

**First Baptist Church**

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**Statement of Faith**

***The Scriptures***

We believe the 66 books of the Bible is God’s Word. It was written by men divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit and preserved by God. It is the supreme, infallible authority in all matters of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

***God the Father***

We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, He hears and answers prayer, He saves from sin and spiritual death all who come to Him through faith in Jesus Christ (Ex. 20:2-3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; Rev. 4:11).

***God the Son***

We believe Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit through the virgin birth, sinless in His life and who made atonement for the sins of the world through His death, burial, and bodily resurrection. We believe in His ascension, pre-tribulation, and pre-millennial return to the world according to His promise (John 1:1-4, 14; 10:30; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 1:1-4; Phil. 2:6-11; Luke 1:31-35).

***The Holy Spirit***

We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment. He regenerates, sanctifies, seals, comforts, and resides within those who believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:5-6, 14:16-17, 16:8; Eph. 1:13-14; Romans 8:14, 16, 26-27).

***The Fall of Man and Salvation***

We believe that all men by nature and by choice are sinners but that “God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life (John 3:16).” Therefore, we believe that those who, by saving faith, trust Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins will rejoice forever in God’s presence. Those who refuse to trust Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins will be forever separated from God (Eph. 2:8; Romans 3:10-19, 23-26; 1 Peter 2:24-25; 1 John 4:10; 2 Cor. 5:21).

***The Church***

We believe in Christ’s Universal Church, a living spiritual body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all members are “born again” (Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23-24; 1 Cor. 11:3).”

We believe that a local church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ immersed on a credible confession of faith, and associated for worship, teaching, discipleship, service, fellowship, and Christian accountability. God has laid upon these churches the task of proclaiming to a lost world the need to believe in and receive Jesus Christ as Savior. We are commanded by Scripture to follow the ordinances of Believers Baptism and the Lord’s Supper as steps of obedience. Therefore, this Church is independent, autonomous, and free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority (1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 5:23-32; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Eph. 4:1-13).

***God’s Creation of Human Life***

We believe God created man and woman in His image, in so much that He breathed life into Man. We believe we are born as biological males and biological females by God’s design, from conception throughout our entire human life, and it should be protected as such. We believe in order to honor God, we will call people by their correct pronoun that aligns with their biological birth (Genesis 1:27, 2:7; Psalm 139:13-16).

***Marriage***

We believe that God’s plan for the family is marriage between one biologically born man and one biologically born woman. Sexual relations outside of God’s plan is sin (Genesis 1:27-28; 1 Cor. 7:2).

***Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct***

The First Baptist Church Statement of Faith does not exhaust the full extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of First Baptist Church’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Pastor and Board of Elders are First Baptist’s final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application. They shall have final authority in all matters of church governance, as set forth and described in the Constitution.

We believe in the personal dignity of those who disagree with our positions. We acknowledge that there are those in our culture and communities that hold differing positions on matters of faith and practice and are opposed to our beliefs as stated above. As illustrated in the life of Jesus and instructed in the Scriptures, we will treat individuals and groups with love, dignity, and respect without compromising our beliefs.