

STATEMENT OF BELIEF | Baptist Faith & Message

I. God the Father

We teach that there is only one living and true God. He shows himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is Father only to those who become his children through faith in Christ. Yet God acts Fatherly to all men as he rules with kind care over all his creation (*Deut. 6:4-5; Gen. 1:31*).

II. God the Son

We teach that Jesus Christ is God. He is both fully God and fully man. He remained sinless throughout his life on the earth and thereby remained qualified to take the punishment for our sins as a pure sacrifice. He died in our place, rose in our place and ascended to heaven in our place. He now acts as our Advocate to the Father and will return to judge both the living and the dead (*Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:1-3, 14; Acts 1:11; I Cor. 15:1-8; Phil. 2:5-9; Col. 1:15*).

III. God the Spirit

We teach that the Holy Spirit is God. Primarily he exalts Jesus. He does this by convicting people of their sin so that they might turn to Christ. He also does this by graciously giving gifts to every believer so that the church might build itself up to be more like Jesus and glorify him. The Holy Spirit lives in every believer and empowers every believer to live a godly life and guides them into truth. The Holy Spirit also seals our salvation into eternity (*John 14:16-19; John 16:13; Romans 8:9; I Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 1:13-14; Eph. 4:11-16; Titus 3:5*).

IV. The Bible

We teach that the entire Bible was revealed by God and written by humans. It is without error in all that it affirms. The Bible is the center of Christianity because Jesus is the center of the Bible (*II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21*).

V. Man

We teach that in the beginning God created mankind in his image. From the very beginning man was created to worship God and to have dominion over the earth. He was created innocent. Mankind was originally created with the ability to live perfectly for God's glory (*Gen. 1:17, 31*).

VI. Sin

We teach that Adam, the first man, sinned by disobedience. This act resulted in the fall of all mankind; therefore, all people have sinned and lost their ability to live for the glory of God. Mankind's fall has incurred both physical and spiritual death on all until there is forgiveness and salvation by the grace of God (*Gen. 3:1-24; Rom. 3:10-23, 5:12-21, 6:23*).

VII. Salvation

We teach that the salvation of lost and sinful mankind is a free gift of God's grace apart from human works. It is based solely upon Christ's dying in our place on the cross. Salvation can be received only through faith in Jesus (*II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:8-10*).

VIII. Eternal Security

We teach that since God gives us eternal life through Christ, we are secure in our salvation forever. Our salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the efforts of the believer (*John 10:29-30; II Tim. 1:12; Heb. 7:25; I John 5:11-13*).

IX. Family

We teach that marriage is a lifetime covenant commitment of one man and one woman. We teach that the family, composed of persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, is ordained by God as the foundational institution of human society. This relationship is designed to reflect the union of Christ and his church. The framework of marriage provides the intimate expression of companionship and sexual relationship, including procreation, according to biblical standards. Children, from the moment of conception, are to be valued as a gift of life from God. Parents are to love, teach, disciple and model biblical truth before their children; children are to honor and obey their parents (*Prov. 22:6; Eph. 5:22-6:4*).

X. The Church

We teach that the church is the body of Christ and family of God. It is made up of saved and baptized believers, who regularly come together for worship, fellowship, and ministry (*Matt. 16:18; I Cor. 12:12-14; Heb. 10:25*).

XI. Evangelism

We believe that it is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to seek to make growing disciples. Since faith comes by hearing we believe that we must speak the gospel to those who do not yet know Jesus. Evangelism is incomplete if we have only modeled what it looks like to follow Jesus with our lives. We must also speak the truth about Jesus (*Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:17*).

XII. Eternity

We believe man was created to exist forever. He will either exist eternally separated from God by sin or in union with God through salvation. To be eternally separated from God is hell. To be eternally with God is heaven. Heaven and hell are places of eternal existence (*John 3:16, 2:25; Rom. 6:23; Rev. 20:15*).

XIII. Baptism & the Lord's Supper

Jesus instructed his followers to remember his death and resurrection. He gave the church two visible symbols (called "ordinances") as reminders. These two ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism by immersion is a one-time act of identification with Jesus as Lord. It serves as an outward sign of conscious confession of repentance and faith. The Lord's Supper is an ongoing symbol remembering our Lord's death, burial, resurrection, and promised return (*Matt. 26: 26-29, 28:18-20; I Cor. 11:23-32*).

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