

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

SECTION I - VERBAL INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURES

We believe in the infallible, inerrant, inspired, and preserved Word of God. The Old and New Testament Scriptures were written by human authors, divinely inspired and edited by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Scriptures have been divinely preserved, unbroken and passed down to us today in the form of the Authorised Version (King James) of the Bible. (2 Ti. 3:16; Jo. 10:35; 2 Pe. 1:19-21; Ps. 119:89)

SECTION II - GENESIS ACCOUNT OF CREATION

We believe the Genesis account of creation, and that what you believe about your origin will determine your philosophy of life. We believe creation was a direct act of God, taking place in 6 literal 24 hour days, instantaneous and miraculous. We believe man was created in the image of God and all reproductions were after their "kind." (Ge. 1:1; Job 26:7; Ps. 33:6-9; Jo. 1:3; Col. 1:17)

SECTION III - THE TRINITY

We believe that God is a person, eternally existing, one true God, but in the unity of the Triune Godhead. There are three eternal and co-equal persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, the same in substance yet distinct in subsistence. One Godhead made up of three persons who are the same in attributes, power, characteristics and desires. (Ro. 1:7; He. 1:8; Ac. 5:1-4; Ma. 28:19; 1 Co. 8:6)

SECTION IV - DEITY OF CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God because of: His character, His miracles, His influence, His power to forgive sins and to set people free from Satan; because He claimed to be and died making this claim then arose victorious over death. (Mk. 12:6; Jo. 1:1, 5:22 & 23, 14:9, 20:28; Ma. 26:63-66; He. 1:8; Ro. 9:5; 1 Jo. 5:1-5)

SECTION V - VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost, in a miraculous manner; born of a virgin, Mary, as no other person was ever born or can ever be born of woman: He is both the Son of God and God the Son. (Ma. 1:20; Lu. 1:30-35; Is. 7:14)

SECTION VI - SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH OF CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ took the saved sinner's place, bore his sins, and met the penalty through a substitutionary death for all men. Jesus satisfied the law, becoming our accepted substitute; His righteousness (right doing) is imputed to us by faith and so we, through Him, have kept the law. The blood of Christ cleanses, instead of merely covering the sins of man. (Is. 53:5; Ac. 20:28; 2 Co. 5:21; He. 9:28; 1 Pe. 3:18; Ma. 26:28)

SECTION VII - RESURRECTION

We believe in the bodily resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ: that He arose bodily "the third day according to the Scriptures" from the tomb, ascended bodily into the heavens, and that He is at the right hand of God as our mediator, advocate, merciful and faithful High Priest. We believe that through His resurrection a sure hope of immortality and everlasting life is given to all who are saved by His grace. (Jo. 20:1-10; He. 9:24; 1 Co. 15:12-28; Lu. 24:1-7; Ro. 4:24)

SECTION VIII - DEPRAVITY OF MAN

We believe that man is wicked, corrupt, and all men are under sin. "As it is written, there is none righteous, no not one;" (Ro. 3:10), proving that all are alike under sin in an unregenerate condition. "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked". (Je. 17:9; Ge. 6:5; Job 15:16; Ps. 14:3; Is. 1:6; Je. 16:12; Ma. 23:27; Ro. 1:24; 2 Pe. 2:12)

SECTION IX - SALVATION BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH

We believe that the sacrifice made by Jesus is the only basis of salvation, the only means of reconciliation, and the only ground of justification. We believe that no man comes to God except through Jesus Christ. We hold and believe many important truths, but the most important thing to every individual is the personal salvation of his own soul. God's order is: first salvation, then works. (Ac. 4:12; 1 Th. 5:9; He. 5:9; Jo. 12:46, 20:31; Ro. 10:9; Ep. 2:8-10; Tit. 3:5-8)

SECTION X - ETERNAL SECURITY

We believe in the eternal security of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. When a person is born again they have everlasting life which never ends, and cannot be taken away from them. Saved forever; God's children are kept by the power of God, through faith, unto eternal salvation and sealed unto the day of redemption.

(Jo. 10:27-30; 1 Pe. 1:5; Ep. 4:30; Ro. 8:35-39; Jo. 5:24)

SECTION XI - HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is not the author of confusion, concerning the unknown tongues movement. The Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, seals, fills and ministers to the believer. The believer does not get more of the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit more of the believer. Therefore, these ministries of the Holy Spirit happen instantaneously to the believing sinner. They all occur by faith and are not in the least dependent upon one's personal, emotional feelings at the time. (1 Co. 14:33; Tit. 3:5; Ro. 5:3-5; Ac. 2:4; 1 Co. 3:16; 2 Co. 1:22)

SECTION XII - LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that a scriptural church is a visible assembly of baptized believers, covenanted together under New Testament doctrine for the purpose of carrying out the Great Commission; with an unbroken history from the personal ministry of Jesus Christ on earth to this present day. That a church is a self-governed independent body, having Christ as the head, the Holy Spirit for its guide, and the Bible as the only rule of faith and practice. The only scriptural offices of the church are the bishop (or pastor) and deacons. The two ordinances of the local church are baptism and Lord's Supper. On all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, benevolence, etc., the will of the local church is final. (Mk. 16:15; Ep. 1:22-23; 1 Ti. 3; Tit. 1; Ac. 20:17-21)

SECTION XIII - BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that there are two ordinances of the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Scriptural baptism is by immersion, in water, of believers, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19-20). Baptism is to be administered by the authority of a New Testament Church (Mk. 16:15-16; Ac. 2:41, 8:36-38) and is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper. The Lord's Supper is a memorial ordinance for the local church members according to the individual examinations and teaching of 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. The unleavened bread and fruit of the vine, or grape juice, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ. This is a local church ordinance. Non-church members do not participate. (Ac. 8:38; Mk. 1:9-10).

