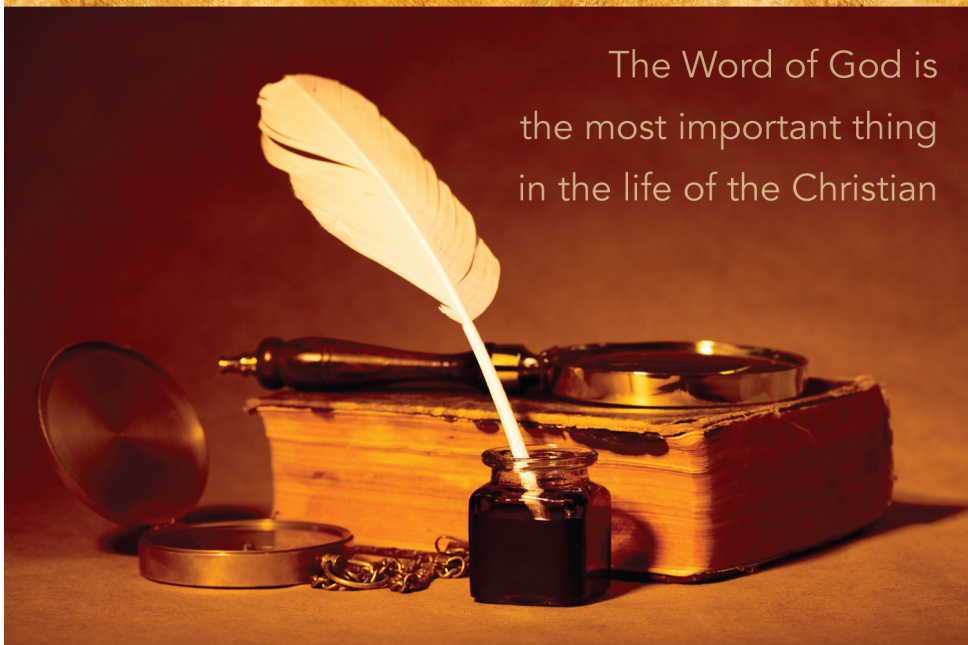


SUBURBAN BAPTIST CHURCH



STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Word of God is
the most important thing
in the life of the Christian





SUBURBAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Faith

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SUBURBAN BAPTIST CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section 1 – The Scriptures

We believe that the Word of God consists solely of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments and that these are the sole authority in matters of faith and life. We believe in verbal, plenary inspiration which supplies to the original Scriptures. We believe that the Masoretic Text in Hebrew and the Textus Receptus in Greek are the preserved Word of God. We believe that the King James Version is a faithful and accurate English translation of these preserved words. Therefore, the King James Version is to be used in all the ministries of this Church (**II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21**).

Section 2 – The Godhead

We believe there is one God (**Deuteronomy 6:4**), existing as a unity of three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 3:16-17; Romans 8:9; Isaiah 61:1-3**). These three Persons are co-equal, co-existent, and co-eternal (**Deuteronomy 6:4; John 2:19; I Timothy 2:5**).

Section 3 – The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and the virgin, Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (**John 1:1-2; Luke 1:35**).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (**Romans 3:25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5; Romans 5:1-2**).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into 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 1:9-11; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2**).

We believe in the “blessed hope” and the personal, imminent, premillennial, and pre-tribulational coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones. And we believe in His subsequent return to earth with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom (**I Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6**).

Section 4 – The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son, and of the same substance and nature; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and that He is the supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ and also indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (**John 16:8-11; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14**). We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth, and that it is a privilege and duty of all believers to be filled or controlled by the Spirit (**John 16:13; I John 2:20-27; Ephesians 5:18; John 14:16-17; 15:26**). We believe that the sign gifts (apostleship, prophecy, miracles of healing, and tongues) were temporary and no longer needed after “that which is perfect is come.” We believe this phrase in **I Corinthians 13:10** refers to the completion of the New Testament.

Section 5 – Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin; that he gave occasion for the fall of man; that he is the unholy god of this age; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the Lake of Fire (**Job 1:5-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; I Corinthians 4:4; Revelations 20:10**).

Section 6 – Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that in Adam's sin the race of man fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved and of himself utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (**Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3;12**).

Section 7 – Salvation

We believe that salvation is possible only through the substitutionary and vicarious death of Christ for man (**Galatians 1:4; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24; 3:18**). We believe that faith in the finished work of Christ is the only condition for salvation from sin; that this salvation is wholly of grace; and that no works, however good, make that salvation more secure (**Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 10:9-13**).

We believe that every person immediately upon acceptance of Christ as his personal Savior receives the gift of eternal life and is made at once a child of God. As such, a special divine providence watches over his welfare so that he is kept in a state of glory (**John 1:12; 10:28-29; Romans 8:28-29; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6; I Peter 1:5; I John 5:10-13**). We believe that while salvation is not by works, it is unto good works which are a result of the believer living his life under the control of the Holy Spirit (**Ephesians 2:8-10; 5:18; Galatians 5:22-25**). We believe it is a privilege of the believer to rejoice in the assurance of salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (**Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15**). We believe that every believer possesses two natures; that, through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, provision is made for victory of the new nature over the old nature; and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (**John 3:5-9; Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16**).

