

## ARTICLE IV OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inspired, infallible, sufficient and inerrant Word of God, and as the only authority for the basis and practice of faith. This church accepts "The Baptist Faith and Message 2000" as an affirmation of the Christian beliefs as taught in the Holy Bible.

1. **God** is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God.  
Genesis 1:1,26,27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14
2. **Jesus Christ** is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.  
Matthew 1:22,23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13
3. **The Holy Spirit** is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right, He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1: 13 -, Galatians 5:25 ; Ephesians 5:18.
4. **The Bible** is God's Word to all mankind. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without mixture of error. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1: 20-2 1; 2 Timothy 1: 13; Psalm 11 9:105, 160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5.
5. **Human Beings** are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life. Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23
6. **Salvation** is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.  
Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26;
7. **Eternal Security:** Because God gives eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security. John 10: 27-29; 2 Timothy 1: 12; Hebrews 7:25; 10: 10, 14; 1 Peter 1: 3-5
8. **Eternity:** People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.  
John 3:16; John 2:25; John 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; Matthew 1:8; Matthew 2:44,46

## 9. Marriage and Human Sexuality:

- a. **Marriage** is a biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the scriptures. This Church recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. Accordingly, this Church, its pastor and staff will not participate in same sex unions or same sex marriages, nor shall its property or resources be used for such purposes.
- b. **Human Sexuality** – The Bible teaches that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, this Church opposes all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography.

\*For more information and details on what we believe, along with supporting Scripture references, you may obtain a copy of our complete doctrinal statement (The Baptist Faith and Message, 2000 Revision) from our church office or you may view it online at [www.sbc.net/bfm](http://www.sbc.net/bfm).

## ARTICLE V MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

Having received Jesus as my Lord and Savior and having been baptized by immersion and being in agreement with the mission, vision & values of First Baptist Church, I unite with The FBC family and commit myself to God and the other members to do the following:

I will support my church with a loving heart

- ...By growing in my personal relationship with God and with others (Matthew 22:37-38)
- ...By worshipping God with my life (Romans 12:1-2)
- ...By giving regularly in proportion to my means (1 Corinthians 16:2)

I will strengthen my church with a growing mind

- ...By attending and participating faithfully (Hebrews 10:25)
- ...By joining a small group (Acts 2:42-46)
- ...By reading and obeying God's Word (James 1:22)

I will serve my church with willing hands

- ...By developing a servant's heart and participating in ministry (Philippians 2:5-7)
- ...By discovering and using my gifts and talents (1 Peter 4:10)
- ...By being equipped to serve (Ephesians 4:11-12)

I will share the mission of my church with ready feet.

- ...By living a life that honors Jesus (Philippians 1:27)
- ...By inviting the unchurched (Luke 14:23)
- ...By participating in outreach (Mark 10:45)

I will safeguard the unity of my church

- ...By having loving attitudes and actions toward other members (1 Peter 3:8)
- ...By refusing to gossip (Ephesians 4:29)
- ...By following the leadership (Hebrews 13:17)