

ARTICLE XV
**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF
METRO BAPTIST CHURCH**

II TIMOTHY 3:14

*"But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of,
knowing of whom thou hast learned them; "*

I. WE BELIEVE THAT THE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF GOD.

We believe the King James Bible is the pure, perfect, and preserved word of God for the English language. We believe that it is the verbally (every word) and plenary (completely) inspired revelation of God to man. We believe that it is inerrant, infallible, fully God-breathed, altogether sufficient, and forever settled in Heaven. We believe that it is absolute truth and therefore is the final authority for all matters of faith, practice, doctrine, conduct, and life. Since the Bible was written supernaturally by Holy Spirit guided men, we believe that it does not only contain or convey the Word of God, but actually IS the very Word of God. We believe the Bible is the incorruptible seed that endureth, liveth, and abideth forever. We reject any version that adds to or subtracts from the King James Bible and consider it to be corruptible seed.

Psalm 12:6-7

Psalm 19:7-11

Provo 30:5-6

II Tim. 3:16-17

John 17:17

Psalm 119:89

Matt. 4:4

II Peter 1:19-21

Rev. 22:18-19

I Peter 1:23-25

II. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GOD OF THE BIBLE IS THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE GOD.

We believe that there is only one true God, eternally existing in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe in the Trinity of the Godhead. We believe that these are three distinct persons, yet each is equal in power, glory, perfection, and desires. We believe that each person of the Godhead is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent.

John 17:3

Matt. 28:19

I John 5:7

Psalm 139:7-10

I John 5:20

Gen. 1:26

Psalm 147:5

Jer.32:27

A. GOD THE FATHER

We believe that God the Father is perfect in His holiness, infinite in His wisdom, and measureless in His power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself

mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all that come to Him through Jesus Christ.

Matt. 6:9
Luke 12:30

John 5:23-24
Matt. 11:25

B. GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son. He is God come in the flesh. We believe in the Deity of Christ, that He is true God. We also believe in the humanity of Christ, that He is true man. We believe that He is the Son of God. We believe in the miraculous virgin birth of Jesus Christ. We believe that Jesus Christ lived an entirely perfect and sinless life while on this earth though tempted *in* all points like as we are. We believe in the vicarious (substitutionary) death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross. We believe that Christ rose bodily from the grave after three days, conquering death. We believe that Jesus ascended bodily up into heaven and now sits on the right hand of God the Father, making intercession for His children.

Heb.1:8
Is. 9:6
Luke 1:35
I Tim. 2:5
Is. 7:14

Heb.4:15
Is. 53:5
Rom 4:25
Heb.9:24
John 1:1-2, 14

C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit is a person, possessing all the attributes of Deity. We do not believe that He is the author of confusion concerning the tongues movement of this church age. We believe the Holy Spirit regenerates, indwells, and seals the believing sinner who trusts Christ as his Savior. The believer does not get more of the Holy Spirit but the Holy Spirit more of the believer. The Holy Spirit convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment. His ministry is the testimony of Jesus Christ, not the testimony of Himself.

I Cor. 14:33
Titus 3:5-6
I Cor. 3:16
John 14:16-17

II Cor. 1:22
Eph. 1:13-14
Gal. 5:22
John 16:8

III. WE BELIEVE THAT THE GENESIS ACCOUNT OF CREATION IS THE TRUTH.

We believe that what you believe about your origin will determine your philosophy of life. We believe creation was a direct act of God, literal days, instantaneous, and miraculous. We believe that God created all things with the power of His Word. We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God. We reject all theories of evolution and science falsely so-called.

Gen. 1: 1, 26-27
Psalm 33:6, 9

John 1:3
I Tim. 6:20

IV. WE BELIEVE THAT MAN IS TOTALLY DEPRAVED.

We believe that man was created in the image of God, and by choice fell into sin and death. Hence, every person is sinful and under condemnation to eternal judgment. Man is wicked, corrupt, and are all under sin. All men are universally sinful both by nature and choice. Because of this, all are alienated from the family of God, without excuse, under the righteous judgment and wrath of God, and has within himself no possible means of salvation.

Gen. 1:27
Rom. 3:10-12, 23
Rom. 5:12-14; 6:23
I John 1:8-10

Is. 53:6
Rom. 1:19-20
Psalm 51:5

V. WE BELIEVE THAT SALVATION IS BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH.

We believe that the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ is the only basis for salvation. No man cometh to God except through His Son. We believe salvation is a free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part nor in whole by any virtue or work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe there is no possible way of salvation outside of Jesus Christ and His shed blood. We believe that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner but his own depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel. We believe that anyone who accepts Christ as their personal Savior is eternally secure.

