



## **STATEMENT OF BELIEF**

Baptists, since their earliest beginnings, have adopted professions of faith that express consensus with churches that adhere to the same doctrinal beliefs and convey to other Christians and society at large what Baptists believe and practice. Further, the doctrines adhered to are the standard for instruction, counsel and fellowship for the membership. In continuity with our immediate forefathers and the larger fellowship of Baptists throughout history, we seek to practice and propagate by God's grace the following convictions:

- 1. We believe the Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity** <sup>1</sup> It is trustworthy, sufficient, without error—the supreme authority and guide for all doctrine and conduct.<sup>2</sup> It is the truth by which God brings people into a saving relationship with Himself and leads them to Christian maturity.<sup>3</sup>
  
- 2. We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy and love.**<sup>4</sup> He exists eternally in three coequal persons who act as one in creation, providence and redemption.<sup>5</sup>
  - a. The Father reigns with providential care over all life and history in the created universe. He hears and answers prayer.<sup>6</sup> He initiated salvation by sending His Son, and He is Father to those who by faith accept His Son as Lord and Saviour.<sup>7</sup>
  - b. The Son became man, Jesus Christ, who was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.<sup>8</sup> Being fully God and fully man, He revealed God through His sinless life, miracles and teaching.<sup>9</sup> He provided salvation through His atoning death in our place and by His bodily resurrection.<sup>10</sup> He ascended into heaven where He rules over all creation.<sup>11</sup> He intercedes for all believers and dwells in them as their ever-present Lord.<sup>12</sup>
  - c. The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures.<sup>13</sup> Through this Word, He convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of the righteousness of Christ, draws

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<sup>1</sup> II Timothy 3:16

<sup>2</sup> I Peter 1:23-25; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17

<sup>3</sup> John 20:31, I John 5:9-12; Matthew 4:4; I Peter 2:2

<sup>4</sup> I Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4

<sup>5</sup> Genesis 1:26; I Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:1-3

<sup>6</sup> I Chronicles 29:11-13; Matthew 7:11

<sup>7</sup> I John 4:9-10; John 3:16; John 1:12; Acts 16:31

<sup>8</sup> John 1:14; Matthew 1:18

<sup>9</sup> John 14:9; Hebrews 4:15; Matthew 4:23-24

<sup>10</sup> I Corinthians 15:3-4; II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 4:23-25

<sup>11</sup> Philippians 2:5-11

<sup>12</sup> Romans 8:34; John 14:23

<sup>13</sup> II Peter 1:21

them to the Saviour, and bears witness to their new birth.<sup>14</sup> At regeneration and conversion in one spirit we are all baptized into one body.<sup>15</sup> The Spirit indwells, seals and gives spiritual gifts to all believers for ministry in the church and society.<sup>16</sup> He empowers, guides, teaches, fills, sanctifies and produces the fruit of Christ likeness in all who yield to Him.<sup>17</sup>

- 3. We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will.**<sup>18</sup> The holy angels are obedient spirits ministering to the heirs of salvation and glorifying God.<sup>19</sup> Certain angels, called demons, Satan being their chief, through deliberate choice revolted and fell from their exalted position.<sup>20</sup> They now tempt individuals to rebel against God.<sup>21</sup> Their destiny in hell has been sealed by Christ's victory over sin and death.<sup>22</sup>
- 4. We believe God created man in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be steward over His creation.**<sup>23</sup>As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity and is worthy of respect.<sup>24</sup> Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation.<sup>25</sup> Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God.<sup>26</sup> Satan tempts people to rebel against God, even those who love Him.<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup>
- 5. We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death.**<sup>29</sup> It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.<sup>30</sup> As a child of God, the believer is acquitted of all guilt and brought into a new relationship of peace.<sup>31</sup> Christians grow as the Holy Spirit enables them to understand and obey the Word of God.<sup>32</sup>
- 6. We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members.**<sup>33</sup> 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

