

HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all we believe. We do believe the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and is therefore supported by all members.

1. The Holy Scriptures. We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the verbally and plenary inspired...we believe them to be the word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament are the complete and divine revelation of God to Man. We believe God has promised to preserve His Word. The King James Version of the Bible is the only English translation used by the church in our services and teaching. (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21)

2. The Godhead. We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, coequal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; John 14:10, 26)

3. The Person and Work of Christ.
 - a) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, took upon Himself humanity, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19- 21; Gal. 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8)

 - b) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

 - c) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. (Acts 1:9-10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2)

4. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.
 - a) We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, indwelling and sealing all believers in this current age unto the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14)

- b) We believe He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (following the Spirit's influence) (Eph. 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27)
 - c) We believe God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts. God uniquely uses Evangelists and Pastor Teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they may do the work of the ministry. (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12)
 - d) We believe the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. Speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit, and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22)
5. The Total Depravity of Man. We believe man was created without sin but that the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Man is totally depraved and unable to save himself from sin. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)
6. Salvation. We believe salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 1:18-19; Matt. 12:31-32; 1 John 1:9)
7. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.
- a) We believe all saved persons can never give back or lose their salvation. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1; 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:4-5)
 - b) We believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation (1 John 5:13).
8. The Church
- a) We believe the Lord Jesus Christ founded His ekklesia (assembly, congregation, or church) prior to Pentecost, and built it up with church discipline, the Lord's Supper, and the Great Commission (Mt. 16:18; 18:16-18; 26:24-26; 28:19-20).
 - b) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

- c) We believe the local church is the Body of Christ in that locale (I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:22-23).
 - d) We believe the two ordinances for the local church are believer's baptism (full immersion) and the memorial of the Lord's Table (Acts 2:41, 47; I Cor. 11:23-32).
 - e) We believe the Christian should serve the Lord faithfully in the local church. (Rom. 12:4-8; I Pet. 4:8; I Cor. 3:11-15).
 - f) We believe the only two offices for the assembly are the Bishop (Elder or Pastor) and Deacon (I Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:6-9).
 - g) We believe the church is solely made up of born-again persons. (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27)
 - h) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)
9. Separation. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. God commands His people to separate from all religious apostasy, all sinful pleasures, practices, and associations. We believe that all believers are to be modest in dress, and to refrain from all inappropriate appearances. (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; Lev. 19:28; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).
10. The Rapture of Believers and the Second Coming of Christ. We believe in that blessed hope, the personal, imminent return of Christ Who will rapture all believers prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel. (Ps. 89:3-4; Dan. 2:31-45; Zech. 14:4-11; I Thess. 1:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)
11. The Eternal State.
- a) We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to everlasting life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5-6, 12-13)
 - b) We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; I Thess. 4:16-17; Rev. 20:4-6)

- c) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment. (Matt. 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15)

12. The Personality of Satan. We believe that Satan is a person and the author of sin; that he is the open and declared enemy of God; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10)

13. Creation. We believe God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject the Theory of Evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin. (Gen. 1-2; Ex. 20:11)

14. Civil Government. We believe 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. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Heb. 13:17; 1 Pet. 2:13-14)

15. Human Sexuality.

- a) We believe God has commanded that no 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, and transgender behavior to be sinful and contrary to God's word. (Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

- b) We believe the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

16. Family Relationships

- a) We believe 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 of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for ordination as pastors and only men are

eligible to be appointed to the office of deacon. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

- b) We believe 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 herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a blessing and a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; I Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; I Pet. 3:1-7)

17. Divorce and Remarriage. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of Pastor or Deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)
18. Abortion. We believe human life begins at conception and the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. We believe any form of birth control that affects the unborn child after conception should be rejected. Abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control are unacceptable. (Job 3:16; Ps. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)
19. Love. We believe we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward both those who are not believers and those who oppose us. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or the use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24-26; Titus 3:2; 1 John 3:17-18)
20. Lawsuits Between Believers. We believe Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes except in the case where an unrepentant Christian is placed under church discipline. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. (1 Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

21. Missions. We believe God has given the church a commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

22. Giving. Having wealth entrusted to him, the believer is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe the Christian should both tithe and give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the local church. We believe a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17- 18; 1 John 3:17)