

# First Baptist Church of Smithfield

## Statement of Faith

"In necessariis unitas, in non-necessariis libertas, in omnibus caritas." - Rupertus Meldeniuss

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## I. Scripture

The Bible is God's self-revelation. God is the author, it is truth without error, dependable & authoritative. It reveals the basis of God's judgment and salvation, Christian unity and the standard for faith and behavior. Jesus is the living Word of God.

Supporting Scriptures: Ex 24:4; Deut 4:1-2; 17:19; Josh 8:34; Psa 19:7-10; 119:11, 89, 105, 140; Isa 34:16; 40:8; Jer 15:16; 36:1-32; Matt 5:17-18; 22:29; Lu 21:33; 24:44-46; Jn 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Ac 2:16ff.; 17:11; Rom 15:4; 2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Pet 1:25; 2 Pet 1:19-21

## II. God

There is only one God. He is spirit and personal; Creator, Redeemer, and Ruler of all things. God is Holy, all powerful and all knowing, past, present, and future. God is love. God reveals Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three persons without division of essence or being.

### A. God the Father

Father God reigns with providential care over His universe, according to His purposes. God is Father in truth to those who become His children through faith in Jesus Christ.

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 1:1; 2:7; Ex 3:14; 6:2; 15:11ff.; 20:1ff.; Lev 22:2; Deut 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chr 29:10; Psa 19:1; Isa 43:3; 64:8; Jer 10:10; 17:13; Matt 6:9ff.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mk 1:9-11; Jo 4:24; 5:26; 17:1-8; Ac 1:7; Rom 8:14; Gal 4:6; Eph 4:6; Col 1:15; Heb 11:6; 12:9; 1 Pet 1:17; 1 Jo 5:7.

### B. God the Son

Christ is eternal Son of God; conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin. He obeyed God's will, became human, identified with humanity but never sinned. He paid for the forgiveness of sin by His death. He rose from the dead, appeared to hundreds, ascended to heaven, and is at the right hand of Father. He is fully God & fully man. He will physically return to judge the world, and He lives spiritually in all believers as Lord.

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 18:1ff.; Psa 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isa 7:14; 53; Matt 1:18; 3:17; 8:29; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6; Mk 1:1; 3:11; Lu 1:35; 4:41; Jn 1:1-29; 10:30; 11:25; Ac 1:9; 2:22; 7:55; Rom 1:3; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-34; 1 Cor 1:30-2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8, 2 Cor 5:19-21; Gal 4:4; Eph 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Col 1:13-2:9; 1 Thes 4:14-18; 1 Tim 3:16; Titu 2:13-14; Heb 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Pet 2:21-25; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 2 John 7; Rev 1:13-16; 12:10-11; 13:8.

## C. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a divine person. He enlightens people to the truth, lifts up Christ, convicts of sin, calls people to Christ, and regenerates them. He baptizes believers, spiritually, into Christ's Body. He develops Christ-like character, comforts, gives gifts, and seals the believer forever. He empowers His people for worship and service.

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 1:2; Jud 14:6; Job 26:13; Psa 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isa 61:1f; Joel 2:28-32; Matt 1:18; 3:16; 12:28; 28:19; Mk 1:10; Lu 1:35; 4:1-19; 11:13; Jn 4:24; 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Ac 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 7:55; 8:17-39; 10:44;; Rom 8:9,14-16,26-27; 1 Cor 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11, Gal 4:6; Eph 1:13; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thes 5:19; 1 Tim 3:16; 4:1; Heb 9:8; 2 Pet 1:21; 1 Jn 4:13; 5:6; Rev 1:10; 22:17.

## III. Man

People are created in God's image: male, female and all ethnicities. Adam and Eve were innocent but fell from original innocence when they sinned, now all of us have a fallen nature. Only God's grace and His initiative brings people into fellowship with God and enable humans to fulfill the reason they were created. We owe Him love, reverence, and obedience. The sanctity and value of life is seen in humanity bearing God's image, and in Christ dying for them.

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psa 1; 8:3-6;; Isa 6:5; Matt 16:26; Ac 17:26-31; Rom 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 1 Cor 1:21-31; 15:19-22; Eph 2:1-22

## IV. Salvation

Salvation is for all who call on Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior by faith. There is no salvation apart from faith in Christ as Lord.

- A) Regeneration is a change of heart brought about by the Spirit; convicting of sin, enabling the sinner to repent and believe in Jesus. Repentance and faith are gifts of God. Faith is trusting in the Savior's death, life and surrendering to Him as Lord. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God.
- B) Justification is full acquittal, removing guilt of all sinners and crediting to them the righteousness of Christ.
- C) Sanctification is a process that sets the believer apart for God's purposes, to grow to maturity by the power of the Spirit. It is also an accomplished fact at Salvation.
- D) Glorification is the final perfect state of the saved.

