

Community Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

The Scriptures

The Bible is the supreme and final authority for faith and conduct. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired by God, inerrant and infallible in their original writing.

Psalm 119:89, "Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven."

2 Timothy 3:16-17, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

The True God

There is one God and Creator, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Deuteronomy 6:4, "Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one!"

Isaiah 45: 5-7, "I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, that they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting that there is none besides me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity, I, the LORD, do all these things."

The Father

God reveals Himself as the Father Who concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of humanity. He hears and answers prayers, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ His Son.

James 1:17-18, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of His creatures."

The Son

Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is both true God and true Man.

John 1:1, 14a "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

Christ died for our sins, making atonement for us by His substitutionary death on the cross

1 John 2:2, "And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the whole world."

Christ rose bodily from the grave, ascended into Heaven, and continues there as High Priest and Advocate.

Hebrews 4:14-16, "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is fully equal to, and of the same nature as, the Father and Son. The Spirit's activities draw people to Christ, convicting and converting sinners. He indwells believers upon salvation, teaching, guiding, empowering, preserving, and making them holy.

Galatians 5:16, "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. (John 15:26) And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...(John 16:8) I say then walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."

Angels

The Holy angels are God's ministering spirits.

Hebrews 1:13, "Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"

Satan and the unholy angels (demons) oppose God's people and God's program.

Ephesians 6:11-12, "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age..."

Humanity

People were created sinless in the image of God

Genesis 1:26, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness..."

But they willfully sinned and thereby incurred both physical and spiritual death - separating us from God.

Romans 5:12, "Therefore, just as through one man entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."

As a result, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners in thought, word and deed.

Romans 3:10, 23 "There is none righteous, no not one...For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."

Salvation

Eternal life is offered by God as a free gift to all who will receive it.

Romans 10:13, "For whoever calls upon the name of the LORD shall be saved."

Salvation is the instantaneous result of simple faith in Christ's substitutionary death and resurrection.

Romans 10:9-10, "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation."

Salvation is provided solely by the grace of God, not by any type of human effort or good works.

Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast."

All who are truly saved (born again) cannot lose their salvation.

John 10:28, "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Church

The Church is God's present program of calling out both Gentiles and Jews into one unique entity in Christ.

Ephesians 2:14, "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of division between us."

The local Church is a self-governing assembly of born-again, baptized Believers.

Acts 2:41, "Then those who gladly received His word were baptized, and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."

It has two types of officers, Pastors (also known as Elders or Overseers) and Deacons (1 Timothy 3:1-13). There are two ordinances, baptism by immersion (Acts 8:12, 38-39) and communion (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

The Word of God is taught and lived out so that Christians are built up, the Lord is worshipped and the Gospel is presented to the lost.

Acts 2:42, "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Last Things

Christ will return for His Church in the "rapture" which could occur at any moment

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."

A tribulation period will follow on the earth (Revelation chapters 6-19), culminated by the second coming of Christ (Revelation 19:11-20:6). He will establish His kingdom (including a restored Israel, Jeremiah 31:35-37) for 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-6). There will be bodily resurrections of the just and the unjust, with everlasting blessedness in Heaven for the saved, and everlasting punishment in Hell for the lost.

John 5:26-27, "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man."

Position Statements of Community Baptist Church

These statements are intended to clarify our convictions on select current issues. In all things, it is our goal to speak the truth in love.

1 Timothy 1:5, "Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith..."

1 John 4:1, "And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ...Philippians 1:9-10...Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Ecumenical Movement

Local Churches are encouraged to cooperate and share their burdens and blessings (Acts 15, 16:4-5, 2 Corinthians 8:1-11). However, organizational cooperation with apostates (those who deny fundamental teachings of Christianity), unbelievers, or unethical ministries is not permitted by Scripture.

2 Corinthians 6:14-15, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a Believer with an unbeliever?"

Romans 16:17, "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them."

2 Thessalonians 3:6, "But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us."

Charismatic (and "Signs and Wonders") Movement

We believe that many people misunderstand the concept of speaking in tongues, faith healing, and Spirit baptism, as seen in the Scriptures. These sign gifts had a unique part in the founding of the Church, serving to authenticate the Apostle's ministry and message.

2 Corinthians 12:12, "Truly the signs of an Apostle were accomplished among you with all perseverance, in signs and wonders and mighty deeds..."

Hebrews 2:3-4, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?"

These sign gifts also served to communicate spiritual truth prior to the issuance of the full canon of Scripture (1 Corinthians 14:3-4) and to present a "sign" to unbelieving Jews (1 Corinthians 14:21-22). We believe these gifts are not in normal operation today. Spirit baptism is not a "second blessing" subsequent to salvation, but rather an immediate event which occurs at the moment of conversion.

1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - whether Jews or Greeks..."

Romans 8:9, "But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.