

FELLOWSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH

This church holds the following statement of faith as being a summary of Christian doctrine whose authority consists only in its agreement with the Word of God.

1. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

These are *the* Old and New Testaments; they were written by holy men; divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit, God's revealed word to man. They are truth without error and are a sufficient guide to salvation, human conduct, Christian worship, creeds and opinions. They reveal the principles by which God will judge us and, therefore, will remain throughout eternity.

II Peter 1:18-21 II Timothy 3:16 & 17 Isaiah 8:20 Revelation 22:18 & 19

2. OF THE TRUE GOD

There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe, and in the Scriptures as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore and obey. We believe in the Genesis account of creation by God.

John 4:24 Psalm 83:18 Exodus 15:11 Mark 12:30 Matthew 18:19 John 10:30 Ephesians 2:18

3. OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood upon the cross, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return in power and glory.

Isaiah 9:6 John 1:3 & 10 John 16:27 Luke 1:35 Hebrews 14:15 I Peter 2:21 Ephesians 1:7 Hebrews 2:17
Hebrews 9:22 Hebrews 7:25 Acts 1:11 Titus 2:13

4. OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in holiness under the law of his Maker but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by • constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by law of God, positively inclined to evil and, therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin without defense or excuse.

Genesis 1:27 Genesis 1:31 Genesis 3:6-24 Isaiah 53:6 Ezekiel 18:19, 20 Romans 1:20 Romans 5:19

5. OF THE WAY OF SALVATION

A. We believe that a person must first realize he is a sinner and because of his sin must face God's judgment.

John 3:18 & 36 Romans 3:10 & 23 Romans 5:12 Psalm 51:5

B. We believe that a person must feel real repentance and sincere sorrow for his sin and turn from his sinful way to Christ.

Romans 10:9 & 10 II Corinthians 7:10 Proverbs 28:13 Acts 17:30 Luke 13:5

C. We believe that a person must put his faith in Christ as his only way of salvation from sin and judgment, that he cannot save himself by good works or overcome sin on his own.

Hebrews 11:6 Hebrews 11:1 Acts 16:31 John 3:36 Ephesians 2:8 & 9

D. We believe that a person who has placed his faith in Christ and has repented of his sins is born again, and that this will bring about a change in his life from the old man of sin to the new man of God.

John 3:3, 5, 6 & 7 John 5:24 II Corinthians 5:17 Ephesians 4:14-32

6. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel, that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

Isaiah 55 Romans 16:25,26 John 3:19;5:40

7. OF SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness, that it is begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer. Will be complete in heaven.

I Thessalonians 4:3 I John 2:29 Romans 8:5 Philippians 2:12 & 13

8. OF THE PERSERVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe that the Word of God gives us hope that the truly regenerate believer will persevere unto the end and that a special Providence watches over his welfare. However, we also believe the Bible, in many places, warns us that we cannot live in the practice of sin (whether we be called "backslider" or "sinner") without endangering our relationship with God and our final state after death. We do not believe that salvation depends on human works or merit and we do believe that a person can be saved once and only once.

Romans 8:38 & 39 Philippians 1:6 Hebrews 6:4-6, 10:26-29 II Peter 2:20-22

9. OF THE ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. We believe that the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of the bread and wine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, is to be preceded always with solemn self-examination. We believe that the practice of Washing of the Saint's Feet was instituted by the Lord Jesus and as such should be considered as an Ordinance of the Church.

Acts 8:36, 39; 2:41 & 42 John 3:22, 23; 13:5-7 Matthew 28:19 Romans 6:4 I Corinthians 11:26 & 28

10. OF THE LORD'S DAY

This is one day in seven, which from the creation of the world God has set apart for sacred rest and holy service. Under the former dispensation, the seventh day of the week, as commemorative of the work of creation, was set apart for the Lord's

Day. Under the Gospel, the first day of the week, in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ, and by the authority of Christ and the apostles, is observed as the Christian Sabbath. On this day all men are required to refrain from secular labor and devote themselves to the worship and service of God.

Genesis 2:3 Mark 2:27 Nehemiah 9:14 Exodus 20:8-11 Luke 24:1-6; 33-36 John 20:19, 26
Acts 2:1; 20:7 I Corinthians 16:2 Revelation 1:10 Psalm 118:22-24 Isaiah 58:13 & 14 Isaiah 56:2

11. OF TITHING

God commanded to give tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the gospels and the apostles taught it. We believe every child of God should practice it.

Matthew 23:23 I Corinthians 16:2 Malachi 3:8-11

12. OF RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT

We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto eternal life with Christ, and those who are lost unto eternal damnation without end.

Malachi 3:18 Luke 16:19-31 John 5:28 & 29 Matthew 25:46 II Thessalonians 1:8-10 Acts 24:15

13. OF THE WORLD TO COME

We believe that the end of this age is approaching.

I Peter 4:7

We believe in "That Blessed Hope"—the personal, imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:11 I Thessalonians 4:13-18

14. OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

We believe that the Bible teaches the following facts: On the Day of Pentecost believers spoke in distinct foreign languages which were readily understood by the nationalities present.

The gift of tongues (languages) was given as a special gift to the early church as only one sign which confirmed the witness of the Gospel to unbelievers.

While the gift of tongues was bestowed by the sovereign will of God on some believers, all did not speak with tongues. When this gift was abused, it became a source of disturbance in the congregational meetings. To eliminate confusion and correct the error, Paul set particular guidelines for the Christian church to follow. The gift of tongues was neither an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, nor does it bring about sanctification.

We believe that speaking in tongues as a visible sign of "the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an erroneous doctrine to be rejected. Any implication of a "second work of grace" has never been tolerated in our fellowship of churches, and will not be permitted.

We teach and preach the fullness of the Holy Spirit and heed the scriptural admonition, "Be filled with the Spirit: Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord: Giving thanks always for all things, unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Acts 2:5, 8, 11 Hebrews 2:4 I Corinthians 12:10 & 30 I Corinthians 12:13; 14:18, 19, 23 Ephesians 5:18b-20