



## STATEMENT OF FAITH

**DOCTRINE OF THE BIBLE:** We believe that the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, is inspired by the Holy Spirit and is the inerrant Word of God (John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21). We believe the original manuscripts were inspired, and we seek to use accurate, faithful translations that reflect those manuscripts. Inspiration and inerrancy extend to both the totality of the Bible as well as its specific words. The Bible is to be our sole rule of faith and practice (Psalm 119:105; Matthew 4:4). It is God's infallible, completed revelation to mankind and should be interpreted literally (grammatically and historically) (Revelation 22:18-19). The Spirit of God illuminates the believer in his understanding of the Bible (John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 2:14).

**DOCTRINE OF GOD:** We believe that the God of the Bible is the one true God (Deuteronomy 4:35, 39; 6:4; Isaiah 45:21-22; John 17:3; 1 Timothy 2:5). God is one in essence and exists eternally in three distinct persons: God the Father (Matthew 11:25; John 5:37; 6:27; Galatians 4:4), God the Son (John 1:1, 18; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 5:20), and God the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14). These three persons of the Trinity are coexistent, coeternal, and coequal (Matthew 3:16-17; 1 Peter 1:2). We believe that God created the universe out of nothing (Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:3) in six literal days (Genesis 1-2) and continues to exercise sovereign control over His creation (1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalm 115:3; Daniel 4:34-35), preserving it until the day of judgment (2 Peter 3:7).

**DOCTRINE OF CHRIST:** We believe that Jesus Christ is God's divine Son (Matthew 1:23; John 1:1, 14; 10:30; Galatians 4:4) and exists eternally (John 8:58; 17:5). He is the Creator and Sustainer of all things (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17). We believe in His incarnation (John 1:1, 14; Luke 2:1-20) and virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:16, 22-23; Galatians 4:4); that He is entirely God yet entirely man (Hebrews 1:3; 2:14-18): one person with two distinct natures (John 1:1-14; Romans 1:3-4; Philippians 2:7-8); that He never sinned (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 1 Peter 2:22); and that He shed His blood vicariously for mankind (Isaiah 53; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:23-25). He died, was buried, and rose



# Burge Terrace

BAPTIST CHURCH

bodily the third day from the grave (Acts 2:32; Romans 4:24; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4), ascending back to heaven forty days after His resurrection (Luke 24:50-51). He currently intercedes for believers (Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:24-25; 9:24) and is the Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18-19). He will physically return for His own at the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17) and for unbelievers in judgment at His Second Coming (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 19:11-21).

**DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity; He is coequal, coeternal, and coexistent with God the Father and God the Son (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 1:35; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14). He is not simply a force but is a person with characteristics such as intellect (Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11), will (1 Corinthians 12:11), and emotion (Romans 15:30; Ephesians 4:30). He inspired the words of the Bible (2 Peter 1:21), was active at creation (Genesis 1:2), and currently involves Himself in reproofing the world of sin (John 16:8-11), glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ (John 15:26; 16:12-14), restraining sin (2 Thessalonians 2:6-7), regenerating unbelievers (John 3:6; 6:63), indwelling believers (Romans 8:9), baptizing believers into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13), sealing believers (Ephesians 1:13-14), and filling or empowering believers (Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18). He gives gifts to men (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Hebrews 2:4) in order that they might serve God and others (1 Peter 4:10). We believe that tongues and other foundational apostolic gifts were given in order to supernaturally validate the message of God before the completion of the Bible during the early church and have ceased (Hebrews 2:4; 1 Corinthians 13:8; 2 Corinthians 12:12).

**DOCTRINE OF SIN:** We believe that sin began when Satan led a rebellion against God among the angels (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:14-19) and entered earth when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden (Romans 5:12). We define sin as the transgression of God's law or will (1 John 3:4). We believe that sin brings physical, spiritual and eternal death upon man (Genesis 2:17; Matthew 25:41; Romans 5:12, 21; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1, 5; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 21:8). We believe that those who never trust in God's Son as Savior will go to a literal place called hell (Matthew 11:23; Luke 16:23) to await the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:11-13) and their eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:14-15).



