

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The ultimate authority in all matters of faith and practice is the Bible alone, whose truth is clearly set forth in Section One – The Word of God of this Article. The sections below, adopted by the Baptist General Conference in 1951], are an excellent summary of "the things most surely believed among us". The unity which derives from these strongly held beliefs translates into how we must order and conduct our lives.

Section One – The Word of God

We believe the Bible is the word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

II Timothy 3:15-17; II Peter 1:16-21;
Romans 15:4; Colossians 3:16

Section Two – The Trinity

We believe that there is one living and true God; eternally existing in three persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption.

John 1:1-18; 5:19-24; 14:11; 16:7-15;
Matthew 28:16-20.

Section Three – God the Father

We believe in God, the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that he saves from sin all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 46:8-11; 57:14-21; Matthew 5:48; 6:28-34;
I John 5:14

Section Four – Jesus Christ

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

Isaiah 9:1-7; Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; John 10:22-38; Romans 8:34
I Corinthians 15:3-4

Section Five – The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

John 14:15-26; 16:1-14; Romans 8:1-27

Section Six – Regeneration

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 3:23-24; 5:6-21; I Peter 1:18-19; John 3:1-21; Titus 3:1-11;
II Corinthians 5:14-21; 6:1

Section Seven – The Church

We believe in the universal church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

Ephesians 4:1-5:7; Acts 2:46-48; Romans 12:5;
Matthew 16:13-19; 18:15-20; 28:19-20

Section Eight – Christian Conduct

We believe that a Christian should live for the glory of God and the well being of his fellow men; that his conduct should be blameless before the world; and that he should be a faithful steward of his possessions, and that he should seek to realize for himself and others the full stature of maturity in Christ.

Matthew 5:3-12; Colossians 3:1-17; I Corinthians 4:23

Section Nine – The Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has committed two ordinances to the local church, baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the triune God. We believe that the Lord's Supper was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His death. We believe that these two ordinances should be observed and administered until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 26:26-29; 28:16-20; Acts 2:38
I Corinthians 11:23-26

Section Ten – Religious Liberty

We believe that every human being has direct relations with God, and is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith; that each church is independent and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from dictation or patronage of the other.

Colossians 2:6-23; I Corinthians 10:23-24;
Matthew 22:15-22; Romans 13:1-14

[1] Scriptural references have been added to the BGC statement