

Calvary Baptist Church Burlington
STATEMENT OF FAITH¹

1 The Bible

We believe the Bible to be the complete Word of God, that the sixty-six Books, as originally written, comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and, therefore, entirely free from error; that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian union.²

2 God

We believe in one God³, Creator⁴ of all, holy⁵, sovereign, eternal⁶, existing in three equal Persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit⁷.

3 Christ

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ; in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate glory⁸; in His virgin birth (by which He entered the human race as perfect man)⁹, sinless life¹⁰, substitutionary death¹¹, bodily resurrection¹², triumphant ascension¹³, mediatory ministry¹⁴ and personal return¹⁵.

4 The Holy Spirit

We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit¹⁶ who convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment¹⁷; who regenerates¹⁸, sanctifies¹⁹, illuminates²⁰ and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ²¹.

¹ All scripture is taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers.

² II Peter 1:21, II Timothy 3:16-17

³ 1 Timothy 2:5

⁴ Genesis 1:1

⁵ 1 Peter 1:15-16

⁶ Psalm 90:2

⁷ 2 Corinthians 13:14

⁸ John 1:1-3

⁹ Matthew 1:18-25

¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 5:21

¹¹ 1 Peter 3:18

¹² 1 Corinthians 15:4

¹³ Acts 1:9-11

¹⁴ 1 Timothy 2:5

¹⁵ Acts 1:9-11

¹⁶ Acts 5:3-4

¹⁷ John 16:8-13

¹⁸ Titus 3:5

¹⁹ Romans 15:16

²⁰ John 14:16-17

²¹ 1 John 2:20-27

5 Satan

We believe that Satan exists as an evil personality²², the originator of sin²³, the archenemy of God and humankind²⁴.

6 Humanity

We believe that humanity (male and female) was divinely created in the image of God²⁵, that they sinned²⁶, becoming guilty before God, resulting in total depravity²⁷, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death²⁸.

7 Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace²⁹, through faith³⁰ and not of works³¹; that this salvation is instantaneous and not a process;³² that in salvation the sinner is made a partaker of the divine nature³³ and receives eternal life as the gift of God³⁴; that all who are saved by faith in Christ are kept by the power of God unto eternal salvation and shall never perish³⁵; and that the proper evidences of salvation appear in fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life³⁶; that every saved person is justified from all things from which they could not be justified by the law of Moses³⁷.

8 Future Things

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed³⁸, and in the judgment and eternal conscious punishment of the wicked³⁹.

9 The Local Church

We believe that the local church is a company of believers who, having professed personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ⁴⁰, are obedient to the Lord in Baptism by

²² Job 1:6-12

²³ Genesis 3:1-15

²⁴ 1 Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 2:2

²⁵ Genesis 1:27

²⁶ Genesis 3:1-6

²⁷ Romans 5:12-19

²⁸ Romans 6:23

²⁹ Ephesians 2:8

³⁰ Ephesians 2:8, Acts 20:21

³¹ Ephesians 2:9

³² II Corinthians 5:17, John 5:24, Acts 16:30-34

³³ II Peter 1:4

³⁴ Romans 6:23

³⁵ I Peter 1:5, John 10:28-30

³⁶ Ephesians 2:10, I Peter 2:9, I Timothy 6:11, Titus 2:11, 12; 3:8, 14

³⁷ Acts 13:39

³⁸ I Thessalonians 4:16-17, Revelation 1:7; 21:1-5

³⁹ Revelation 20:10-15

⁴⁰ I Corinthians 1:2

immersion⁴¹. They have been called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances⁴².

We believe it is a sovereign, independent body⁴³, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts⁴⁴, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Christ⁴⁵, the Great Head of the Church. We believe the two church offices are Pastors/Elders and Deacons.

10 Ordinances

We believe that there are only two ordinances for the Church regularly observed in the New Testament:

1. **Baptism**, which is the immersion of the believer in water⁴⁶, whereby that person obeys Christ's Command⁴⁷ and sets forth one's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection⁴⁸.
2. **The Lord's Supper**, which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and fruit of the vine, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes⁴⁹.

11 The Church and State

We believe in the entire separation of church and state.⁵⁰

12 Religious Liberty

We believe in religious liberty; that every person has the right to practice and propagate his or her beliefs.⁵¹

13 Sunday

We affirm the tradition of the early church, which recognized the special character of the first day of the week, the day on which our Lord arose from the dead. Although

⁴¹ Acts 2:41

⁴² Acts 2:42-47

⁴³ Acts 13:1-3; Acts 14

⁴⁴ 1 Corinthians 12: 4,8-11

⁴⁵ 1 Timothy 3:1-13

⁴⁶ Acts 8:36-39

⁴⁷ Matthew 28:19

⁴⁸ Romans 6:1-6

⁴⁹ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

⁵⁰ Matthew 22:21

⁵¹ Romans 14:11-12

every day is to be lived for the glory of God in obedience to Christ, the first day of the week is in a special sense an appropriate day for corporate worship and service.⁵²

14 Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society⁵³; that magistrates are to be prayed for⁵⁴, conscientiously honoured and obeyed⁵⁵, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the Kings of the earth⁵⁶.

15 Marriage

We believe that marriage is an institution established by God for the union of one man and one woman for companionship⁵⁷ and usually given to the propagation of children⁵⁸. For definitions of 'man' and 'woman', see definitions outlined in Calvary Baptist Church General Operating Bylaw #1 (Section 1.1).

16 Sanctity of Life

We believe that life is sacred from conception⁵⁹ to natural death⁶⁰ and that any act to prematurely end life, such as abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide, is contrary to the will of God and the teachings of the Bible⁶¹.

⁵² Matthew 28:1-6, Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:2

⁵³ Romans 13:1-7

⁵⁴ 1 Tim 2:1-2

⁵⁵ Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14

⁵⁶ Acts 4:18-2; 5:29

⁵⁷ Genesis 2:18-25; Ephesian 5:31

⁵⁸ Genesis 1:28

⁵⁹ Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5

⁶⁰ Hebrews 9:27

⁶¹ Job 12:10