



FOURTH BAPTIST CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the inspired Word of God in the original autographs¹, that it was written by men controlled by the Holy Spirit², and is therefore without error. It is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

¹ 2Tim 3:16-17

² 2Pet 1:20-21

The Trinity

We believe in the Trinity of the Godhead; there is one God¹ eternally existing in three equal but distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit².

¹ Deut 6:4

² Mt 28:18-19; 2Cor 13:14

God the Father

We believe in God, the Father, and rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men¹, that He hears and answers prayer², and that He saves from sin and eternal damnation all who come to Him through Jesus Christ³. We believe He has a paternal relationship to believers only⁴.

¹ Dan 2:21; 4:17

³ Jn 6:44; 3:16, 18

² Jn 15:16

⁴ Rom 8:15; Jn 8:41-44

God the Son

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son¹, born of a virgin², sinless in His life³, Who atoned for the sins of the world by His death, burial, and bodily resurrection⁴. We believe in His ascension into Heaven⁵, His perpetual intercession for His people⁶, His personal coming in the air for His church prior to the seven year tribulation⁷, and His return to earth at the close of the tribulation to establish His millennial Kingdom⁸.

¹ Jn 3:16

³ 1Pet 2:21-22

⁵ Acts 1:9

⁷ 1Thes 4:13-18

² Mt 1:23

⁴ 1Cor 15:3-4

⁶ Heb 7:25

⁸ Rev 19:11-16; 3:10; 20:1-6

God the Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit¹ Who convicts², regenerates³, baptizes⁴, indwells⁵, seals⁶, and fills⁷. We believe Spirit baptism takes place at the time of regeneration⁸ and that the filling of the Spirit is manifested by the fruits of the Spirit rather than by any specific spiritual gift⁹.

¹ Acts 5:3-4

⁶ Eph 1:13

² Jn 16:8-11; 14:26

⁶ Acts 2:42; Heb 10:25

⁷ Acts 4:31; Eph 5

³ Tit 3:5

⁸ cf. Acts 10:44-47; 11:16

⁴ 1Cor 12:12-13

⁹ Gal 5:16, 22-23; Acts 4:31; 1Cor 13:8

⁵ 1Cor 6:19-20

Creation

We believe in the direct creation by God in six solar days, of the physical universe, all spirit beings, man, and lower forms of life, without the process of evolution; and also that the early chapters of Genesis are literal and accurate history. God sustains all creation but exists in no necessary relationship to it¹.

¹ Gen 1, 2; Col 1:15-17; Jn 1:3

Spirit Beings

We believe that God created an innumerable company of sinless spirit beings¹. One of these, though created holy by God, sinned through pride, thereby becoming Satan, the Devil, the enemy of his Creator, leading a host of angels in rebellion against God². He became the god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal punishment in the lake of fire³.

¹ Col 1:16; Heb 12:22

² Ezek 28:12-17; Rev 12:7-9

³ 2Cor 4:3-4; Eph 2:1-2; Rev 20:10; Mt 25:41

Mankind

We believe that all men are sinners by nature¹ and under the condemnation of God². The only remedy for this condition is Holy Spirit regeneration through faith in the shed blood of Jesus Christ as payment for one's sins³. We believe regeneration is the irrevocable act of God, thus securing the believer for all eternity⁴. We believe the Bible does not teach that God created any person for the purpose of condemnation⁵.

¹ Eph 2:3; Rom 3:9-20; 5:12

⁴ Rom 8:35-39; Jn 10:28-29

⁵ Jn 3:16; 2Pet 3:9

³ 1Pet 1:18-22; Jn 3:8, 14, 18a; Heb 9:22

² Jn 3:18, 36

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, transvestism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex¹. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender². We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman³.

¹ Gen 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29; 1Cor 5:1; 6:9; 1Thes 4:1-8; Heb 13:4

² Gen 1:26-28; Deut 22:5

³ Gen 2:24; Mt 19:4-6; Rom 7:2; 1Cor 7:10; Eph 5:22-23

Final Destinies

We believe that the souls of believers in Christ do, at death, immediately pass into His presence¹ and there remain until the resurrection of the body at the rapture when soul and body reunited shall stand before Christ to be judged of their Christian works for the giving of rewards; and they shall then be associated with Christ forever in glory². The souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final resurrection at the end of the millennium for judgment; the result of this judgment will be that all will be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power³.

¹ 2Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23

² 2Cor 5:10; 1Cor 3:11-15; 1Thes 4:13-18

³ Lk 16:19-26; 2Thes 1:6-9; Rev 20:11-15

The Church

We believe in the Church¹, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head² and of which all regenerated people are members³. We believe that a local church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ⁴, baptized on an acceptable confession of faith⁵, associated for worship, work, and fellowship⁶, and having two offices: pastor and deacon⁷. We believe that to these visible churches were committed, for observance throughout the church age, the ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper⁸, and that God has laid upon these churches the task of witnessing to a lost world to accept Jesus Christ as Savior⁹ and of building up the saints in the faith once for all delivered¹⁰. We believe that human betterment and social improvements are the inevitable by-products of the Gospel and edification¹¹.

¹ Mt 16:18

⁷ Phil 1:1

² Eph 1:22; Col 1:16; Eph 4:15; 5:23

⁸ Mt 16:16-20; 1Cor 11:23-26

³ 1Cor 12:12-13; Eph 5:30

⁹ Acts 1:8; Mt 28:18-20

⁴ Acts 2:41-42

¹⁰ Eph 4:7, 11-16; Jude 3

⁵ Acts 10:47-48

¹¹ Eph 2:10; Gal 5:22-23

⁶ Acts 2:42; Heb 10:25

Separation

We believe that separation is a doctrine as well as a practice and that the separation principle runs through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. We believe that true spiritual fellowship is the result of a common faith and practice. We believe there are four aspects of Biblical separation.

- 1) Political separation - the separation of the church from the state (Lk 20:25).
- 2) Personal separation - the separation of the believer from the world and sin in order to serve God. This involves a separation from acts of sin, the world system, the unbeliever, heretics, and false teachers (Josh 24:15; Eph 5:15-18; 1Jn 2:15-17; 2Cor 6:14-7:1; 1Jn 4:1; 2Jn 10-11).
- 3) Ecclesiastical separation - the separation of the church from apostasy. Each local church is independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by any other ecclesiastical authority. We believe we are to reprove apostates rather than recognize them, to rebuke rather than to reason with them, to reject rather than to receive or unite with them. We believe that loyalty to Christ also demands separation from any group content to walk with or tolerate religious unbelief (2Cor 6:14-17; 2Jn 10-11; 2Tim 4:2-4).
- 4) Practical separation - the separation of the believer from an erring brother. We believe that we must separate from those who continue in disobedience to the Word of God. This includes the trouble maker, the disorderly, and the immoral brother (2Thess 3:6, 14-15; Rom 16:17; 1Cor 5:11; Tit 3:10).