

## **OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH**

### **In Essential beliefs** – we have UNITY

“There is one Body and one Spirit...there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all...”  
Ephesians 4:4-6

### **In Non-Essential beliefs** – we have LIBERTY

“Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge some else’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God...So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God.” Romans 14:1,4,2,22

### **In all our beliefs** – we have CHARITY/LOVE

“If I...can understand all mysteries and all knowledge...but have not love, I am nothing.”  
I Corinthians 13:2

## **THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE**

These statements are summaries of statements contained in a document call the Baptist Faith and Message 2000, which is representative of what most Southern Baptists believe.

### **I. The Scriptures** – What has God said...about anything?

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter.

“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” 2 Peter 1:20-21

### **II. God, the Trinity** – Who has God revealed Himself to be?

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Spirit, be with you all.”  
2 Corinthians 13:14

### **III. Man** – What does it mean to be human?

Man is the special creation of God, made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation.. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship and enable man to fulfill the creative purpose of God.

“For as through the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of THE ONE (Jesus) the many will be made righteous.”

Romans 5:19

#### **IV. Salvation** – How can a person enjoy a personal relationship with God?

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that have been given among men, by which we must be saved.”

Acts

4:13

#### **V. The Church** – What on earth is God doing today?

A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel; seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

“Having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.”

Ephesians 2:20-22

#### **VI. Last Things** – Will things on earth always be the same?

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

“Looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us.

Titus

2:13-14a