

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH

GODFREY, ILLINOIS

CONFESSION OF FAITH

A. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore has truth without any mixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinion shall be tried. (II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21)

B. Of the True God

We believe there is one and only one, living and true God, an infinite and intelligent Spirit and Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressible glorious and holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the God-head there are three persons, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Ex. 20:2,3; I Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11, I John 5:7)

C. Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation, that in His relation to the unbelieving world restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled, that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement, that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony, that He is the agent in the New Birth, that He seals, baptizes, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. (John 14:16, 17; Matt. 28:19, Heb. 9:14; John 14:62; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5, 6; Eph. 1:13,14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Rom. 8:14, 16, 26, 27)

D. Of the Devil or Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan; that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgement of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Matt. 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10)

E. Of the Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. (Gen. 1 and 2; Col. 1:16, 17; John 1:3)

F. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. (Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom. 3:10-19; Rom. 1:18, 32)

G. Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or ever can be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God of Son. (Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14)

H. Of the Atonement of Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace. That the Lord Jesus Christ, appointed by the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, and yet was sinless. He honored the divine law by personal obedience and by His death as a voluntary substitution in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust. He bore our sins in His own body on the cross and is now enthroned in Heaven uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Savior. (Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 8:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21)

I. Of Justification

We believe that the great blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification.

1. Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness.
2. That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but

solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed to us. (Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 3:1; Eph. 2:8, 9; Rom. 5:1, 9)

J. Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. (Acts 16:31)

K. Of the Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word, that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; we believe the true mission the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only true superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit, that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole judge of the measure and method of government, of discipline, of benevolence; the will of the local church is final. (Acts 2:41, 42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22, 23; Eph. 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:17; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23, 24; Acts 15:13-18)

L. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ as a sign and seal of a person's faith, of their regeneration, of their remission of sins and of their giving up unto God through Jesus Christ, to walk in newness of life. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded always by a solemn self-examination. (Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; I Cor. 11:23-28)

M. Of the Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. (Phil. 1:6; John 10:28, 29; Rom. 8:35-38; Jude 1)

N. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in His esteem. While all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the ever-lasting conscious suffering of the lost. (Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17, 18, 23; I John 5:19; Rom. 7:6; Prov. 14:32; Luke 6:25; Matt. 25:34-41; John 3:21)

O. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment. For the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscious and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. (Rom. 13:17, II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21,22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:20; Acts 4:19, 20; Dan. 3:17-18)

P. Of the Resurrection, Personal, Visible, Premillennial Return of Christ and Related Events

1. We believe in the bodily Resurrection. (Matt 28:6, 7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6)
2. The Ascension (Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 2:21; Heb. 12:2)
3. The High Priesthood (Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9, 10)
4. The Second Coming (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thes. 4:16; James 5:8; Heb. 9:28)
5. The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead (I Thes. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:22-42; I Cor. 15:52)
6. The Change of the Living in Christ (I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thes. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20, 21)
7. The Throne of David (Luke 1:32; Isa. 9:6, 7; Acts 2:29, 30)
8. The Millennial Reign (I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 32:1; Isa. 11:4, 5; Rev. 20:14; Rev. 20:6)

Q. Of Social Issues

1. Abortion is a sinful violation of God's will in regard to human life. We believe that life begins at the point of conception and is from that point sacred. (Numbers 35:29-34; II Kings 24:4)
2. Homosexual activity of any sort is a sinful perversion of God's distinctive plan and purpose of the sexes. Any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5-13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:22, Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; I Cor. 6:9-10; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

3. Standards for marriage: Whereas Faith Baptist Church is dedicated to upholding God's standards as set forth in the Bible and Whereas Faith Baptist Church realizes the importance of an individual's testimony and that it is compatible with God's standards

Therefore, be it resolved that Faith Baptist Church shall adopt the following:

God has ordained marriage and the only scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. Because we believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage, the church will not hire nor retain personnel who live inconsistent with this standard.

Church members who violate God's standards for marriage will be subject to church discipline. **Accordingly, this church and its pastors will not solemnize or officiate a civil union, and will not take any action in support of a civil union such as granting church membership to one or both parties to such a union.**

Genesis 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Heb. 13:4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled; but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.