SECTION XIV - SOUL-WINNING AND MISSIONS

We believe that the Great Command to evangelize the world was given to the local New Testament Baptist church by our risen Lord and that this evangelization is the mission of the church. The Great Commission was given to the local church, which was commanded to "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Christ commanded His church to "teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." (Ma. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Jo. 20:21; Ac. 1:8) For these reasons we have regular organized soul-winning efforts, as well as participation in Faith Promise Missions giving.

Because the commission was given by Christ to His church and only to His church, we believe that missions activities are to be carried out, financed and controlled by and through the local church only. That is to say that any other institution outside of the local church such as a clearing-house, mission board or any other "mission agency" is not biblical.

Furthermore, we believe it to be God's design and the church's responsibility to send out God-called men to do the work of evangelism and missions. We see in the scriptures that it is men that God calls to the work of the ministry and the gifts to the church are expressly men. Therefore a church should not consider sending or supporting a single woman to the mission field. (Ma. 10:1; Mk. 3:14; Lu. 6:13; Ac. 6:2, 9:6, 15-16, 13:1-4; Ep. 4:11-12; Ro. 10:14-15; 1 Co. 12: 28) This is not to say that women should not use their talents to serve God in the local church, to minister unto God's chosen servants, nor to be a witness for Jesus Christ unto others. (Ac. 9:36; Ro. 16:2, 6, 12; 1 Ti. 5:9 -10)

SECTION XV - RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself, is coming in the air at any moment to catch up as many as have received Him. Those saved of all ages will stand at the Judgment Seat of Christ and enjoy the marriage supper of the Lamb. We believe in the personal, bodily, visible, pre-millennial return in the air (Rapture) of Christ. Those left behind will go through a period called the Tribulation, after which Christ, Himself, shall return to the earth (Second Coming), visible in body to set up His Kingdom of one thousand years of righteous rule. After this, the unbelievers of all ages will stand at the Great White Throne to be judged and cast into the lake of fire, separated from God forever, while the believers spend eternity in the fullness of joy in Heaven with the Lord. (Ac. 1:11; 1 Th. 4:16-18; Re. 19:11-16, 20:11-15; Ma. 24:42, 25:31-34)

SECTION XVI - HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe that heaven and hell are real, literal, physical places. Heaven is a place of indescribable beauty and glory, just as hell is a place of indescribable torment and punishment. So throughout all eternity heaven is the final eternal dwelling place of the saved, and hell is a place of eternal punishment of the lost and total separation from God. (Ma. 6:20, 13:42; Mk. 9:38-48; Lu. 10:20; Jo. 14:2; Dan. 7:10; Is. 33:14; Re. 14:10)

SECTION XVII - DEVIL OR SATAN

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, he fell and drew after him a host of angels, (Is. 14:12-15; Eze. 28:14 -17). He is now the prince and the power of the air, the unholy god of this world. He is the enemy of God, the accuser of the saints (Job 1:6-12), the author of all false religion, the chief power under the present apostasy; the lord of the antichrist; destined to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and will be cast for eternity into the lake of fire prepared for him and his angels. (Ma. 4:1-3, 25:41; Re. 20:1-3,10; 2 Co. 4:13-4; 1 Pe. 5:8; 2 Th. 2:8-11; Eze. 28:14-17)

SECTION XVIII - SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD

We believe that all the saved are called into a life of separation from all worldly and, sinful practices. A person, once he has truly accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, is a new creation in Christ and he should live a holy, consecrated life; he should separate himself from the world and all its lust, in obedience to the commandment of God. (Ro. 12:1-2; 1 Jo. 2:15-17; 2 Co. 6:14-18; Col. 2:6; 1 Pe. 2:9; 2 Co. 5:17; 2 Ti. 2:19)

SECTION XIX - SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is a personal separation from things that are unclean to things that are holy, clean, and sacred; that it is a work that is begun in regeneration; that it is carried out in the hearts of the believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. The sanctification of the believer will be complete at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then, and only then, will we have entire sanctification or be sanctified wholly: body, soul, and spirit. (1 Th. 4:1-10, 5:23; 1 Co. 6:1; 2 Pe. 3:18; 2 Co. 3:18; 2 Th. 2:18; Ro. 8:5)

SECTION XX - HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should occur outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (Ge. 2:24, 26:8-9). We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Ge. 19:5-13, 26:8-9; Le. 18:6-30; Ro. 1:26-29; 1 Co. 5:1, 6:9; 1 Th. 4:1-6; He. 13:4)

SECTION XXI - DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE

We believe that God intends for marriage to be permanent "until death do us part" (one of the spouses dies). The Word of God clearly states that remarriage after divorce is regarded as adultery. (Ma. 19:3-12; Ro. 7:1-3; Mk. 10:2-12; 1 Co. 7:11; Mal. 2:14-17) Persons who have been divorced may hold certain positions of service in the local church, and can be greatly used of God for Christian service. However they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon, nor should they be considered for service as evangelists (missionary). (1 Ti. 3:2,12; Tit. 1:6)

SECTION XXII - ABORTION

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, inexcusable taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We believe that abortions of pregnancies for any reason are unacceptable. This includes: abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, and gender selection; also, abortions for the mental or physical well being of the mother, and for birth or population control. (Ge. 9:6; Job 3:16; Ex. 20:13; De. 5:17; Nu. 35:16-31; Ps. 51:5, 139:14-16; Is. 44:24, 49:1; Je. 1:5, 20:15-18; Lu. 1:44)