁹ Matthew 1:23; Philippians 2:6-7

³⁰ Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 14; 8:58; 14:7; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5-8; Colossians 1:15-16; Hebrews 1:3

³¹ Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5

³² Luke 19:10; Hebrews 4:15

³³ Acts 1:9; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1

³⁴ Isaiah 53:4-12; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Hebrews 9:13-15; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

³⁵ John 1:1-14; Hebrews 12:24; 1 Timothy 2:5

³⁶ Psalm 2:6; Acts 3:22-23; Romans 10:9-11; Ephesians 5:23; Hebrews 1:3, 8; 4:14; 8:2-5

³⁷ Zechariah 14:4, 16; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17; Revelation 11:15; 20:4

The Holy Spirit

We believe in God the Holy Spirit: one in essence with the Father and Son.³⁸ He was sent by God the Father and God the Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.³⁹ His personality is demonstrated by his attributes of intellect, emotion and will.⁴⁰ The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ and implements Christ's work of redemption.⁴¹ He regenerates*, baptizes*, seals, gifts, and indwells all believers at conversion, progressively sanctifying and securing them in Christ forever.⁴² The Spirit fills*, leads, comforts, and intercedes for believers, empowering them for godly living and service.⁴³ Believers demonstrate the presence and filling of the Spirit by the fruit of the Spirit and the building up of the body of Christ, the Church.⁴⁴ The exercise of spiritual gifts, vital for the building up of the Church, is not by itself evidence of the filling of the Spirit, nor is any particular gift a necessary sign of the Spirit's presence.⁴⁵

Humanity

We believe that human beings, male and female, are unique in all of creation because God created them in his image, to exercise dominion over the earth and to enjoy a relationship with him forever.⁴⁶ Their creation was by direct supernatural act, not by means of a natural process.⁴⁷ Every human being is a unified whole composed of both material and immaterial aspects, and is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life.⁴⁸ Humans have greater value than all other created things because they are made in the image of God, even though it is now marred by sin, and because they are the objects of God's redeeming love.⁴⁹ God's will for humanity is that they love the Lord their God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength, and love their neighbors as themselves.⁵⁰

Family

We believe that human life begins at fertilization*.⁵¹ God established the institution of marriage as the union of one man and one woman in a life-long covenant* relationship, and his design for the continuance of humanity is through the procreation and discipleship of children within the marriage union.⁵² Marriage is intended by God to portray the relationship between Jesus Christ and his Church; therefore, every believer in Christ is responsible to honor God's design for marriage, abstaining from sexual relations outside of marriage and embracing within marriage the equal worth and complementary responsibilities of husbands and wives.⁵³

³⁸ Psalm 139:7-10; John 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; 3:16-17; Hebrews 9:14

³⁹ John 16:8-11

⁴⁰ 1 Corinthians 2:11; Acts 16:6; Ephesians 4:30

⁴¹ John 16:14; Acts 1:5; Romans 8:2-16; 1 Peter 1:2

⁴² John 14:17; 1 Corinthians 6:19; 12:4-31; Ephesians 1:13; 4:30; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 5:10; Jude 20-21

⁴³ Joel 2:28-29; John 14:26; 16:13; Acts 2:17-18; 4:31; 9:31; Romans 8:26; Ephesians 5:18

⁴⁴ Romans 5:5; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 2:22; 3:14-21

⁴⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11, 29-30; 14:26

⁴⁶ Genesis 1:26-31; 5:1-2; 9:6; Psalm 100:3; Isaiah 43:7; Matthew 19:4; Acts 17:26; James 3:9

⁴⁷ Genesis 2:7, 22

⁴⁸ Ecclesiastes 12:14; Jeremiah 17:10; Romans 1:20; 3:19; Hebrews 4:13; 9:27; 1 Thessalonians 5:23

⁴⁹ Genesis 9:6; Matthew 10:31; John 3:16; Romans 3:10-18, 23; James 3:9; 1 John 2:2

⁵⁰ Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:30-31; Romans 13:8-10

⁵¹ Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:5; Luke 1:41, 44

⁵² Genesis 1:27-28; 9:1; 2:23-24; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4

⁵³ Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Galatians 3:28

Sin

We believe that sin is any action, inaction, or attitude that is contrary to the nature or Word of God, which constitutes a rejection of his authority, resulting in alienation from God.⁵⁴ Sin entered the world when Adam, representing humanity, disobeyed God.⁵⁵ As a result of the one sin of Adam, his descendants – the whole human race – are separated from relationship with God, spiritually dead, and therefore in a fallen state. Being sinners by nature and choice and utterly unable to remedy their lost condition, humanity is in need of salvation.⁵⁶

Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift of God, received by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.⁵⁷ Salvation is motivated by the love of God demonstrated through his sovereign election* in Christ, purchased by Jesus Christ through his death on the cross, and received by faith apart from any human merit, works, or ritual.⁵⁸ Regeneration* is effected through the work of the Holy Spirit in God's elect.⁵⁹ All who repent and believe in Jesus Christ are forgiven of all their sins, justified in God's sight by the merit of Christ's righteousness, adopted into his family, sealed by the Holy Spirit, and have equal access to God.⁶⁰ As a result, the progressive sanctifying work of salvation leads to a newness of life that is evidenced by righteous living, good works, and biblical social concern, or God's corrective discipline.⁶¹ Genuine saving faith invariably produces genuinely good works, and genuinely good works are always an expression of genuine faith.⁶² The consummation of salvation is that those who have accepted God's gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ shall be resurrected and glorified.⁶³

Church

We believe that the New Testament Church is composed of all persons who have been regenerated* by the Holy Spirit since the day of Pentecost and by faith have entered into the New Covenant* inaugurated by Christ.⁶⁴ We believe that the Church is the spiritual body of Christ, of which he is the Head.⁶⁵ We believe that this body expresses itself in local self-governing assemblies in which believers are in covenant* relationship with each other under the care and direction of biblically-qualified leaders.⁶⁶ A local church exists to worship God and to fulfill Christ's command to make disciples through culturally-appropriate evangelism* both locally and globally, the proclamation of God's word in teaching and singing, prayer, practicing the ordinances of believer's baptism* and the Lord's Supper, building up the faith of believers, and holding believers accountable through biblical love

⁵⁴ Leviticus 4:27; Matthew 5:28; James 4:17

⁵⁵ Romans 5:12, 17-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22

⁵⁶ Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:23; 5:12-21; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:22

⁵⁷ Acts 4:12; Romans 3:24, 28; 1 Corinthians 15:1-2; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:5, 8; Titus 3:4-7

⁵⁸ John 6:44; Rom. 6:23; 8:29-30; 11:5-6; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 1:3-6; 2:8-9; 2 Tim. 1:8-9; James 1:18; 1 Jo. 4:10

⁵⁹ John 1:13; 3:3, 5-8; Acts 11:18; Philippians 2:13; Titus 3:5-7; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3; 1 John 4:7

⁶⁰ Rom. 1:15-17; 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 5:1-2, 9-21; 8:1; 10:9; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Eph. 4:30-32; Col. 2:13-14; Titus 3:5-7

⁶¹ 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:21; 7:1; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 2:10; Phil. 2:12-13; 3:12-16; Col. 3:5-17; 1 Thess. 5:23; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 12:7-14

⁶² Romans 14:23; Galatians 5:6; James 2:14-17; 1 John 3:17

⁶³ John 5:25-29; Rom. 8:16-17, 29-30; 1 Cor. 15:49; Phil. 3:20-21; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:5-6

⁶⁴ Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:13, 27; 2 Corinthians 6:16; Hebrews 9:15

⁶⁵ 1 Corinthians 12:27; Colossians 1:18

⁶⁶ 1 Corinthians 12:27; Philippians 1:1; Hebrews 13:17; Revelation 2-3

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and discipline.⁶⁷ Biblically designated officers* must meet the biblical qualifications for their office* and submit to the headship of Christ, emulating his servant leadership.⁶⁸ We believe the office of elder/overseer is reserved for biblically-qualified males.⁶⁹ Each local church is to choose, support, and submit to its elders.*⁷⁰

Angels

We believe God created angels as immortal spirit-beings possessing power and intellect, to worship and serve him and to minister to believers.⁷¹ Satan is a fallen angel who masquerades as an angel of light.⁷² The scope of Satan's power is subject to God's will.⁷³ By subjecting Adam and Eve to temptation and sin, Satan has extended his rebellion against God, which he continues by deceit, seduction, and destruction.⁷⁴ While Satan and other fallen angels (demons) are powerful, they are subject to Christ's authority and judgment.⁷⁵ Satan and his demons have been defeated for eternity by Jesus Christ through his death on the cross and victorious resurrection, sealing their everlasting damnation.⁷⁶ At the time of final judgment, they will be consigned to eternal separation from God in the Lake of Fire.⁷⁷ Believers can resist demonic influence and are protected by Christ from demonic possession.⁷⁸

