

## Statement of Faith

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. 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 church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our pastor and deacon board is the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

### SCRIPTURES

**We believe** the Bible to be the Word of God written by men who were moved by the Holy Spirit so that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired, infallible and inerrant. The Bible not only contains the Word of God, but is the very Word of God, perfectly preserved in the Authorized Version (King James Bible). We confidently hold that this Bible is the complete revelation of God's will for mankind, the final authority for faith and practice, and the standard for all truth (Psalm 12:6-7; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Proverbs 22:20-21).

### GOD

**We believe** in One living and true God, eternally existing in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. God is infinite, eternal, sovereign, immutable, omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent. God is perfect. God is love. God is holy. God is truth. (I John 5:7; I Kings 8:27; Psalms 90:2; James 1:17; Revelation 19:6; Psalm 139:1-12; Psalm 18:31; I John 4:8; I Peter 1:16; John 14:6).

### JESUS CHRIST

**We believe** in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who is "without controversy" God manifested in the flesh (I Timothy 3:16). He was preexistent with God the Father (John 1:1-3), begotten of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35), and received a body in the womb of a virgin named Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Hebrews 10:5). We believe Jesus Christ was sinless in His nature and life, and infallible in His teachings and words (I Peter 2:22). He was tempted by Satan in all points like we are; yet never sinned (Hebrews 4:15, II Corinthians 5:21). He allowed himself to be crucified on a cross, and He shed his perfect blood in order to pay the penalty deserved for all our sin (Matthew 26:53; John 19:30; Hebrews 9:12, 22, 10:19; Acts 20:28; Romans 6:23; I John 2:1-2). We believe in His literal and bodily resurrection from the grave, His ascension into heaven, His perpetual intercession for His people, His glorious return to earth as He promised, and His eternal position as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Romans 8:34; I Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 7:25; I Timothy 2:5; Romans 14:11; Philippians 2:9-11).

### HOLY SPIRIT

**We believe** in the deity and person of the Holy Spirit. We believe that He is fully God and came from God to "*reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*" (John 16:8). His ministry is to glorify Jesus Christ, not Himself (John 16:13-14). He also came to regenerate, sanctify, indwell, comfort, and empower those who believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour. We believe that at the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer (I Corinthians 3:16; John 16:7, Romans 8:9-11), baptizes him into the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:13), and gives him all spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3) and gifts. He gives these gifts "*as He (the Spirit) will*" (I Corinthians 12:11) for the purpose of profiting the whole church (I Corinthians 12:7). The apostolic miracle gifts, used to authenticate their ministry, are no longer given today. The complete Word of God is now our authority! We believe in being separate from the modern charismatic "tongues movement" and its teachings because they are not according to scripture (I Corinthians 14).

## SATAN

**We believe** that God created the anointed cherub, Lucifer, who through pride and rebellion against God, fell, leading and army of angelic beings with him (Ezekiel 28:14, Isaiah 14:12-17). He is now Satan, the unholy god of this world, the enemy of God and all believers, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false beliefs and scriptures, and the chief power behind the present day apostasy and counterfeit religious systems. His goal is to thwart God's will for the universe, counterfeit God's plan for mankind, blind the minds of the lost, and ruin the lives and testimonies of God's people. He desires the worship that belongs only to God Almighty, and his doom was sealed by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. Though a powerful foe, he is but a defeated creation of Almighty God, destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the Lake of Fire awaiting him, his angels, and all who have not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour (John 10:10; Matthew 25:41; I Peter 5:8, II Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15; Ephesians 6:11-12; Revelation 20).

## MAN

**We believe** the Genesis account of creation is historical, not allegorical or figurative. We believe Adam was an historical person that God created in His own image and likeness (Genesis 1-2). Adam was innocent and untested in his original state; created to praise, glorify, love and commune with his Creator. We believe that through the temptation of Satan, man willfully chose to sin and thus rejected his God given purpose. With this sin came death, condemnation, and separation from God. As the originator of the human race, Adam passed his sinful nature to all mankind (Romans 5:12). All men are sinners by birth and choice (Rom. 3), and are doomed to death and hell apart from salvation in Jesus Christ.

## SALVATION

**We believe** salvation is by God's grace apart from any and all human work (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 1:6). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for sinful man, according to the Scriptures; and by believing the "gospel", i.e. the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:1-4), man is saved from hell. We believe that by putting faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ and receiving Him alone, man is reconciled to His Creator, becomes a child of God, and shall not perish but have everlasting life (John 1:12, 3:16-18; II Corinthians 5:17-18; Romans 8:35-39; I Peter 1:5).

## ETERNAL SECURITY

**We believe** in the eternal security of the believer. That is to say, once saved, always saved. We believe this salvation cannot be reversed or lost, and believers are kept by the power of Almighty God (John 6:39,47; 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39, I Peter 1:5).