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<sup>14</sup> James 1:18; John 16:7-11; I Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16

<sup>15</sup> I Corinthians 12:13

<sup>16</sup> Romans 8:9-11; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 12:5-8; I Peter 4:10

<sup>17</sup> Acts 4:31; Romans 8:14; I Corinthians 2:10-13; Ephesians 5:18; II Thessalonians 2:13; Galatians 5:16; 22-23

<sup>18</sup> Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16

<sup>19</sup> Hebrews 1:6-7; 13-14

<sup>20</sup> Revelation 12:7-9

<sup>21</sup> I Timothy 4:1; I Peter 5:8

<sup>22</sup> Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10

<sup>23</sup> Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>24</sup> Psalm 139:13-17

<sup>25</sup> Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8-22

<sup>26</sup> Romans 3:9-18, 23

<sup>27</sup> Ephesians 4:27; II Corinthians 2:11; Matthew 16:23

<sup>28</sup> Romans 14:12; I Timothy 2:5

<sup>29</sup> II Timothy 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:23

<sup>30</sup> I Timothy 2:4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 20:21

<sup>31</sup> Romans 5:1

<sup>32</sup> II Peter 3:18; Ephesians 4:15; I Thessalonians 3:12

<sup>33</sup> Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5

world.<sup>34</sup> Each church is a self-governing body under the lordship of Christ with all members sharing responsibility.<sup>35</sup> The form of government is understood to be congregational.<sup>36</sup>

To express unity in Christ, local churches form associations and a conference for mutual counsel, fellowship and a more effective fulfillment of Christ's commission.<sup>37</sup>

The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.<sup>38</sup> It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Saviour, Jesus Christ.<sup>39</sup>

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.<sup>40</sup>

- 7. We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God.**<sup>41</sup> Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities. Christians should pray for civil leaders, and obey and support government in matters not contrary to Scripture,<sup>42</sup> subject to the state guaranteeing religious liberty to all persons and groups regardless of their religious preferences, consistent with the common good.
- 8. We believe Christians, individually and collectively, are salt and light in society.**<sup>43</sup> 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.<sup>44</sup>
- 9. We believe the Bible teaches that marriage refers to the covenant relationship between one man and one woman, as instituted by God in the beginning, to the exclusion of all others.**<sup>45</sup> We affirm the family as the basic unit of society, and seek to preserve the integrity of the family and its stability.<sup>46</sup>(See appendix C)
- 10. 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.**<sup>47</sup> 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.<sup>48</sup> The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge mankind in

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<sup>34</sup> Acts 2:41-42, 47; Luke 24:45-48

<sup>35</sup> Acts 13:1-3; 14:26-28

<sup>36</sup> Matthew 18:17; Acts 6:3-6; 15:22-23

<sup>37</sup> Acts 15; I Corinthians 6:1-3

<sup>38</sup> Matthew 28:18-20

<sup>39</sup> Romans 6:3-5

<sup>40</sup> I Corinthians 11:23-26

<sup>41</sup> Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; II Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29

<sup>42</sup> I Timothy 2:1-4; Romans 13:1-7; I Peter 2:13-16

<sup>43</sup> Matthew 5:13-16

<sup>44</sup> Hebrews 13:5; Luke 9:23; Titus 2:12; Philippians 4:8-9; I John 3:16-17; James 2:1-4

<sup>45</sup> Genesis 2:20b-24

<sup>46</sup> Genesis 2:21-25, Ephesians 6:1-4

<sup>47</sup> Ephesians 1:9-10, Revelation 21:1

righteousness.<sup>49</sup> The unrighteous will be consigned to the everlasting punishment prepared for the devil and his angels.<sup>50</sup> The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and dwell forever with the Lord.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>48</sup> Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; John 14:1-3

<sup>49</sup> John 5:28-29

<sup>50</sup> Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:10

<sup>51</sup> Philippians 3:20-21; II Corinthians 5:10; I Thessalonians 4:13-18