

# Our Beliefs

## OUR SALVATION

Repentance, the forgiveness of our sin, becoming a part of God's family, having a personal relationship with God and eternal life cannot be earned. They are not received through religious ceremonies or good deeds. Sin cannot be removed through our own efforts. A Savior is needed.

Our sins have been forgiven through Christ's substitutionary death, our faith in Christ and His death, and God's grace. Our forgiveness is a free gift, which we receive through faith.

*"For God so **loved** the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* John 3:16

*"For it is by **grace** you have been saved, through **faith**—and this not from **yourselves**, it is the **gift** of God—not by **works**, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* Ephesians 2:8-10

## ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **We believe** the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of human beings, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).
2. **We believe** in one God, Creator of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit- who are equal in every perfection, the same in essence and attributes, and who exercise distinct but harmonious functions. (1 Corinthians. 8:4; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:29; Romans 15:6; John 1:1-2,14,18; Acts 5:3-4).
3. **We believe** that Jesus Christ is God the Son of God who is eternal, was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, is true God and true man and is the only and sufficient mediator between God and man. (Matthew 1:20; 1 John 5:20; John 1:1-2,14; 3:16; 1 Timothy 2:5).
4. **We believe** that the Holy Spirit is God the Spirit. He has been eternally active in achieving the purposes of God. His present ministry is to convict the unsaved world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate the unbelieving, baptize, seal, teach, sanctify and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ; and to grant to these believers gifts

to be used in their particular ministry to Christ's body, the church. (Acts 5:3-4; Genesis 1:1-2; 1 Corinthians 1:23-24; John 16:8-11; Ephesians 1:13; 2:1-7; 4:30; 1 Corinthians 12:4-12; 1 John 2:20-27).

5. **We believe** that man and woman were created by God in His own image and that they willfully chose to sin and thereby incurred both physical and spiritual death. We believe that all people by nature and by choice are sinners and, apart from Christ, shall be separated from God. (Genesis 1:26; 3:1-7; Ezekiel 18:20; Romans 1:18-25; 3:23; 6:23).

6. **We believe** that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him as Lord and Savior are justified on the grounds of His shed blood and His righteousness which is imputed to us. (1 Corinthians 15:3,4; 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 9:22; Romans 4 & 5).

7. **We believe** that salvation is by grace through faith, not of works, and that all who receive by faith Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God. We believe the true believer is eternally saved. (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:3; 7:1-2; 10:27-29).

8. **We believe** that Jesus Christ rose from the dead in bodily form, ascended into heaven and is sitting at the right hand of God the Father, where He acts as our High Priest and Advocate. We believe in His personal, visible, imminent return to set up His kingdom upon the earth. We believe that this "Blessed Hope" has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer. (Luke 24:1-50; Acts 1:8-11; Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:9-18; 4:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 19:1 - 20:14; 21:1-8).

9. **We believe** in the bodily resurrection of the dead; of the believer to everlasting blessedness and joy with the Lord in heaven, of the unbeliever to judgment and everlasting conscious punishment in hell. (Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 16:19-31; 1 Corinthians 15:20-24; 2 Corinthians 5:1-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:1-2).

10. **We believe** that the local church is a self-governing, voluntary association of baptized believers equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority. (Acts 2, 6, 15).

11. **We believe** Jesus Christ left His Church only two ordinances; baptism and the Lord's Supper (or communion.) God's Word commands every believer to be baptized by immersion in water. Though baptism has no saving merit, it symbolizes the believer's faith in, and union with, the crucified, buried and risen Savior. The Lord's Supper is a memorial observance using the bread and the cup as symbols of Jesus Christ giving His body and blood for the payment of our sins. It is to be partaken of by saved individuals in commemoration of Christ's suffering and death and in anticipation of His coming again.

Its observance is to be preceded by faithful Spirit-led self-examination. (Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-20; Matthew 28:19-20).

## **CHURCH DISCIPLINE**

- A. Although God disciplines His children for personal sin (1 Corinthians 11:27-30; Hebrews 12:4-11), He commands the church to discipline believers who commit public sin and/or sin which affects the church, the Body of Christ. This includes, but is not limited to, unresolved personal conflict (Matthew 18:15-20), divisiveness (Romans 16:17-18; Titus 3:10); false teaching (1 Timothy 1:20; Titus 1:10-16; 2 John 9-11); a lifestyle contrary to Scripture (Galatians 2:11-21; Ephesians 5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 2 Timothy 3:2-5), and open sexual immorality (1 Corinthians 5:1-13).
- B. Discipline is a loving act that is intended to restore an erring believer through repentance and reconciliation according to the following principles and procedures:
1. Before one confronts an errant believer, one must first examine himself, noting his own weaknesses and the motive for the confrontation (Matthew 7:3-5; Galatians 6:1).
  2. One should lovingly confront the errant believer privately (Matthew 18:15).
  3. If the offender will not listen, then he/she should be confronted with two or three witnesses (Matthew 18:16).
  4. If no progress is made, the matter should be brought to the elders who will lovingly admonish the erring believer. If the member in question "refuses to listen to them" and a proper solution in line with the Scriptures and the church's faith and practice cannot be worked out, the elders shall "tell it to the church" (Matthew 18:17) at a Special Business Meeting called for that purpose.
  5. If the erring believer fails to repent, the church will vote to remove him/her from membership. A three-quarter majority of members present and voting shall be required to remove a person from membership. If such a vote is approved the erring believer will not only be removed from membership but will also be excommunicated from the fellowship. (Matthew 18:17; 1 Corinthians: 5:1-13).
  6. If, at any point in this process the erring believer repents of his/her sin, he/she will be restored to fellowship and membership in good standing (2 Corinthians 2:5-11). However, restoration to any former boards, committees or leadership positions must be recommended by the Nominating Committee and approved by the church membership at either a special or regular business meeting.

## **DISPUTES BETWEEN BELIEVERS**

When a believer has a dispute with another believer, such matters should be settled in the Church and not through lawsuits (1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, the members of this

Church will not pursue legal action or sue the pastors, elders, or other officers and staff of this Church in connection with the performance of their official duties which includes, but is not limited to, church discipline.

# Our Statement of Commitment

As a member of Jackson Baptist Church I commit myself:

1. **To attend worship regularly.**
2. **To walk lovingly and humbly with my fellow believers**, to pray for them and to separate myself from worldly and unchristian practices. To pray for the advancement of this church in knowledge, spiritual growth and fruitfulness, to uphold its ministries; to observe its ordinances and affirm its teachings.
3. **To give regularly and cheerfully** as God prospers for the support of the church's ministries, for the relief of the needy and for the spread of the Gospel both here in Jackson and around the world.
4. **To serve faithfully** in some ministry in the church body according to God's leading and according to my spiritual gifts and abilities, taking care to assume only such duties as can be effectively performed and to improve my service through the prayerful study of God's Word.
5. **To maintain family worship, training and discipline in my home.** To encourage family prayer, Bible study and spiritual growth for any under my care.
6. **To endeavor to point people to Christ** through my example and to do my part in building them up in the faith.
7. **To follow the teachings of the Bible** as my rule of faith and practice.
8. **To endeavor to understand and appreciate my fellow members** in the church who have personalities, ministries and backgrounds different than mine.