

Landmark Baptist Church Statement of Faith

What we believe: Our statements of faith

The Authority of the Bible

The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the verbally inspired Word of God, they are without error in the original writings, and they are the complete and final revelation of God. (*Matthew 5:18; John 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:18-19*)

The Trinity of God

There is only one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Who are co-equal in their essential nature, attributes, and perfection; and each of Whom is to be honored and worshiped as God. (*Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 18:30-31, 147:5; Matthew 28:19; Mark 12:29; Luke 3:22; John 4:24, 5:23, 10:30, 14:9; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-3*)

The Person of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is God the Son, the promised Messiah, conceived in the flesh by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, true God and true man, lived a sinless life, and is the only mediator between God and Man. (*Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7; Matthew 1:18-25; Mark 14:61-62; John 1:1-3, 14, 29, 5:18, 8:58, 10:30; II Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:2-9, 2:14-15, 4:15; I Peter 2:22; I John 3:5, 5:20*)

The Work of Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, through His death on the cross, paid for all sin, completely satisfied the righteous wrath of God against sin, and provided redemption and forgiveness for all who believe. After His death, Jesus Christ arose bodily from the dead, was seen by many during a period of forty days, and then ascended into Heaven where He is seated at the right hand of God as our Advocate and High Priest, from which place He will someday return to establish His Kingdom on earth. (*Isaiah 53:5-6; Luke 24:36-43; John 1:18, 3:16, 20:25-28; Acts 1:6-11; Romans 3:21-26; I Corinthians 15:3-8, 20-23; Galatians 3:13; Colossians 1:13-14; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13-14; I Peter 1:18-19, 2:24; I John 2:1-2; Revelation 20:6*)

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is that Person of the Trinity who convicts men of sin, causes spiritual birth, indwells, seals, sanctifies, guides, equips, teaches, and fills the believer, thus enabling him to walk in obedience to God and His Word. (*John 3:5, 14:16-17, 26, 15:26-27, 16:7-15; Acts 1:8, 5:3-4; Romans 8:9, 14; I Corinthians 2:10-12, 6:11, 19, 12:4-13; II Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-18, 22-23; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, 5:18-21*)

The Creation Week

God created all that is, in six literal 24-hour days and rested on the seventh literal 24-hour day. God stated that His creation was "very good." (*Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11, 31:17*)

Satan

Satan is the instigator of evil and a real spirit being, not simply the personification of evil. He is a fallen angel who, under the sovereign permission of God, has been given temporary rulership of the earth. He was utterly defeated at the cross, but the execution of his judgment has been postponed by God until after the Millennial Kingdom when he will be cast into the eternal lake of fire. In the meantime, he deceives the world and seeks to establish his counterfeit kingdom on earth to discredit and blaspheme God and to tempt, accuse, attack and destroy believers. He can be resisted by the believer through faith and reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit (*Gen. 3:1-5; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Job 1-2; 1 John 5:19; 2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Tim. 3:6; James 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Rev. 12:9, Rev. 20:1-3, Rev. 7-10*).

The Fall of Man

Man was created by God in His own image on the sixth day and placed in the Garden of Eden; he fell into sin through personal disobedience to the revealed will of God; and as a result, all mankind is sinful in nature and practice, is unable to save themselves, and faces eternal separation from God. (*Genesis 1:26-28, 2:7, 18-24, 3:1-24, 9:6; Matthew 19:4; Mark 7:21-23; John 8:42-44; Romans 1:18, 3:10, 23, 5:1; Ephesians 2:1-3*)

The Salvation of Man

Eternal salvation from sin, death and hell is the free gift of God's grace, and is based solely upon man's personal faith and belief in Jesus Christ. He voluntarily died in our place as a substitutionary sacrifice for our sins and arose bodily from the dead, thus guaranteeing our own resurrection to eternal life. This salvation is not received by, nor based on, any sacrament, merit, or good work on our part. This one who receives Christ's salvation is eternally secure. Upon salvation the Holy Spirit leads us to obey God, love Him supremely and others sacrificially. (*John 1:11-13, 3:16, 5:24, 10:28-30, 14:6, 15:15-17; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:23-26, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 7:24-25; I Peter 1:18-19, 1:22-23; I John 4:11-17, 5:11-13*)

The Destiny of Man

At death, the redeemed pass immediately into the presence of Christ and there remain in joyful fellowship until their bodily resurrection unto life. The unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until their bodily resurrection resulting in eternal damnation. (*Daniel 12:2; Luke 16:22-23, 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; Philipians 3:10-11, 21; Revelation 20:11-15*)

The Nature and Organization of the Church

All who have placed their faith in Christ are united together immediately by the Holy Spirit in one spiritual body, the church, of which Christ is the Head. In addition, the members of this one spiritual body are directed to associate themselves together in local churches. (*Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:46-47; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 10:25*)

These local independent churches have been given the needed authority and scriptural guidelines for administering that order, discipline, and worship which Christ, the

sovereign head, had appointed. The biblically designed officers serving under Christ and over the church are pastors and deacons. (*Acts 6:1-6, Ephesians 4:11-12; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-5*)

The Ordinances of the Church

Two ordinances have been committed to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion). Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This ordinance, being a command of Christ, is recognized as a prerequisite for membership in the local church. Likewise, Communion was instituted by Christ for commemoration of His atoning death. These two ordinances are to be observed until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Neither of these ordinances are the means of salvation; however, when celebrated in genuine faith they confirm and nourish the believer and the church body. (*Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 9:23, 22:19-20; Acts 2:41, 10:47-48; Romans 3:21-27; I Corinthians 10:16-17, 11:23-29; Ephesians 2:8-9, 4:4-6; Hebrews 9:22; I Peter 3:21*)

Marriage

Marriage is a sacred covenant instituted and ordained by God and defined by Holy Scripture as being exclusively between one man and one woman. (*Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23*)

Future Events

One of the coming great events in the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the church is the personal, bodily return of the Lord to remove from the earth His waiting church and to reward them according to their works. (*John 14:2-3; Romans 14:10-12; I Corinthians 3:11-15, 15:51-53, II Corinthians 5:10; I Thessalonians 4:15-17; Titus 2:11-13; Revelation 3:10*)

Another event yet to come is the seven year period of tribulation during which the judgements of God will be poured out upon the unbelieving world. These judgements will climax with the return of Christ in glory to the earth. He will destroy His enemies and restore Israel to her land. (*Daniel 9:27, 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:15-31, 25:31-46; II Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 16:1-19, 21, 19:1-21*)

Christ will then establish His thousand-year kingdom in which the saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the earth. (*Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:1-16, 65:17-25; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Revelation 19:11, 20:1-6*)

At the close of the thousand year reign the unsaved dead will be raised and committed to eternal punishment and the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God. (*Mark 9:43-48; I Corinthians 15:24-28; II Thessalonians 1:9; II Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-4, 22:5, 11*)

THE AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All Scripture references are applicable to the statement of faith and should be applied within the passage's context. All literature used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.