

## Section 5: Doctrines of Faith

### A. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired in its entirety and is the product of holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit to record its truths. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

(II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:19-21)

### B. Of the True God

We believe that there is only one living and true God; that He is Infinite Spirit; that He is the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love. We believe in the unity of the Godhead; that there are three Persons in the Godhead - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that they are equal in every divine perfection; that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption and completion of God's purpose and plan.

(Exodus 20:2; Matthew 3:16-17; 17:5; 19:19; Mark 1:10-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 17:3; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7; Revelation 4:11)

### C. Of the Lord Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God; that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; that He is true God and true man, the only

Mediator between God and man. We believe in His sinless life, His vicarious death, His literal bodily resurrection from the dead, His bodily ascension into Heaven, His advocacy and intercession for all believers, and His personal bodily and premillennial return to the earth.

(Luke 1:35; John 1:1,14; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 8:34; I Thessalonians 4:14-17; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 1:3; 2:24; I John 2:1-2; Revelation 19:11-16)

### D. Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead, equal with God the Father and God the Son, and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that He restrains evil and the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel to unbelieving hearts; that He places the believer into the body of Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion; and that He indwells, seals, endues, guides, teaches, sanctifies, comforts, and helps the believer live his life to the glory of God.

But we reject as un-Scriptural the teachings of the Charismatic movement that the Holy Spirit continues to give the spiritual gifts of prophecy (in the special sense of further revelation from God); tongues (especially as an evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit); and miracles and healing (in the same sense as performed by Jesus and the apostles),



though we recognize that God can and does heal and work miracles as revealed in the epistles to the Church.

(Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; 24:49; John 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17,26; 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Romans 8:14,16,26-27; Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 9:14; James 5:13-15)

#### E. Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe in the existence of the personality of Satan; that he is the unholy god of this age, the author of all the powers of darkness; and that he is destined for eternal justice in the Lake of Fire.

(Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10)

#### F. Of Creation

We accept the Genesis account of Creation and believe that man came by the direct, creative act of God, not by evolution.

(Genesis 1 and 2; John 1:3; Col. 1:16-17)

#### G. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in a state of innocence under the law of his Maker. By voluntary transgression he fell from his sinless and happy state, leaving all men by nature and by choice sinners under the just condemnation of God, without defense or excuse.

(Genesis 3:1-6,24; Romans 1:18, 32; 3:10-19; 5:15)

#### H. Of Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is

wholly of grace through the sacrificial death of the Son of God, Who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon Himself our humanity, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His perfect obedience, and by His death He made a full and vicarious atonement for all our sins. We believe that His atonement consisted not in His death as a martyr, but in the giving of Himself as the perfect substitute voluntarily in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust. He is in every way qualified to be the only suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.

(Isaiah 53:4-7; Matthew 18:11; John 3:16; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:25; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; I John 4:10)

#### I. Of Salvation

We believe that every person needs to be saved; that salvation is the free gift of God, given by grace and received by those who exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as their substitute, Who shed His blood for their sins; that once saved, the believer is forever secure in Christ, kept by the power of God.

(John 1:12; 3:16,18,36; 10:28-29; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; I Peter 1:3-5; I John 5:13)

#### J. Of A New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth results in a new creation in Christ Jesus instantaneously; that in the new birth the sinner, dead in trespasses and sins, is made a partaker of the divine nature of God by the power of the



Holy Spirit, as revealed in His Word. Proper evidence of the new birth is manifested through the fruits of righteousness and newness of life.

(John 3:3; 6:8; Acts 16:30-34; Romans 6:23; II Corinthians 5:17, 19; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13; II Peter 1:4; I John 5:1)

#### K. Of the Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His Word, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; with pastors, deacons, and officers whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that the true mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; that the only Head is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation on all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, and benevolence. The will of the local church is final.

(Acts 2:41-42; 15:13-18; 20:17-28; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18; I Timothy 3:1-7)

#### L. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior; that it pictures our death to sin and our resurrection to a new life through the finished work of Christ. It is prerequisite to the privilege of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. Participation is open to all of like faith and practice.

(Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 8:26-39; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12)

#### M. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. Only through repentance and faith are we justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, sanctified by the Spirit of God, and truly righteous in His sight. All others who continue in impenitence and unbelief are wicked in the sight of God and under the curse of sin.

We believe in the everlasting bliss of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

(Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 14:32; Matthew 25:34-41; Luke 16:25; John 8:21; Romans 6:17,23; 7:6; I John 5:19)

#### W. Of Civil Government

1. We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the best interest and good order of human society. All in positions of authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things contrary to the Word of God.

(Exodus 18:21; II Samuel 23:3; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:19; 5:20; 23:5; Romans 13:1-7)

2. Political involvement.

First Baptist Church of Draper will neither endorse nor oppose any political candidate for office; furthermore, no political materials endorsing or opposing a political candidate will be distributed by the church.

#### O. Of Human Sexuality.

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of 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. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by appearance or surgery.

(Genesis 2:24; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians

5:1,6-9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)

2. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the union of one man and one woman for life.

(Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23)

#### P. Of Family Relationships.

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate 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 ordination by the church.

(Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; I Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4,5,12)

2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. The wife is to submit to the Scriptural leadership of her husband, as the Church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them by consistent lifestyle, example, and appropriate discipline, including Scrip-



tural corporal correction.

(Genesis 1:26-28; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalm 127:3-5; Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mark 10:6-12; I Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; Hebrews 13:4; I Peter 3:1-7)

#### Q. Of Divorce and Remarriage.

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one spouse dies. Divorce and remarriage are regarded as adultery except on grounds of fornication. Although 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 and deacon.

(Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2,12; Titus 1:6)

#### R. Of the Personal, Visible, Bodily, Premillennial Return of Christ and Related Events.

##### 1. The Rapture of the Church.

(I Corinthians 15:51-57; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

##### 2. Events in Heaven following the Rapture of the Church

a. The Judgment Seat of Christ (I Corinthians 3:11-15; II Corinthians 5:10)

b. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-9)

votions; to religiously educate our children; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We also covenant that when we remove from this membership, we will unite as soon as possible with some other gospel-preaching church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of the Word of God.

"To serve the living and true God and to wait for His Son from Heaven."

(I Thessalonians 1:9-10)

3. The Seven Year Tribulation Period  
(Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:3-26; II Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 6:1-19:10)
4. The Return of Jesus Christ to the Earth (His Revelation) and the Battle of Armageddon  
(Daniel 2:44-45; Zechariah 14:1-3; Matthew 24:27-30; Revelation 19:11-21)
5. The Regathering of the Living Jews into the Land, and Their Judgment  
(Ezekiel 20:33-38; Matthew 24:31)
6. The Judgment of the Living Gentiles  
(Joel 3:2; Matthew 25:31-46)
7. The Established Kingdom, or Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ  
(Isaiah 11:1-9; 32:1; I Corinthians 15:25)
8. The Eternal Doom of Satan  
(Revelation 20:7-10)
9. The Great White Throne Judgment of the Wicked  
(Revelation 20:11-15)

#### **S. Of Heaven**

We believe that Heaven is the eternal abode of the saints with God and where God will dwell with His people.  
(Revelation 21 and 22)

#### **T. Of Hell**

We believe that Hell is a ceaseless place of tor-

ment where all who reject Jesus Christ will spend eternity.  
(Mark 9:42-48; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:14-15; 21:8)

#### **Section 6: Church Covenant**

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to receive Him as our personal Savior from sin, and having been baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we do solemnly covenant together before God to unite with one another as one body in Christ.

We also covenant to proclaim the gospel of grace to all men by the aid of the Holy Spirit; to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of its ministry, the expense of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel to all nations.

We also covenant to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to live consecrated lives separated from worldly practices; to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to be slow to take offense, but always ready to reconcile and, mindful of the Savior's teaching, to seek it without delay.

We also engage to maintain private and family de-