

Confession of Faith

Fellowship Bible Church of Gardner, Inc.

I. The Doctrine of the Scriptures (Bibliology)

- A. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be inerrant as originally written and God-breathed to Spirit-controlled men. (II Tim. 3:16,17; II Peter 1:19-21)
- B. We believe that the scriptures are absolutely the only authority for the Christian in matters of faith and practice. (Col. 1:10; Matt. 4:4,7,10; II Peter 3:18; I Peter 2:2; Romans 1:16,17)

II. The Doctrine of God (Theology)

A. Essential being of God

- 1. God is spirit. (John 4:24; II Cor. 3:17)
- 2. God is invisible to man. (Ex. 33:20; John 1:18; I John 4:12)
- 3. God is a living God. (Jer. 10:10; I Thess. 1:9)
- 4. God is a personality. (John 17:3; Gen. 1:1, 26)

B. Attributes of God

- 1. Self-existent. The existence of God is in Himself. (Ex. 3:14, 6:3; I Tim. 1:17; John 5:26)
- 2. Infinite. God has no limits or bounds. (Job 11:7-9; Romans 11:33ff.)
- 3. Omnipresent. God is everywhere; He fills the universe. (Psalm 139:7-10; Acts 17:27)
- 4. Omniscient. God knows everything. (Psalm 147:5; Heb. 4:13)
- 5. Omnipotent. God is able to do whatever He wills. (Matt.19:26; Dan. 4:35)
- 6. Immutable. God is unchangeable. (Mal. 3-6; Psalm 102:27; James 1:17)

C. Trinity of God

- 1. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. (Father: John 6:27) (Son: John 1:1,18; Titus 2:12,13) (Holy Spirit: Acts 5:3,4)
- 2. We believe in the unity of the Trinity. (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 48:16; Matt. 28:19; I Tim 2:5)

III. The Doctrine of Jesus Christ (Christology)

A. The person of Jesus Christ

- 1. We believe in the preexistence of Jesus Christ. Christ is without beginning and end. (Micah 5:2; John 1:1,14; 17:5; Rev.1:8)
- 2. We believe that Christ is deity and that He never ceased to be God for one instant. Christ in the human realm did not lay aside His deity. (John 1:18; Titus 2:13; Heb. 13:8; I Tim. 2:5)

3. We believe in the humanity of Christ. He was truly man as if He had never been God.
 - a) He was born of a virgin. (Matt. 1:25; Luke 1:26-38)
 - b) He had human weakness. (John 4:6; 19:28)
 - c) He had human development. (Luke 2:52)

B. The work of Christ

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary Sacrifice; and all who believe on Him are justified solely on the basis of His shed blood. (Rom. 3:21-25; I John 2:1,2; I Tim. 2:5-6)
2. We believe that the purpose of the atoning death of Jesus Christ was to satisfy the justice of God (Rom. 3:26; Isa. 53:10), and to give us forgiveness of sins and new life. (Eph. 1:7; I John 2:1,2)
3. We believe that the object of His atoning death was for:
 - a) The whole world (John 3:16; Col. 1:20; I John 2:1-2; I Tim. 2:4-6; II Peter 3:9)
 - b) The church (Eph. 5:25)
 - c) The individual (Gal. 2:20)

C. The resurrection of Christ

1. We believe that Christ was raised bodily from the grave on the third day (I Cor. 15:4; Eph. 1:20) and it was God who raised Him. (Acts 2:24)
2. We believe that it was the same body in a glorified state. (Luke 24:13-25; John 20:26-29)

D. The present ministries of Christ

1. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministries of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9,10; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1,2; I Tim 2:5)
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church. (Eph. 1:20-23)
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. (I Peter 2:25)

IV. The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology)

A. The person of the Holy Spirit

We believe in the deity and personality of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30; I Thess. 5:19; Acts 5:3,4,9; John 15:26)

B. The work of the Holy Spirit

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the whole world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. (John 16:8-11)
2. We believe that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration. (II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:2)
3. We believe He baptizes all believers into the body of Christ. (I Cor. 12:12-14; 6:19)

4. We believe He indwells and seals believers unto the day of redemption. (I Cor. 6:19; Romans 8:16; Eph. 1:13, 14; 4:30)

V. The Doctrine of Man (Anthropology)

A. The origin

1. We believe that man was created in the image of God. (Gen 1:27)
2. We believe that man is a living soul and thus is an eternal being. (Gen 2:7)

B. The fall of man and its result

1. We believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created innocent but voluntarily sinned. (Gen 3)
2. We believe that this transgression plunged the race into condemnation and death resulting in man's being shaped in iniquity and born in sin and becoming a practical sinner with the first expression of personal choice, not by constraint but by choice, and so is without excuse before God. (Romans 5:10-19; Eph. 2:1,2; Gen.3; Romans 1:18-32)

C. We believe that no person can be saved apart from hearing the message of salvation and believing in Christ. (Romans 1:20; Acts 4:12)

VI. The Doctrine of Sin (Hamartiology)

A. We believe that sin entered the human race by Adam's voluntary sin placing all the human race in sin at our physical birth. (Gen, 3:6-13; Romans 3:9,10,23; 5:12; Eph. 2:3)

B. We believe that sin entered the angelic world first when Lucifer fell. (Isa. 14:12-17; . Gen. 3:1-6; Ezek. 28:11-15; II Cor. 11:14; Rev. 12:9,14,15; John 8:44)

VII. The Doctrine of Salvation (Soteriology)

A. We believe that God sovereignly selected out the plan and the person according to His grace and mercy but did not violate man's responsibility. (Acts 2:23; Romans 10:9,10; John 6:27; Eph. 1:4; II Thess. 2:13; I Peter 1:1,2)

