

# First Baptist Church of Hamburg, NY

## Statement of Faith

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH**

We accept the following as a statement of our faith in the great fundamental doctrines of the Christian religion.

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as fully inspired of God and inerrant in the original writings, and as of supreme and final authority in faith and life.

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in God the Father, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from death and hell all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, who was born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, and laid down His life upon the cross to make atonement for our sins. We believe in His bodily resurrection from the dead, His ascension into heaven, His constant intercession for His people, and His imminent, personal, visible return to the earth according to His promise.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from God to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify, and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ.

We believe that man was created in the image of God, in innocence and with the possibility of acquiring holiness and immortality through obedience, but that man fell into sin and that the wages of sin is death, and so natural man is born corrupt, early fall into active sin, and is destined for death and hell unless he receives the Savior. We believe that whosoever believes in Jesus Christ, accepting him for his personal Savior and confessing Him before men is saved from hell, being born again into life eternal and then prepared for an eternity of blessedness in the presence of God in heaven.

We believe that when our Lord Jesus Christ returns, those who are asleep in Jesus will arise in new, glorious, spiritual bodies, and that saints who are alive will be changed, and so we shall be always with the Lord.

We believe that the wicked dead shall later rise to be judged for their sins before the great white throne of God, and those who are not found written in the book of life will be cast into the lake of fire.

We believe in the church as one living spiritual body of which Jesus Christ is the head and of which all regenerate persons are members. We believe that a church is a company of professed believers in Jesus Christ associated for fellowship, worship and service. We believe that persons should be permitted to church membership only after credible confession of their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and baptism. ("Baptism" with us has its original meaning, immersion.)

We believe that God has committed to these churches the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, the task of preaching the Gospel to every creature, and the glorious hope of the return of the Lord like a bridegroom coming for his bride.

We believe that every human being has a direct relationship with God, and is responsible to Him alone in all matters of faith, though the Church through its officers and members should exert all possible pastoral and brotherly care for the erring brethren. We believe that each church is independent and completely autonomous and not rightly subject to interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; and that therefore, Church and State should be kept separate as having distinct function, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage from the other.

We believe that the institution of marriage was designed by God to unite one man and one woman in life-long commitment (Gen 2:23, 24). We also believe that sexual intimacy is a good gift from God that is to be expressed only between one man and one woman within the bonds of marriage (Matt 19:4-6; Heb 13:4).

Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual expression is both immoral and a perversion of God's good gift to humankind. These forms include, but are not limited to: fornication, adultery, homosexuality, pornography, bestiality, incest, pedophilia, lesbianism, bisexuality, and transgenderism. We also believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender permanently or temporarily by surgery or by appearance. (Gen 2:24; Gen 19:5, 13; Gen 26:8-9; Lev 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29, 1 Cor 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess 4:1-18; Heb 13:4)

We believe that God takes sexual sin seriously, yet He lovingly and freely offers complete forgiveness and restoration to those who disobey the Bible's teaching through repentance and faith in the Person of Jesus Christ alone (Eph 2:8, 9). We as believers have the responsibility to model the example of our Heavenly Father in loving all people – including those ensnared by any form of sexual sin – as we seek their restoration with God through Christ (Gal 6:1-2; 1 John 1:9; 2 Tim 2:24-26; Jude 23).