

Fairview Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

HOLY SCRIPTURES:

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

TRIUNE GODHEAD:

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

FALL OF MAN:

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from the holy and happy state; in consequence of all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

SALVATION:

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the Mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by his personal obedience, and by his death made full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, he is now enthroned in heaven; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour.

JUSTIFICATION:

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith his perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

GRACE IN REGENERATION:

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consist in giving a holy disposition to the ruined; that is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.

THE CHURCH:

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by his laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER:

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost: to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH:

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or the Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

THE WORLD TO COME:

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the Last Day Christ will descend from heaven, and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

CREATION:

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, "each after its own kind", by direct act and not by the process of evolution.

THE FAMILY:

We believe that marriage was planned by God to consist of one man and one woman, and that any other arrangement is un-biblical. We believe that the scripture teaches that homosexuality is always unacceptable, and therefore, a homosexual relationship cannot constitute the basis for a biblical marriage or family. We believe that God's design is for a married couple never to be separated by divorce. We believe that men and women are of equal value and standing in God's sight, but that by God's design, the husband is to be the head of the home. We believe that it is the responsibility primarily of the parents to raise their children in the counsel of the Word of God, using discipline when necessary.