## ETERNAL CONDEMNATION

**We believe** in the eternal conscious punishment of all who reject God's gracious offer of salvation in each dispensation of man's history. Every human being is an eternal soul that possesses a body. At the time of death, the soul either gains eternal life by having received God's mercy and grace (saved); or receives eternal damnation by having rejected God's gracious offer of salvation (lost). Every lost person goes to hell where he will endure torments (Luke 16:19-31) until he stands before God in judgment. God will righteously judge every soul proving its wicked sin nature deserving of condemnation (Romans 14:12). Every lost soul will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity (Revelation 10:11-15).

## CHURCH

**We believe** that the local church is a local assembly of “born again” believers through which God has chosen to accomplish His work in the world; as clearly defined and taught in the New Testament Scriptures (I Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-24, 3:3, 5:25-27; Acts 2:41-47, 20:17, 28-32). A New Testament Baptist church is an organized body of baptized believers united together as “the body of Christ” under the headship of Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 12:27; Ephesians 4:12, 5:23) for the purpose of glorifying God, evangelizing the lost, discipling the saved, preaching and teaching the Bible, perfecting the saints “for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12), and providing a vehicle from which Christians can serve the Lord. We believe that local church should be self-governing and self-supporting; free from any external authority or control, and should not associate itself with any ecumenical endeavor or effort to compromise the Truth. We believe the local church should operate under the leadership of those who hold the office of pastor; assisted by those who hold the office of deacon. It should practice the ordinances of baptism and communion; which are both but symbols or pictures of Christ’s complete saving work; and carry no atoning merit. We believe every member of the local church has the responsibility to minister the Word (II Corinthians 3:6, 5:18) and support the ministry through prayer, faithful attendance, holy living, tithes, and offerings (I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8; Acts 2:41-47; Hebrews 10:25).

**The membership of this Church** shall be composed of individuals who are believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and have been born again into the family of God by repentance towards God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). They have been saved according to the Bible definition outlined under SALVATION. Next they have been baptized by immersion at this church or by a church or like practice and doctrine. They have privately affirmed their salvation to church leadership then publically affirmed it to the church body. They are publically accepted into church membership at a regularly scheduled church service time.

Members seek to affirm the tenets of this statement of faith, and offer evidence, by their confession and their conduct, that they are living in accord with their affirmations and are actively pursuing and continuing in a vital fellowship with the church and the Lord, Jesus Christ. Membership may be terminated by either party.

## PROPHECY

**We believe** that the Bible clearly teaches the order of God’s prophetic plan (I Corinthians 15:20-28). Prophecy to God is just pre-written history. First, is the rapture of the church, where Jesus Christ returns in the air to take all Christians, living and dead to ever be with Him (I Thessalonians 4:13-17, I Corinthians 15:51-55). Next comes the Great tribulation on the earth where God purges and judges the Christ rejecting world and returns to His dealings with the Jews. [The church of the Living God is not involved in this tribulation period – God’s wrath on earth – as God’s entire wrath on Christians was put on Christ at Calvary (I Thessalonians 5:9)]. Concluding the great tribulation on earth is the battle of Armageddon where Jesus Christ physically returns to earth with His saints to defeat the devil and the forces of hell allied against Israel (Zechariah 14:1-4, Revelation 19:11-21, Jude 14). After this battle, God will judge the nations and establish His kingdom on earth where He will reign on the throne of David for one thousand years (Isaiah 9:6, Luke 1:32-33). Following this millennial reign will be one final battle against the devil and his league where The Lord Jesus Christ will finally and forever gain eternal victory for righteousness (Rev. 20:7-10). The earth and heavens will be purged from all sin, destroyed, and recreated to places “*wherein dwelleth righteousness*” (II Peter 3:12-13). The church of the Living God, the Jews and Gentiles redeemed after the church age all will have eternal life and a purposeful existence in God’s perfect plan for each group (I Corinthians 10:32).

## GOVERNMENT

**We believe** that civil government is by divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society. Those in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Bible (Rom. 13:1-7, I Peter 2:13-14, Acts 4:17-20, 5:17-20; Acts 5:29, I Timothy 2:1-2, I Samuel 23:3, Exodus 18:21, 22; Daniel 3:17, 18). We believe in the principals of religious liberty and separation of Church and State (I Peter 5:1-3, Matthew 22:21).

## **SEPARATION**

**We believe** that the church should not join down to the standards of the world around it; but should strive to the standard of the Lord above it (Romans 12:1, I Peter 1:15-16)! Lifting up Jesus and following His life example is the goal for the standard of conduct for Central Baptist Church (John 12:32, I Corinthians 6:14; 7:1, I Peter 3:21). We believe our church should be separate from ecumenical movements which compromise and/or deny the Bible doctrines presented in this Statement of Faith.

## **MARRIAGE AND SEXUALITY**

We believe that term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

## **FORGIVENESS AND COMPASSION**

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (I John 1:9, Isaiah 1:18, Isaiah 55:7, Ephesians 1:7, Psalm 86:5)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of the church.