

Community Baptist Church : Statement of Faith

Our sole authority for faith and practice is the Holy Spirit.

Baptist groups have from time to time set forth fundamental beliefs in which there is general agreement.

Such a statement is not intended to add anything to the simple conditions of salvation revealed in the Holy Bible:

Repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

We do not regard these "Articles of Faith" as representing a complete statement of our faith. We believe in the priesthood of the believer and personal accountability and disallow any idea of authoritative creeds and formulae.

Therefore, these Articles of Faith are only guides in interpretation and are not binding on the individual conscience.

1. The Scripture

The Holy Bible was given by inspiration of God. It is the full authority of Christian doctrine and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and religious opinions should be measured.

2. God

There is only one living and true God, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things. He is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To Him all mankind owes the highest love, reverence and obedience.

3. Man

Man was created in the image of God. Through yielding to temptation man disobeyed God and fell from his original holiness and righteousness. All his descendants inherited a nature corrupt and in bondage to sin and as soon as they are capable of moral action become actual sinners and are under condemnation.

4. The Way of Salvation

Salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, who by the Holy Spirit was born of the Virgin Mary and took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin made atonement for our sins by His death on the Cross. Being raised from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven and is in every way qualified to be an all-sufficient Saviour. Salvation is offered freely to all mankind and nothing prevents the salvation of any sinner except his own voluntary refusal to receive Jesus Christ as personal Saviour and Lord.

5. Repentance and Faith

Repentance and faith are inseparable graces brought in our lives by the Spirit of God. Being convicted of our guilt, sin, helplessness and of the way of salvation in Jesus Christ, we turn to God in humble confession and request for mercy, at the same time receiving Jesus Christ and trusting Him alone as our only and all-sufficient Saviour and Lord.

6. Regeneration

Regeneration or the new birth is a change of heart brought by the Holy Spirit when we become partakers of the divine nature. This leads to the love and practice of righteousness. It is a work of God's grace conditioned upon faith in Jesus Christ and demonstrated by the life we live to the glory of God.

7. Perseverance

All true believers endure in their faith. Their continuance in living the Christ-like life is the mark which distinguishes them from mere professors. They are kept by the power of God through faith unto everlasting life.

8. A New Testament Church

A Church is a body of baptized believers, acknowledging the Lordship of Christ, united together in faith and fellowship of the Gospel.

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers. It is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and co-operation which are common among Baptist and other evangelical churches.

9. Baptism

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. The act is a symbol of our Faith in a crucified, buried and risen Saviour.

10. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance by which believers by the use of bread and fruit of the vine commemorate the eternal love of Jesus Christ.

The Lord' Supper is served to all evangelical Christians at the Communion service, whether members of the church or otherwise. The responsibility of the church is to admonish self-examination before serving the Lord's Supper. Only God Himself will qualify the individual to partake of it. Therefore, the church will read and explain the relevant Scriptures to the congregation before the Lord' Supper so that all may know the significance before partaking of it.

11. Church Membership and Responsibility

The responsibilities of membership include entering into covenant with each other, as one body in Christ. Therefore, members should, by the aid of the Holy Spirit:

- a) Walk together in Christian love, strive for the advancement of the church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort.
- b) Promote the prosperity and spirituality of the church.
- c) Sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines.
- d) Contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.
- e) Engage to maintain family and private devotions, to religiously educate the children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances.
- f) Walk circumspectly in the world, be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment.
- g) Avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger.
- h) Abstain from indiscriminate and unlawful sale, and use of any substance as an intoxicant.
- i) Engage to watch over one another in brotherly love.
- j) Remember each other in prayer, aid each other in sickness and distress, cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech.
- k) Slow to take offence, be always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the example of our Saviour, secure it without delay.
- l) Engage that when we leave from this place we will as soon as possible, unite with some other evangelical church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word.

12. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's day and is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be observed in exercise of worship and spiritual devotion both public and private.

13. The Judgment

There is an essential difference between the redeemed and spiritually lost. Those only who have been justified by the Lord Jesus Christ and have been born again are the true children of God. Those who continue in unbelief in His sight are spiritually dead, so shall there be a resurrection of all true believers, and their bodies will conform to the glorious spiritual body of Jesus. Jesus promised that some day He would visibly and personally return to this earth.

14. Evangelism

It is the privilege and the duty of every Christian and every church to seek to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. It is also the privilege and duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ by every method sanctioned by the Gospel of Christ.

15. Spiritual Leadership

The spiritual leadership of the church is served by the Pastor and the Deacons.

a) The Pastor

He will give himself to the ministry of the Word and the leadership of the congregation. He shall be an ex-officio member of all organizations and all church committees.

The pastor shall be chosen by the church. His election shall take place at a meeting called for that purpose. Announcement of this meeting shall be made at the previous Sunday morning worship service.

A pulpit committee shall be elected by the church to seek a suitable pastor. Their recommendation will constitute a nomination. Any member has the privilege of making other nominations. However, only one man will be considered at one business meeting. Election shall be by ballot. An affirmative vote of two thirds of the total membership shall be required for election. When so elected, the pastor shall hold office at the pleasure of the church or until his resignation.

b) Deacons

The church shall elect to the office of deacon as many members that are of the age of twenty-five and above as shall be decided upon from time to time. These shall meet the requirement given for deacons in the New Testament. 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Any time the church desires, it may initiate a system of rotation.

The deacons will advise and help the pastor in the oversight of spiritual interest of the church and the well-being and fellowship of the members. They shall assist in the administration of the Lord's Supper. They shall review the business administration of the church and other such matters as shall be referred to them and make suitable recommendations to the church. In any period when the church is without a pastor, the deacons will arrange the temporary ministry.

The deacons shall meet monthly and organize themselves as they deem best for carrying out their responsibilities. The chairman of the deacons will serve as moderator of the church.