John 3:14-18, 36
Eph.2:8-9
Titus 3:5-6
John 14:6

Rom. 10:9-13
Acts 16:31
John 10:27-30
I John 5:12

VI. WE BELIEVE THAT HEAVEN IS REAL.

We believe that Heaven is a real, literal physical place. We believe that Heaven is a place of indescribable beauty and glory. We believe that Heaven is the final eternal dwelling place of all the saved and that anyone who trusts Christ will live in blessedness with God there forever.

Rev. 21:1-27
Matt. 25:46

John 14:1-3
Rom. 6:23

VII. WE BELIEVE THAT HELL IS REAL.

We believe that Hell is a real, literal, physical place. We believe that Hell is a place of indescribable torment and punishment. We believe that Hell is the final dwelling place of all the lost and that those who reject the Gospel will burn in the fires of this horrible place without God forever.

Luke 16:19-31
Rev. 20:14-15

Matt. 25:46
Rom. 6:23

VIII. WE BELIEVE THAT SATAN IS REAL.

We believe that Satan (also known as the devil and Lucifer) was originally created a holy being who enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God. Satan fell and drew after him a host of angels. We believe that he is the great adversary of God and His people, the deceiver and god of this present world. We believe Satan is the author of all false religions and all the power of darkness. Though he is utterly depraved in character and the leader of all other evil angels and wicked spirits, we believe that he was defeated at the cross of Calvary and that his final doom is certain.

Is. 14:12-15
Ez.28:14-17

I Peter 5:8
I John 3:8

Rev. 12:9-11; 20:10
II Cor. 4:3-4

IX. WE BELIEVE THAT SEPARATION IS SCRIPTURAL.

We believe that both ecclesiastical and personal separation is commanded and taught in the Bible. We believe that all believers should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord, and in such a manner as not to cause other Christians to stumble. We believe that Christians and churches should separate themselves from all religious apostasy and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations.

II Tim. 3:1-5
Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13

II Cor. 6:14-18
II John 9-11

I Peter 2:9
I John 2:15-17

X. WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS COMING AGAIN.

We believe that the return of Jesus Christ our Lord is imminent. We believe that He is coming again in the air at any moment to catch up His children (the rapture). Those left behind will go through a period called the "Tribulation", after which Christ will return to the earth (second coming) to set up His kingdom of one thousand years of righteous rule. During the seven years of tribulation on earth, the Judgment Seat of Christ and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place with Christ in the air. After all of this the unbelievers will stand at the Great White Throne Judgment and be separated from God forever in the Lake of Fire while the believers will spend eternity

in the fullness of joy in Heaven with the Lord. We believe that Christ's return will be visible, bodily and personal.

I Thess. 4:16-18
Matt. 24:29-42
Rev. 4:1-3

Rev. 19:11-20:15
Acts 1:11
Matt. 25:31-34

XI. WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS STARTED A LOCAL, BAPTIST CHURCH.

We believe that a scriptural church is a visible, local congregation of born-again baptized believers associated by a covenant in the 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 the Word. We believe that Christ started His church during His earthly ministry. We reject the doctrine of the universal, invisible church. We do not believe that all Christians will become a church until the rapture. We believe that the true church of Christ will have the following distinctives:

- A. *Christ is its Head and Founder.***
Matt. 16:18; Col. 1:18
- B. *The Bible is its only rule of faith and practice.***
II Tim. 3:15-17
- C. *Baptism followed by the Lord's Supper are its only two ordinances.***
Acts 2:37-47; I Cor. 11:23-34; Matt. 28:16-20
- D. *Pastors and deacons are its only two offices.***
I Tim. 3:1-16
- E. *The Great Commission is its work.***
Matt. 28:16-20
- F. *Saved and Baptized people are its members.***
Acts 2:37-47
- G. *Separation of church and state is its principle.***
Matt. 22:21
- H. *"All members equal" is its polity.***
Matt. 20:24-28; Matt. 23:5-12
- L. *Immersion after regeneration is its baptism.***
Acts 8:35-38
- J. *Soul-winning and missions is its method.***
Acts 20:20; Acts 1:8; Mark 16:15
- K. *"Jesus Saves" is its message.***
Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 10:13

I Cor. 12:28
Acts 1:21-22
Matt. 3:1-2