# Burge Terrace

BAPTIST CHURCH

**DOCTRINE OF MAN:** We believe that God created humanity without sin in His own image (Genesis 1:27; 2:7) and that Adam willingly chose to transgress God's law (Genesis 2:16-17; 3:1-7), bringing sin, depravity, and judgment upon the entire human race (Romans 3:9-12, 23; 5:12, 19). Thus, all people are born with a sinful nature (Psalm 51:5; Romans 5:12) and, apart from the saving grace of Jesus Christ, will experience God's eternal judgment (Romans 6:23; John 3:16). Life begins at the moment of conception, and God forbids the deliberate taking of life which is to be actively protected as sacred, beginning in the womb and continuing up until the moment of death (Psalm 139:13-16).

- 1. MARRIAGE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY:** In accordance with our view of the Bible as the supreme and final authority on all matters pertaining to faith and life, we believe that marriage is the exclusive, covenant relationship between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:6). We believe that God designed marriage to be a lifelong, permanent union (Matthew 19:6), and He hates divorce (Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:8). We believe that marriage is an illustration of the relationship between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 21:1-14). Though sexual intimacy within the marriage relationship between one man and one woman is approved and celebrated in the Bible (Genesis 2:24-25; Hebrews 13:4), we believe that any sexual intimacy outside of this covenant relationship falls short of God's standard and is prohibited (Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 5:1-23; 6:20-35; Matthew 5:27-32; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9-20; Galatians 5:13-26; Ephesians 5:3-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4). Further, we believe that God created human beings in two distinct biological sexes: male and female (Genesis 1:26-28). Therefore, we believe any attempt to alter or change one's biological sex violates God's design and is prohibited by God. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local body of Christ and to provide a biblical role model to church members and to the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, all members of the church, and all who serve as volunteers in a teaching capacity should abide by and agree to this statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly. Further, no ceremony of marriage may be performed by church ministers or on church property unless that



# Burge Terrace

BAPTIST CHURCH

ceremony of marriage is fully consistent with the biblical principles set out in this statement.

2. **DIGNITY AND RESPECT:** We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the Bible.
3. **LOVE:** We believe that the greatest commandments are to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:36-40). We believe that we should demonstrate love toward fellow believers, those who are not believers, those who actively oppose us or our faith or doctrine, and those who engage in actions contrary to biblical teaching. We believe that we should deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently and humbly. We believe that the Bible forbids the taking of revenge and the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice (Matthew 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Romans 12:9-21; Philippians 2:2-4). We also believe that love and truth complement rather than conflict with one another (Ephesians 4:15).

**DOCTRINE OF SALVATION:** We believe that salvation cannot be earned through merit or good works (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5) and that, unless God draws a person to Himself (John 6:44), that person will not turn to Christ in saving faith. We believe all people must repent of their sinfulness before God, believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, and personally place their faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ to inherit eternal salvation (Romans 1:16). We believe that salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone (Acts 4:12; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Isaiah 53:5-6; John 1:29; 1 John 2:2). We believe at the time of one's conversion one is freed forever from the penalty of sin (John 5:24; Romans 8:1). From that moment on, God is transforming him/her into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:8-12) and, upon his/her death or the Lord's return, he/she is freed from the presence of sin (1 John 3:2; Revelation 21:27).

**DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH:** We believe the Church began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and is an assembly of believers called out from the world and unto God. We believe that membership of the local church is limited to individuals who truly know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and have been



# Burge Terrace

BAPTIST CHURCH

baptized by immersion after salvation (Acts 2:38-41). We believe in the priesthood of believers (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10) and in the autonomy of the local church (Acts 6:1-6; 13:1-5). We believe in two church ordinances: baptism by immersion after salvation (Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48) and the Lord's Supper for all obedient believers (1 Corinthians 11:23-26). We believe that baptism is an outward picture of the new birth, which identifies a believer with Christ (Romans 6:3-6; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:21), and that the Lord's Supper commemorates the death of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:23-26), symbolizing His sacrifice for our sins. Baptism is a public declaration of our union with Christ, and the Lord's Supper is a public celebration of our communion with Christ. Neither baptism nor the Lord's Supper possess any power to save man from his sins (Ephesians 2:8-9). We believe in two church offices: pastor (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9) and deacon (1 Timothy 3:8-13). We believe that the terms pastor, elder, and bishop are used interchangeably in the Bible (Acts 20:17, 28; 1 Peter 5:1-2). We believe that a believer should be separate from the world (1 John 2:15-17; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:11), from false teachers (those who clearly and deliberately pervert the gospel) (Matthew 7:15-20; Galatians 1:8-9; 2 John 9-11), and from disobedient brothers (Matthew 18:15-18; Titus 3:9-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13).

**DOCTRINE OF ANGELS:** We believe that God created spiritual beings called angels (Nehemiah 9:6; Colossians 1:16-17) who, because of Satan's revolt in heaven (Isaiah 14:13-14; Jude 6; Revelation 12:3-4), became divided between good and evil angels. Angels are spiritual beings (Hebrews 1:14) but at times take on human form (Hebrews 13:2), do not marry (Matthew 22:30), and are numerous (Hebrews 12:22). Although not omniscient or omnipotent, they do possess knowledge and strength superior to man (Matthew 24:36; 2 Peter 2:11). They exist in angelic ranks (Ephesians 6:12; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Jude 1:9). We believe that Satan is a real angelic being who exalted himself against God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Ezekiel 28:14-19). He is a wicked liar (John 8:44) and the great tempter (Matthew 4:1). He desires to be worshipped (Matthew 4:9) and to destroy believers (1 Peter 5:8). Satan is the god of this world (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11), the prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2:2; 6:12) and the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). Satan and his demons tempt believers (1 Thessalonians 3:5; Ephesians 6:12) and at times possess unbelievers (Mark 5:15).



# Burge Terrace

BAPTIST CHURCH

In the end, God will cast Satan and his demons into the Lake of Fire for all eternity (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

**DOCTRINE OF END TIMES:** The Bible teaches that one day Jesus Christ will return and that all events will culminate in the universal and eternal worship of Christ. We believe the Bible should be read literally unless the context demands otherwise. Therefore, we interpret Bible prophecy from the premillennial (Christ will reign on earth for a literal 1000 years), pretribulational (Christ will return for his saints before the events of the seven-year Tribulation Period) viewpoint (Daniel 9:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:1-10; Revelation 20:1-6). We believe the next imminent event on God's prophetic timetable is the Rapture of the Church (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18; 5:1-6). Following the Rapture, all believers will be welcomed into heaven for the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive their rewards according to their works (1 Corinthians 3:13-15; 2 Corinthians 5:9-11) and to celebrate the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19:7-8). After the Rapture the seven literal years of the Tribulation Period will occur on the earth (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 5:1-18:24). At the end of these seven years, Christ will physically return to earth in His Second Coming with His saints (Zechariah 14:4-5; Revelation 19) to judge the Beast and False Prophet and to initiate a literal Millennial Kingdom upon the earth (Revelation 19:19-20:6). At the end of Christ's Millennial Kingdom, Christ will release Satan "for a little season" to deceive the nations of the earth for a final time (Revelation 20:7-9). At the end of this season, God will cast Satan into the Lake of Fire for all eternity (Revelation 20:10) and will resurrect the unsaved dead to face the Great White Throne Judgment and to be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:11-15). However, God will take believers to dwell with Him in the New Heaven and the New Earth for all eternity (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1-22:5).

**AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH:** The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of our church's doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the pastors and deacons are the church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.