

Gospel Baptist Church Doctrinal Statement

Church Covenant

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, His angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spreading of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to educate our children in the Christian religion and to give them a basic education; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all gossiping, backbiting and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling, and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church of like faith and practice, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

Statement of Faith

>> The Word of God

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (Romans 10:17; II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; Hebrews 4:12).

>> The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son and the Holy Spirit; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. (Matthew 28:19; I Peter 1:2; I John 5:7).

>> God the Father

We believe in God the Father, that He is an infinite, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 45:21, 22; Exodus 15:6, 11; Psalm 18:30; Proverbs 15:3; John 3:16; I John 4:7-16)

>> Jesus Christ

We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death through the shedding of His blood, in His bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal visible return to earth to reign in power and glory. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18 & 20-25; John 1:1-14; II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; Acts 2:22; Acts 10:38; I Corinthians 15:3, 4; Mark 15; Luke 24; Acts 1:9,10; Titus 2:13).

>> **The Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe on Jesus Christ. We believe that He moved men of God to write the Holy Scriptures called the inspiration of scripture. We believe that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the work whereby He unites the believer to the body of Christ, the Church. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. (John 16:8, 11, 14, 16, 17; I Corinthians 12:12,13; Romans 8:11, 16-27; II Peter 1:21; Ephesians 1:13, 14).

>> **Creation**

We believe in the literal Scriptural account of creation; that God created out of nothing, the universe and all that is in it, including man. (Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; Genesis 2:

>> **Man**

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but fell from His original state through his disobedience to God in the Garden of Eden, and thus became a sinner in need of a Savior - through man's sin he lost his relationship and fellowship with God. We believe all succeeding members of the human race are sinners by nature and by choice and are therefore separated from God. (Genesis 1:26, 27; Genesis 3:6, 7; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12).

>> **Regeneration**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of God's grace; that Christ died, was buried and rose again for the justification of sinners. We believe the blood of Christ alone cleanses from sin. We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, all under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in, or receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 3:10; John 3:18, 19; John 1:12, 13; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:7; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Romans 4:4, 5; I Corinthians 15:3, 4).

>> **Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:4-5)

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)

>> **The Church**

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and that all regenerated persons are members.

We believe in the local Church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, Scripturally baptized (immersion), on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. (Ephesians 5:20-32; Ephesians 1:22; Matthew 28:19; I Timothy 3:1-13).

We believe that there are two offices in the New Testament Church: Pastor and Deacon. The Church is the final authority on all matters of business.

>> **Christian Conduct**

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well-being of his or her fellowmen; that his or her conduct would be blameless before the world; that each should be a faithful steward of all possessions, and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. (Luke 16:1-17; Ephesians 5:9-11; I John 2:15-17; Romans 6:1-13; I Corinthians 4:2; II Corinthians 6:17)

>> **The Ordinances**

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church: Baptism and the Lord's Supper, neither of which has any saving merit (not necessary for salvation).

Baptism: We believe that Baptism, as taught in the Scriptures, is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Triune God, and that it is an act of obedience in open confession of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

The Lord's Supper: We believe every baptized believer is to observe the Lord's Supper "in remembrance" of the Lord in His death and reminding us of His coming again. Observance should be preceded by self-examination. (I Corinthians 11:28-32).

>> **Religious Liberty**

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone, in all matters of faith. Each church is autonomous and must be free from interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority. Therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictates or patronage of the other. (Romans 5:1,2; Romans 13:1-7).

>> **Separation**

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 1:9-11)

>> **The Last Things**

We believe in "the blessed hope", the personal, imminent, pre-millennial and pre-tribulational return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for His Church, called "Rapture" by Bible believers today.

We believe in the second coming of Christ; the personal and visible return of our Lord Jesus Christ to earth and the establishment of His Kingdom.

We believe in the resurrection of the body of the regenerate to eternal life and blessedness; furthermore that the unbeliever, the unregenerate, are destined to everlasting conscious suffering in a real and literal hell to be eternally separated from God. (John 14:3; Acts 1:2; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51-57; Revelation 3:10; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31).

>> Satan

We believe in the reality of Satan; a living personality who is the unholy prince; god of this world, author of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire. (Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:14, 15; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:1-11).

>> Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home; (2) the church; and (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14).

>> Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. Any employee of the church becoming pregnant or causing pregnancy as a result of consensual intercourse, outside of the marriage relationship, shall be terminated from employment. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23).

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; I Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12).

>> **Divorce and Remarriage**

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery according to the scriptures. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor or Deacon. (Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6).

>> **Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

>> **Lawsuits Between Believers**

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members.

We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32).
