

# Statement of Faith

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments in their original writings with God as their author and written by men divinely inspired by God. The Scriptures are inerrant and authoritative. They do not merely contain the Word of God but are the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

We believe in one God, creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing eternally in three equal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate Glory, in His virgin birth, true humanity, sinless life, substitutionary and propitiatory death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension into heaven; His present life as our High Priest and Advocate and His personal return.

We believe in the absolute and essential Deity and personality of the Holy Spirit who convinces men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment; who regenerates, abides in, sanctifies, illuminates, comforts, encourages and equips for service the body of Jesus Christ.

We believe in the personal existence of Satan as one who is totally evil and who is the originator of sin, the arch enemy of God and man.

We believe that Adam was immediately and specially created by God after His own image and holiness, to enjoy perfect fellowship and communion with Him; that the historic fall of man from his original righteousness was the result of the one sin of Adam as head and representative of the human race; that as a consequence of Adam's sin, all mankind is born into the world under the guilt and condemnation of sin (imputed to it), in possession of a sinful nature, corrupt in every part, under the wrath of God, and subject to eternal death, the punishment of sin and that sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.

We believe that none but those who exercise repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved and that salvation is by the sovereign grace of God; that justification is by faith alone in the all sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and that those who are saved shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ; in the resurrection of the just and the unjust; in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed and in the judgment and conscious, eternal punishment of the wicked. A position on the exact timing and sequence of eschatological events will never exclude anyone from membership or eldership of this Church.

We believe that a church is a company of believers who have been called out from the world to worship God, 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 ordinances which are baptism and the Lord's supper; that the local church is the manifestation of the universal church and is fully autonomous, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Christ, the great head of the church, and in the priesthood of all believers; and that the elders (also called pastors and bishops in the Bible) have oversight over the church assisted by appointed servants.

We believe in the priesthood of all believers by which we understand that each Christian has direct access to God through Christ our High Priest, and is involved in the work of reconciliation which consists of intercession, worship, faithful service and bearing witness to Jesus Christ, even to the end of the earth.

We believe in the principle of religious liberty, namely that no individual should be coerced either by State or by any secular, ecclesiastical or religious group in matters of faith; the right of private conscience is to be respected which for each believer means the right to interpret Scripture responsibly, however the infallible rules for interpreting Scripture and understanding it are that it must always be within its context, by comparison with other relevant portions, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God has sanctioned marriage only between one man and one woman, therefore we believe that the only sexual relationship ordained by God and acceptable in the Bible is a consensual sexual relationship between a natural man and a natural woman within the confines of lawful matrimony. Adherence to this stated principle of sexual behaviour is an inherent requirement for membership of the Hillcrest Baptist Church.