Section 8 – Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner so as not to be a reproach upon their Savior and Lord and that separation from all religious apostasy, worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and association is commanded by God (**Acts 4:12; Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14; 7:1; Colossians 1:18; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9:11**).

Section 9 – Evangelism and Missions

We believe that it is the duty of the saved to witness by life and word to the truths of the Bible and to assist in giving the Gospel of Christ to all the world by praying, giving, and going in obedience to the leadership of the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 15:19-20**).

Section 10 – The Church

We believe that the Church is a congregation of believers baptized by immersion upon a credible statement of faith and associated by covenant of faith, fellowship of the gospel, and observation of the ordinances of the Church governed by His laws; that it is to exercise the gifts, rights and privileges invested in it by His Word; that it has the absolute right of self-government, directed by the Holy Spirit, and it is answerable only to Christ; and that in matters of membership, policy, government, discipline, association, and benevolence, the will of the local church is final (**Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 1:2; 6:4-5; 7:17; 11:16; I Timothy 3:1-15**). We believe that to the church has been committed two ordinances: they are baptism and the communion of the Lord's table. We believe that Scriptural baptism is the immersion of the believer in water and that it is a testimony of the believer's identification by faith with Christ and His death, burial, and resurrection as our substitute (**Matthew 18:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39**). We believe that the communion of the Lord's table is the partaking of the bread and the cup by believers in remembrance of the death of Christ on our behalf; that it is to be preceded by baptism; and that it is to be

observed after thoughtful self-examination until He comes (**Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-32**).

Section 11 – The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men – the saved to eternal bliss, and the unsaved to judgment and eternal punishment (**Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6; 12:13**). 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 body, soul, and spirit are re-united to be glorified with the Lord (**Luke 23:43; I Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:6-17; Revelation 20:4-6**). We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death, in conscious misery in hell until the second resurrection, when the body, soul, and spirit are re-united; that they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment; and that they shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (**Matthew 25:1-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-29; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15**).

Section 12 – The Baptist Distinctives

We believe in the Baptist distinctives: the sole authority of the Bible, absolute soul liberty; sovereignty of the local church; regeneration and baptism by immersion as a condition for local church membership; baptism of believers only; priesthood of the believer; and separation of church and state.

Section 13 – Church, State, and Home

We believe that God has ordained three basic institutions by which human society is to be organized. These institutions are the home (**Genesis 2:23-24**), the government (**Romans 13:1-7**), and the local church (**Acts 11:26**). Being first established, the home is the basic building block of all human society and is responsible for the propagation of the human race, the rearing and training of children, and the establishment and operation of the other two institutions.

Government is ordained of God to maintain order and discipline among humans. It is the minister of God to reward those who do good and to punish those who do evil. The local church was established by Christ as the institution through which He would organize men to do His works of evangelizing the lost, teaching the saved, and worshipping Him.

The responsibilities given to each of these institutions are unique to that institution. When one institution neglects its own responsibility or assumes the responsibility of another institution, said institution has violated God's order and is to be rebuked and not followed (**Acts 4:18-20; 5:29**).

Section 14 – Marriage and Human Sexuality

In accordance with our view of the Bible as the supreme and final authority on all matters pertaining to faith and life, we believe that marriage is the exclusive, covenant relationship between one man and one woman. We believe that marriage is an illustration of the relationship between Christ and His church. Though sexual intimacy within the marriage relationship between one man and one woman is approved and even celebrated in Scripture, we believe that any sexual intimacy outside of this covenant relationship falls short of God's standard and is prohibited. Further, we believe that God created human beings in two distinct genders: male and female. We believe any attempts to alter or change one's birth gender fall short of God's standards and are prohibited. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to church members and to the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, all members of the church, and all who serve as volunteers in a teaching capacity should abide by and agree to this statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. Further, no ceremony of marriage may be performed by church ministers, or on church property, unless that ceremony of marriage is fully consistent with the Scriptural principles set out in this statement (**Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-20; Leviticus 18:1-30; Deuteronomy 6:1-25; Joshua 24:1-28; Psalms 51:1-6; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16;**

Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:20-35; 12:4; 14:1-2; 18:22; 24:3-4; 31:10-31; 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:27-32; 19:3-9; Luke 5:29-32; John 13:34-35; Acts 2:38-41; Romans 1:18-32; 10:9-13; I Corinthians 6:9-20; 13:1-13; 5:17-21; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 5:1-33; Titus 2:1-15; Hebrews 13:1-4).

Section 15 – Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all of its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value human life (**Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44**).

Section 16 – Dignity and Respect

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, kindness, respect, and dignity (**Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31**). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of the church.

Section 17 – Love

We believe that the greatest commandments are (1) to love God and (2) to love our neighbors as ourselves (**Matthew 22:36-40**). We believe that we should demonstrate love toward fellow believers, those who are not believers, those who actively oppose us or our faith or doctrine, and those who engage in actions contrary to Biblical teaching. We believe that we should deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. We believe that the Scriptures forbid the taking of revenge and the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice (**Matthew 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-10; Philippians 2:2-4**). We also believe that love and truth complement rather than conflict with one another (**Ephesians 4:15**).

Section 18 – The Authority of the Statement of Faith

The **Statement of Faith** does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Pastor and Deacons are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.