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 3:15; Ex 3:14f; Matt 1:21; 4:17; Lu 1:68-69; 2:28-32; Jn 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28; 15:1-16; Ac 2:21; 15:11; Rom 1:16; 2:4; 3:23; 5:8; 6:1-23; 8:1-18, 29-39; 10:9-13; 1 Cor 1:18,30; 6:19; 15:10; 2 Cor 5:17f; Gal 2:20; 3:13; 5:22; Eph 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Phil 2:12; Col 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thes 5:23; 2 Tim 1:12; Titu 2:11; Heb 2:1; 5:8; 9:24-28; Ja 2:14-26; 1 Pet 1:2-23; 1 Jn 1:6-2:11; Rev 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

- E) Election is how God regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It shows God's sovereignty, goodness, and holiness. It is contrary to human bragging. Whom God has elected will never cease to be saved, because He chose us, not we ourselves. True believers might sin, grieve the Spirit, bring reproach on Christ's name and temporary judgments on themselves; but they are kept by the power of God.

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 12:1-3; Ex 19:5-8; 1 Sam 8:4-7,19-22; Isa 5:1-7; Jer 31:31ff.; Matt 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Lu 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; Jn 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6-18; Ac 20:32; Rom 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Cor 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Eph 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; 2 Thes 2:13-14; Jam 1:12; 1 Pet 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 Jn 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

## **V. The Church**

A New Testament church is (a)self-governing, (b)local congregation of (c)water-immersed (d)believers, (e)freely associated by covenant. It observes two ordinances and proclaims the gospel. Each member is accountable to Christ as Lord. Its officers are pastors (elders, bishops) and deacons. Both genders are gifted for service, the office of pastor is limited to men by Scripture.

The church is also the saved of all ages, and every ethnicity. God gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers to the church to build her. While there were those that held the Office of Apostle with Apostolic authority (writing scripture, church discipline etc.) these have died off. There are those who have the gift of apostolic ministry, They plant churches, act as both evangelist and pastor.

God has not stopped giving gifts to the church. Those who exercised those gifts with great liberty and possessed the gifts continuously were the original apostles. God still works in miraculous ways through whomever He chooses, young, old, male or female.

The office of pastor is reserved in scripture for men, but women minister in many ways to the church as well, and in our church may hold ministry positions.

Supporting Scriptures: Matt 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Rom 1:7; 1 Cor 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; Eph 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; Phil 1:1; Colo1:18; 1 Tim 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Heb 11:39-40; 1 Pet 5:1-4; Rev 2-3; 21:2-3.

### **Ordinances of the Church**

A. Christian Baptism is immersion of a believer in water in Jesus' name to show one's faith in a risen Savior; death to sin, burial of the old life, and resurrection to a new life in Christ.

B. The Lord's Supper is a meaningful symbolic taking of bread and wine to remember Christ's death, anticipate His return, and examine oneself in light of God's sacrifice and love.

Supporting Scriptures: Matt 3:13f; 26:26f; 28:19-20; Lu 22:19; Ac 8:35-39; 16:30-33; Rom 6:3-5; 1 Cor 10:16,21; 11:23-29;

## **VI. Evangelism and Missions**

Every believer and every church should endeavor to make disciples. Missionary effort is commanded by Christ to all nations. Every believer should seek to win the lost by verbal witness and other means consistent with the gospel.

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 12:1; Ex 19:5; Isa 6:1f; Matt 9:37; 22:9; 28:18; Lu 10:1-18; 24:46; 15:7; 20:21; Ac 1:8; 10:42; 13:2; Rom 10:13; Eph 3:1-11; 1 Thes 1:8; Heb 2:1; 11:39; 1 Pet 2:4f; Rev 22:17.

## **VII. Stewardship**

All that we have and are belong to God. Christians are to serve God with time, talents, treasure, and temple for glory of God. Christians should give regularly to advance God's Kingdom, help people spiritually and physically. (A tithe (10%) would just be a token of all that God deserves.)

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 14:20; Lev 27:30-32; Mal 3:8-12; Matt 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Lu 12:16-21,42; Ac 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Rom 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Cor 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 2 Cor 8-9; Phil 4:10-19; 1 Pet 1:18-19.

## **VIII. The Family**

God created the family as the first institution of society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of a woman and man in a public covenant, before God, family and community of faith for a lifetime. It shows the union between Christ and His

church, provides for intimacy and sexual expression. The husband and wife are equal, both made in God's image. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church-sacrificially. Wives are to submit graciously to the servant leadership of her husband like the church submits to its head - Christ. Children, from conception, are a blessing from God. Parents are to demonstrate God's pattern for marriage and parenting, teach their children spiritual and moral values, lead them by consistent example and loving discipline, to make biblically based choices. Children are to honor and obey parents.

Supporting Scriptures: Gen 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Ex 20:12; Deut 6:4-9; Jos 24:15; 1 Sam 1:26-28; Psa 51:5; 78:1-8; 128; 139:13-16; Prov 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 15; 24:3; Ecc 4:9; 9:9; Mal 2:14; Matt 5:31; 18:2-5; Mk 10:6-12; 1 Cor 7:1-16; Eph 5:21f; Col 3:18; 1 Tim 5:8f; 2 Tim 1:3; Titu 2:3; Heb 13:4; 1 Pet 3:1-7.