B. We believe that faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation from sin and that salvation is wholly secure. (Acts 16:31; Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5-7; John 3:16)

C. We believe that all who take Christ as their Savior are born from above and are kept by God's power and are eternally secure in Christ. (John 10:28,29; Romans 8:35-39; Eph. 1: 13, 14; I John 5:11-13)

VIII. The Believer's Walk or Daily Conduct in the World

A. We believe that the Bible alone provides the guiding principles for faith and practice. (Romans 10:17; I John 2:6; II Tim. 2:15; 3:16,17; I Peter 2:2; Col. 4:6)

B. We believe that the believer should seek to read and fulfill the church covenant as stated. (Col. 4:6; II Tim. 2:15; I Peter 3:15)

- C. We believe that whatsoever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord as we share and show our faith both verbally and outwardly. (Eph. 5:16,17; Col. 3:17,23; Phil. 2:15,16; James 1:22; 2:17,20,26)

IX. The Doctrine of the Church (Ecclesiology)

- A. We believe that the church universal is a New Testament institution, established by Jesus Christ, who is the sole Head, and will be consummated at the coming of Christ in the rapture. (Matt.16:18; Eph. 1:22; 5:23-33; I Thess. 4:13-18)
- B. We believe that the church universal is manifested through the local church, which is a congregation of believers. (Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 1:2; 6:4,5; 7:17; 11:16; I Tim. 3:1-15; Romans 12:5; Eph. 2:19-22)
- C. Our position as a local body
 - 1. We believe in fellowship with other Bible-believing churches holding forth historic Christianity. We believe in separation from apostasy. We believe the Scriptures admonish us not to participate with other churches in services, associations and campaigns that are not Bible believing. (II Cor. 6:11-7:1; Eph. 5:7; II Thess. 3:1-6,14)
 - 2. We believe our position is to tell and teach the world of Christ. (Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:47; John 20:21; Acts 1:8)
- D. We believe that there are two church memorials: Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper.
 - 1. Baptism:
 - a) Baptism is immersion of a believer in water and is properly called Believers' Baptism. (Acts 8:36-39; 10:43-48)
 - b) Baptism sets forth in a picturesque way our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. (I Cor. 15:3,4)
 - c) Baptism by immersion is in obedience to Christ's command. (Matt. 28:18-20)
 - 2. The Lord's Supper:
 - a) The Lord's Supper is to be taken by believers only. (I Cor. 11:23 -- "I delivered unto you [saints]," I Cor. 1:2)
 - b) The Lord's Supper commemorates our Lord's death till He comes. (I Cor. 11:26)
 - c) The Lord's Supper should be received after careful self-examination. (I Cor. 11:26)

X. The Doctrine of Satan and Demons

A. Satan

We believe in the distinct personality of Satan; that He is the god of this age, author of all powers of darkness and sin, and is destined to an eternal judgment in the lake of fire. (Matt. 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10)

B. Demons

We believe that demons are Satan's helpers who entered into and controlled lives in the New Testament times; and we believe that, man being the same and Satan being the same, they can possess or control lives of unbelievers and influence believers today. (Acts 16:16-18; 5:16)

XI. The Doctrine of the Righteous and the Wicked

A. The Righteous

1. We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. (Prov. 10:6; 12:7; 14:32; 16:25; 21:15; Mal. 3:18; I Peter 4:18)
2. We believe that those who are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ by faith and are sanctified by the Spirit of God are truly righteous in God's esteem. (Eph. 2:8,1; I Cor. 1:30)
3. We believe that the final and eternal destination of the believer is to dwell in the presence of God. (Rev. 21)

B. The Wicked

1. We believe that all who continue unrepentant and in unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse. (Matt. 8:12; 13:41-50; Romans 1:20)
2. We believe that this distinction holds among men both before and after death, in the everlasting blessedness of the saved and everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. (Matt. 25:34-41; Romans 6:17-23)
3. We believe that hell is a real place and is the final and eternal destination of those who die as unbelievers. (Rev. 21; Mk 9:42-48)

XII. Our Doctrine of the Last Times (Eschatology)

A. We believe in the imminent, personal, pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:11; Mark 13:32-34; II Thess. 2:2)

1. We believe that His coming will be before the seven-year tribulation period to catch away His church, coming in the air only. (I Thess. 4:13-18)
2. We believe that Christ will return with His church at the close of the tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His kingdom. (Matt 25:31-46; Zech. 14:1-9; Rev. 19:11-21)

B. We believe that between the coming of Christ for His saints and the coming of Christ with His saints, the believers in heaven will stand before the "judgment seat of Christ" to be judged for the "things done in his body, whether it be good or bad." (II Cor. 5:10)

1. This judgment is not for salvation and will be followed by the "marriage supper of the Lamb." (Rev. 19:7-9)
2. On the earth at this time God's wrath will be poured out, and this will be known as the Great Tribulation. (Matt. 24:21,22; Rev 14:19)

- C. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will literally rule upon this earth for a thousand years, during which time Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit; and "when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed," after which he will go out to deceive the nations and to battle, after which God will cast him and his followers into the lake of fire, which is eternal punishment. (Rev. 20)
- D. We understand that there are differences among Bible believing Christians on the subject of eschatology, and we are not drawing a line of fellowship with this doctrine. However, the above explanation will be the interpretation taught in sermons and adult studies at FBC.

XIII. Conclusion:

We believe that all who have placed faith in Christ will live eternally with Him.
(John 3:16)