

Valley Bible Church

Statement of Faith

SECTION A: ARTICLES OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, hereby referred to as “the Bible”, is the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God; the sole authority for faith and life; inerrant in the original writings; infallible and God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:19; John 12:12-13; Hebrews 4:12).

2. The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit; co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature; co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4, II Corinthians 13:14; Romans 1:17; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3-4; Matthew 28:19).

3. The Person and Work of God the Father

- a. We believe that God is the Father of all human beings by virtue of Him being the Creator. In this capacity He is the author of the plan of God, which specifically includes the creation of the universe and the election of the saints.
- b. We believe that God is the Father of the nation of Israel and that He divinely chose, protects, guides and disciplines the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob according to His written Word (Exodus 4:22; Deuteronomy 7:6-8).
- c. We believe God is the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and that He sent the Son into the world to seek and to save the lost (Matthew 3:17; John 5:37).
- d. We believe that God is the Father of all who believe in Christ and in love He rewards and disciplines His children for their good (Galatians 3:25; Hebrews 12:9; James 1:17).

4. The Person and Work of Christ

- a. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having received by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. (John 1:1-2,14; Luke 1:35; John 14:9).
- b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. (Romans 3:24-25; 4:24-25; 1 Peter 1:3-5,18-19; 2:24; John 10:28, I Corinthians 15:1-8).
- c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to 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 1:9-10; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2; I Timothy 4:5).

5. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a personal being who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 14:16-17; 16:7-15; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 3:6; Romans 8:9-16; Ephesians 1:13-14).
- b. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18).

6. Spiritual Gifts

- a. We believe that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer; that God is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts; and, that these gifts are to be used for the edification and maturing of believers.
- b. We believe that spiritual gifts are not given as a sign of His baptism or filling nor do they provide revelation that adds to or contradicts the Bible. All spiritual gifts are for the common good of the church.
- c. We believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit today does not require signs and wonders to verify it, nor does His presence guarantee abundant wealth or life without illness. His ministry is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit and the

building up of the body into Christ-likeness.

- d. We believe that the expression of the gift of tongues must always comply with the instructions given in the New Testament. Specifically, Paul in 1 Corinthians prioritizes several times over tongues: 10 love, 20 edification of the entire body, 30 unity, and 50 orderly conduct. All of these are evidence of the Spirit acting in the body. (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12-14; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-13; Hebrews 2:2-4; Ephesians 2:19-22)

7. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that is Adam's sin the race 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 1:21-32; 3:22-23; 5:12; 7:18; Ephesians 2:1-2, 12).

8. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Ephesians 1:7; 2-8-10; John 1:1; 3:16; Hebrews 9:12, 28; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

9. Eternal Security and Assurance of Believer

- a. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30, Romans 8:1, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).
- b. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

10. The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made of victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unbiblical. (Romans 6:13; 7:15-23; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

11. Separation

We believe that all the saved should love in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures or associations is commanded of God. (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 2:11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).

12. The Great Commission and Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Bible and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8-12; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

13. The Church

- a. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age and is completely distinct from Israel. (Romans 9-11; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 1:32; 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).
- b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament. (Acts 2:41-47; 11:26; 14:27; 15:4; 20:17; 28:32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
- c. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15, 19, 31; 20:28; Romans 16:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- d. We recognize the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper as a biblical means of testimony for the Church of this age. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

14. The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a personal being, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6, 7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; Ephesians 6:11, Revelation 12:3-9; 20:10).

15. The Second advent of Christ

We believe in that "Blessed Hope," the personal, imminent and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints to establish His millennial kingdom. (I Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; I Corinthians 15:51-57; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

16. The Eternal State

- a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 3:16-18; 5:28-29; Revelation 20:4-6; 11-15; 21:6-8).
- b. We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious bliss they await the resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-18).
- c. We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (Luke 16:19-31; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Mark 9:43-49; Revelation 20:11-15).

SECTION B: COVENANT OF FAITH

In subscribing to these Articles of Faith and Doctrine, we by no means set aside, or undervalue, any of the Bible; but we deem knowledge, belief, and acceptance of the truth as set forth in our Articles of Faith and Doctrine to be essential sound faith and fruitful practice.

SECTION C: ORDINANCES

1. Baptism

We believe that Christ has commanded us to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). We teach and practice immersion of believers in water. It is a personal act, not set forth in the Bible as a condition for salvation, fellowship or church membership, but as a symbol of identification with our Lord's death, burial and resurrection. (Acts 9:18; 10:47-48; Romans 6:2-5).

2. The Lord's Supper

We believe that this is a memorial service established by our Lord Jesus Christ to be observed in remembrance of His death until He comes. The elements are symbolic of His blood and body without supernatural presence or ability. All those who know Jesus Christ as Savior, I and have examined and judged themselves concerning sin, are invited to this table. (Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 11:23-34).