

Doctrinal Statement of Fellowship Bible Church

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

WE BELIEVE the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, in the original languages, to be the verbal, complete, inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed (Matthew 5:18; Luke 24:27, 44; John 16:12-13; Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, 16; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

THE GODHEAD (TRINITY)

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 (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2).

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 born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14, 18; 3:16-18; Acts 4:10-12; Romans 4:25; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 1:1-3).

WE BELIEVE that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as the substitution sacrifice by means of His shed blood; and that our justification is made sure by His literal physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; 5:8; Ephesians 1:7; Hebrews 9:21-22; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24).

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; Romans 8:34; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24; 10:12; 1 John 2:1-2).

PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit ministers to mankind in these ways:

- The world is convicted about sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11).
- At the moment of salvation, the believer is regenerated, baptized by the Holy Spirit into The Body of Christ, and indwelt and sealed unto the day of redemption (John 3:3-7; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 2:13-14; 6:19; 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13).
- He is the Divine Teacher who guides all believers into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27).
- The believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), but the Spirit is grieved or quenched by sin in the life of the believer (Ephesians 4:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:19). Control (filling) by the Holy Spirit is restored by confession of sin (1 John 1:9; 1 Corinthians 11:31). The result is the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- Spiritual gifts are bestowed by the Holy Spirit on every believer (Romans 12:6-8).

THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

WE BELIEVE that Satan is a real, created being, a fallen angel, the author of sin, and the cause of man's fall, and further, he is the open and declared enemy of God and man and shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. We believe that when Satan fell, he retained great power, and he uses demons, fallen angels, the unsaved, and carnal Christians to implement his power (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Ephesians 6:11-12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10).

CREATION

WE BELIEVE all things in heaven and earth were created by God and exist by His power (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:16-17).

WE BELIEVE that man was created innocent and in the image and likeness of God but that he sinned, bringing both physical and spiritual death to himself and his posterity. We believe that man has inherited a sinful nature, is alienated from God, and is in need of salvation (Genesis 1:27; 2:17; 3:19; Ephesians 2:1-3).

SALVATION

WE BELIEVE that salvation is the free 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 (John 1:12; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

THE ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS

WE BELIEVE that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word. Nevertheless, the Christian's life will not be sinless. When Christians do sin, they lose fellowship with God and must confess their sins to God to be restored to fellowship with God (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15; 1 John 1:5-10; 2:1-2).

THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER

WE BELIEVE that every saved person possesses two natures, the old nature and the new nature, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and all claims that the old nature can be eradicated in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 7:18-24; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; 2 Peter 1:3-4; 1 John 3:5-9).

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE

WE BELIEVE that it is the privilege, responsibility, and a commandment of all the saved to live in such a manner so that Christ is exalted as Savior and Lord. This life should be a Spirit-filled life, which means continual submission to the control of the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:13; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 7:1; Galatians 5:16, 22-23; Ephesians 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

WE BELIEVE that God, according to His will, gives spiritual gifts to every Christian. Spiritual gifts were given in the first century of the Church and are listed in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Ephesians 4, to confirm the message of salvation (Hebrews 2:3-4), as a sign to the Jews (1 Corinthians 1:22; 14:22), and to edify (1 Corinthians 14:12, 26) and perfect (Ephesians 4:12) the Church.

WE BELIEVE that all things done in meetings of the church must be done for edification (1 Corinthians 14:26) and must be done properly and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40). On the basis of 1 Corinthians 12-14, we will not allow the exercise of any so-called "tongues" in any of our meetings.

WE BELIEVE that God hears and answers prayers of faith for the sick and afflicted in accordance with His own will (John 15:7; James 5:14-16; 1 John 5:14-15).

WE BELIEVE that Spirit baptism is a union of the believer with Christ. This union takes place at conversion, is never repeated, and the Holy Spirit indwells the believer forever and fills those yielded to Him. We also believe that, other than a changed life, one who has experienced Spirit baptism need not exhibit any physical manifestation of such baptism (Romans 6:1-10; 1 Corinthians 12:13).

MISSIONS (WORLD EVANGELISM)

WE BELIEVE that it is the privilege and obligation of believers to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind. This proclamation involves mankind both at home and abroad. We believe discipleship involves baptism and teaching of the Word, beginning in the Church (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20).

THE CHURCH

WE BELIEVE that the universal church, composed of all born-again persons, is the spiritual body and espoused bride of Christ. It could not have existed until Christ died, since it must have been redeemed by His blood. The universal church began on the day of Pentecost, and could have been formed only by the ministry of the Holy Spirit in baptizing all members into one body (Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27).

WE BELIEVE that the establishment and continuance of local assemblies is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures and is to be made up of born-again persons (Acts 2:42; 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

Membership in a local assembly has no part in salvation (John 1:12; 3:16).

ORDINANCES

WE BELIEVE that water baptism and the Lord's Supper are the only ordinances of the church and that they are a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age. We believe the Lord Jesus Christ instituted for the Church the ordinance of baptism and served the first Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 8:36-38; 10:47-48; 16:30-34; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

WE BELIEVE that the Bible plainly teaches the principle of the spiritual leadership of the men in the family and the Church. Fellowship Bible Church will operate in such a manner so as to encourage this leadership and the development of it. The offices of member of the Board of Directors (Elders), Deacon, and Pastor-Teacher will therefore be limited to the men of the Church. We believe that this policy will strengthen both family and Church (1 Corinthians 11:3).

WE BELIEVE that women are part of the life of the church and the family, having God-ordained roles in each, including prayer and various activities and duties within the Biblical framework (1 Timothy 2:9-15; Proverbs 31:10-31).

THE BLESSED HOPE

WE BELIEVE that the imminent event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the coming of the Lord Jesus in the air to receive to Himself the dead in Christ and believers who are alive at His coming, otherwise known as the "Rapture" and "translation" of the Church (1 Corinthians 15:51-57; Philippians 3:20; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14).

THE TRIBULATION

WE BELIEVE that there will be a seven-year period of trouble on earth, the latter half of which will be especially intense, and which will culminate in the Second Coming of Christ (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-21; Revelation 6:1-17).

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

WE BELIEVE that the great tribulation will be climaxed by the visible, physical return of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His Millennial Kingdom (Zechariah 14:4-11; Matthew 24:15-25, 46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:6).

THE ETERNAL STATE

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 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 state they await the first resurrection, when soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6).

WE BELIEVE that the souls of 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 of Judgment and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment (Matthew 25:41-46; Luke 16:9-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15).