

Statement of Faith

First Baptist Church

Richmond, Indiana

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Scriptures, in the original writings, are the verbally inspired, infallible, inerrant Word of God. We accept the writings of the Old and New Testaments (66 books) as a reliable transmission of those autographs and the only and final authority for faith and practice (Matthew 5:18; John 10:35; 12:48; 17:17; II Peter 1:21).

2. The Triune God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who created all things and is infinitely perfect in both His love and His holiness (Deuteronomy 6:4). This one and only God eternally exists in three equally divine persons: the Father (Romans 1:7), the Son (Hebrews 1:8), and the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4). Each is co-equal and co-eternal in being, in nature, in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections (2 Corinthians 13:14).

3. Creation

We embrace the Genesis account of creation: that God willed into being the heavens and earth and all that is in them. Man was created perfect in the image of God by a special act of God (Genesis 1:2; Exodus 20:11; Psalms 33:6-9; Mark 10:6; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 11:3).

4. The Fall of Man

We believe in the fall of man; that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God, man became a sinful creature and the originator of a fallen race, universally sinful in both nature and practice, alienated from the life and family of God, with no humanly possible means of recovery or salvation (Genesis 3:1-24; Matthew 29:26; Mark 7:21-23; John 8:42-44; Romans 1:18; 3:29-32; 5:12; 7:18; Ephesians 2:3; 4:18).

5. Salvation

We believe in salvation by grace through faith; that salvation is the free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in any part or in whole by any virtue or work or man, but received only by personal repentance and faith in the perfectly righteous person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom all true believers have as a present possession the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, justification, sonship in the family of God

and every spiritual resource e needed for life and godliness; that this salvation includes the whole man, and apart from Christ there is no possible salvation (John 3:16; 5:24; 6:26; 14:6; Acts 4:12; 16:30-31; Romans 3:22-23; 4:45; 5:18; 11:16; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 1:3; 2:8-9. I Thessalonians 5:23; Titus 3:5; II Peter 1:8, I John 5:13).

6. The Church

We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is a living spiritual body of which Christ Himself is the Head and consists of all born again people. (Matthew 16-18; Acts 1:8; 2:1-13; 2:41-47; 15:14; I Corinthians 12:12-28; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:21; 4:23-33; I Thessalonians 4:13-18) We believe that the local church is a congregation of immersed believers, united together by faith in Christ and by covenant for the purpose of worshiping God, edifying one another, and evangelizing the world (Acts 2:41; Philippians 3:3; Ephesians 4:11-15; I Corinthians 12:4-7; Matthew 28:19-20).

7. Future Life, Bodily Resurrection, Eternal Judgement

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead, the saved to eternal life and blessedness in Heaven and the unsaved to eternal, conscious suffering and woe in Hell (Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-31; John 5:28-29, 6:39-40; Romans 8:23-24; I Corinthians 15:12-58; II Corinthians 5:110; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:14-16; II Peter 2:9; I John 3:2; Jude 13; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8).

8. Marriage and Sexuality

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning and that is marriage sanctioned by God which joins one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:23-25, Matthew 19:4-6). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman (Hebrews 13:4). We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography, or any attempt to change one’s sex, or disagreement with one’s biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God, as is all sin.

9. Sanctity of Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all 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 call to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139.)

10. Prohibitive Statement

First Baptist Church affirms that it will participate in activities outside our local congregation with other churches and/or organizations that align with the First Baptist Church's Statement of Faith. In addition, First Baptist Church affirms that it will allow any of its assets to be used for activities outside our local congregation with other churches and/or organizations that align with First Baptist Church's Statement of Faith. Any activity or asset use as stated above must be approved by the Board of Managers or the Congregation.