Last Things

We believe in the sudden, visible, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ and in his Millennial Kingdom.⁷⁹ He will return with his saints from heaven with power and great glory, on a day known only to God.⁸⁰ We believe that those who have accepted God's gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, at the point of physical death, enter into Christ's presence.⁸¹ They shall be resurrected and transformed to his body of glory, and they shall receive their inheritance of glory in the Kingdom of their Father.⁸² They shall be made fully blessed in the presence and service of God, whom they shall see and enjoy throughout the ages.⁸³ We believe that all unsaved persons, at the point of physical death, are destined for eternal judgment.⁸⁴ They will be resurrected, separated from the righteous, judged, and cast into an existence of eternal punishment.⁸⁵ We believe it is imperative for the Church to work and wait in sober watchfulness, that it may be found ready at Jesus' return.⁸⁶

⁶⁷ Matt. 18:15-17; 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41-42; 8:12; 1 Cor. 5:12; 11:23-25; Eph. 4:11-13; Col. 3:16; 4:2; Heb. 10:19-25

⁶⁸ Matthew 20:25-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:7-9; 1 Peter 5:1-3

⁶⁹ 1 Timothy 2:12; Titus 1:5-6

⁷⁰ Acts 6:3-6; 15:22; Hebrews 13:17

⁷¹ Psalm 148:2-5; Isaiah 6:2-3; Luke 20:36; Hebrews 1:13-14; 12:22; 1 Peter 1:12; 2 Peter 2:11

⁷² Luke 10:18; 2 Corinthians 11:14; Revelation 12:7-9

⁷³ Job 1:6-7, 12; Luke 22:31-32; John 14:30; 16:11

⁷⁴ Genesis 3:1-7; Matthew 4:1-11; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 12:7; 1 Thessalonians 2:18

⁷⁵ Philippians 2:10; James 4:7; 1 Peter 3:22; 2 Peter 2:4; 1 John 2:12-14; 5:18; Revelation 20:10

⁷⁶ John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Romans 16:20; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8

⁷⁷ Revelation 20:10

⁷⁸ James 4:7; 1 John 5:18

⁷⁹ Mark 13:32-37; Titus 2:13; Revelation 20:2-6

⁸⁰ Matthew 24:30, 36; 25:31; Mark 13:32-37; John 14:3; Titus 2:13

⁸¹ John 10:28; Romans 8:38-39; Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Hebrews 9:27

⁸² Dan. 12:2; John 5:25-29; Matt. 25:34; 1 Cor. 6:14; Phil. 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; Rev. 20:5-6; 21:6-7

⁸³ Psalm 16:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 22:3-5

⁸⁴ Hebrews 9:27

⁸⁵ Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:25-29; Acts 24:14-15; Revelation 20:10-15; 21:8

⁸⁶ Matthew 24:42-44; 25:13; Hebrews 10:25

Glossary

Baptism/Believer's baptism: Baptism is a visible, public, declaration of Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and is symbolized by immersion in water. Only regenerated believers are proper candidates for baptism.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit: The work of God at every believer's conversion whereby he graciously bestows the Holy Spirit upon the believer and places him/her into the Church of Jesus Christ.

Consummation: The hope of glory; the bringing to completion of all things in this present age.

Covenant/Covenant Relationship: An agreement between two parties to fulfill certain promises; God's promise to be in relationship with his people; God's people promising to be in biblically-defined relationship with one another.

Culturally Appropriate Evangelism: The reading and understanding of culture so as to relevantly bring the gospel to that culture.

Elders: The spiritual shepherds over a local church. Elders are men who manifest the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. They shepherd God's church through feeding, leading, guiding, nurturing, and administrating the church. Their express purpose is to discern the mind of Christ and lead the church in following Christ's will.

Election: God's choice, before the foundation of the world, of those whom God will save from sin and make holy and blameless in his sight (Ephesians 1:4).

Fertilization: The process of union of two gametes (egg and sperm, each containing a single copy of each chromosome), whereby the somatic chromosome number is restored (fertilized egg - containing two copies of each chromosome) and the development of a new individual is initiated, i.e., the production of an embryo, *regardless of location* (fallopian tubes, uterus, or Petri dish) - including cloning (somatic nuclear cell transfer).

Fills: To be controlled by the Holy Spirit; a moment by moment repeatable action, something commanded of every believer.

Immanent: God is actively involved within his creation and will be intimately involved in its consummation.

Offices/Officers: The Bible identifies at least two offices: Overseer and Deacon (1 Timothy 3). Some recognize the office of Deaconess. These officers must meet the biblical qualifications for their office.

Regeneration: Spiritual birth by the gracious action of the Holy Spirit apart from which humanity is incapable of responding positively to God.

Transcendent: Surpassing others; preeminent or supreme; existing apart from the material universe.