

Statement of Faith

March 1, 2026



Christian Baptist Church
Newmarket, Ontario

How To Use This Statement Of Faith

This Statement of Faith is a guide for us as a Church family to clarify what we believe, to shape how we live, and to help us follow Jesus faithfully together.

At its heart, this document is a confession, not a contract. It expresses our shared understanding of what the Bible teaches and how we intend to live under its authority. It reflects convictions we hold clearly, tensions we hold humbly, and hope we hold firmly in Jesus Christ.

We believe truth matters. For that reason, we speak plainly where Scripture speaks plainly. At the same time, we recognize that faithful Christians have wrestled with certain doctrines for centuries. Where Scripture leaves mystery, we choose reverence over certainty and worship over speculation. This Statement of Faith does not attempt to resolve every tension in the Bible, but to help us live faithfully within them.

This Statement is meant to be used as a teaching tool, a guardrail for our preaching and leadership, a pastoral guide for life together, and a public witness to our community. It helps define the kind of Church we are striving to be, rooted in Scripture, shaped by grace, and centred on Christ.

This document does not replace the Bible. Scripture alone is our final authority. If Scripture confronts this Statement of Faith, Scripture is right and we are wrong. This Statement must always remain under the correction and authority of God's Word.

We also want to be clear about how this Statement is not to be used. It is not a weapon for arguments, a shortcut around discipleship, or a measure of spiritual maturity. Agreement with every sentence does not make someone Christlike, and wrestling honestly with some of these truths does not place someone outside the grace of God.

Above all, this Statement of Faith is meant to point us to Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, reigning, and returning. Our unity is found not in perfect theological agreement, but in shared submission to him. Our hope rests not in doctrine alone, but in the living Lord to whom doctrine points.

We invite you to read this Statement prayerfully and biblically, with humility and trust, and to let these truths lead you beyond agreement into worship, obedience, and love for God and neighbour.

Preamble

As a local Church family in Newmarket, Ontario, Christian Baptist Church wants to be clear about what we believe and how we intend to live under the authority of God's Word. This Statement of Faith is our best attempt to summarize the core teachings of the Bible that shape our worship, our decisions, our relationships, and our mission in the world.

This statement is not equal to the Bible and it never replaces the Bible. Scripture alone is our final authority in all matters of faith and life. Where this document differs from Scripture, Scripture is right and we are wrong. We invite every member and guest to test what is written here against the whole counsel of God's Word.

We confess these truths as forgiven sinners, not experts. We don't pretend to have all the answers, and we recognize that faithful Christians will wrestle with some of the deep tensions in Scripture—like the sovereignty of God and the responsibility of people. Where the Bible speaks with clarity, we want to speak with clarity. Where the Bible leaves mystery, we want to bow in worship rather than speak with arrogance.

Our Vision

To love God and love our neighbours so that one more might know and experience a life-changing relationship with the living God.

Our Mission

To help people know Jesus, grow as his disciples, and go in his name to serve our local neighbourhoods and the wider community.

Our Missional Focus

We believe the Bible teaches us what kind of presence we are to be in this world:

**“You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world ...
Like a city (Church) on a hilltop that cannot be hidden.”
Matthew 5:13-16**

**“Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Matthew 4:19**

**“Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you
from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed me ... When you have
done this for the least of my brothers, you have done it for me.”
Matthew 25:34-40**

**“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and
of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey
everything I have commanded you.”
Matthew 28:18-20**

**“Dear friends, I warn you as “temporary residents and foreigners” to keep away
from worldly desires that wage war against your very souls. Be careful to live
properly among your unbelieving neighbours. Then even if they accuse you of doing
wrong, they will see your honourable behaviour, and they will give honour to God
when he judges the world.”
1 Peter 2:11-12**

These verses define the posture of our Church: salty and bright in a dark world, following Jesus and fishing for people, serving “the least of these” in his name, public witness, how we should live among outsiders and going to make disciples who learn to obey everything he has commanded.

With humility, conviction, and dependence on the Holy Spirit, we offer this Statement of Faith as a public confession of what we believe the Bible teaches and as a call to follow Jesus with our whole lives—heart, mind, soul, and strength.

Christian Baptist Church - What We Believe

Welcome to Christian Baptist Church. We're a community of faith on Main Street in Newmarket, Ontario learning to love God and love our neighbours so that one more might know and experience a life-changing relationship with the living God. Everything we do flows from what the Bible teaches and from the hope we have in Jesus.

1. The Bible

We believe the Bible is God's written Word. It is trustworthy, clear, and the final authority for what we believe and how we live. When we open Scripture, God speaks into real lives, real questions, and real struggles.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:105; Isaiah 40:8; Acts 17:11

2. The Triune God

God is one, and God is three persons eternally existing as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- The Father lovingly rules over all things.
- The Son, Jesus Christ, came to save us through his life, death, and resurrection.
- The Holy Spirit gives new life, leads us into truth, and empowers us to follow Jesus.

Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-14; John 14:16-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14

3. Creation and the Spiritual Realm

God created everything good. Humanity is made in his image with dignity, purpose, and value. God is Lord of both the visible and invisible realms, including angels and spiritual powers.

Genesis 1:1, 26-27; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:14; Ephesians 6:12

4. Humanity and Sin

We were created for relationship with God, but we've all turned away. Sin isn't just bad behaviour, it's rejecting God's authority. This leaves us broken, guilty, and unable to fix ourselves.

Genesis 3; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3

5. Christian Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

We believe God created us male and female, and marriage is the covenant union of one man and one woman. We also believe every person is made in God's image and is to be treated with dignity, compassion, and truth. We walk with people patiently as we all learn to follow Jesus together.

Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Ephesians 5:31-32

6. Salvation

God takes the first step to rescue us. Jesus lived the life we could not live, died in our place, and rose again. We receive this salvation by grace through faith and by trusting Jesus, not our goodness. God is fully sovereign in salvation, and people are fully responsible to respond.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:8; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; John 6:37, 44; Acts 17:30; Romans 10:9-13

7. The Church

All who trust Jesus are part of his global family. Each local Church is a community of forgiven sinners learning to worship, grow, and serve together. Leadership matters, and we affirm biblically qualified elders and deacons. We value the ministry of women and men as they serve Christ and build up his Church.

Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9

8. The Ordinances

Jesus gave the Church two beautiful signs:

1. Baptism, where we publicly identify with Jesus.
2. The Lord's Supper, where we remember his sacrifice, celebrate grace, and look forward to his return.

Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-4; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

9. Christian Life and Mission

Following Jesus is a daily journey of obedience, trust, repentance, and love. We expect joy and we expect hardship. We serve our community, share the gospel, and love our neighbours with both compassion and courage.

Luke 9:23; John 15:18-20; Matthew 5:13-16; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Micah 6:8

10. End Times

Jesus will return to make all things new. God's Kingdom is already breaking into our world, and we pray as he taught us, "Your Kingdom come." One day every knee will bow, justice will be done, and God will dwell with his people forever. For those who belong to Jesus, this is the day of eternal joy and restoration. For those who refuse him, it is the day of eternal judgement and separation.

Matthew 6:9-10; Acts 1:11; Philippians 3:20-21; 2 Peter 3:9-13; Revelation 21:1-5

Our Vision

Loving God and loving our neighbours, so that one more might know and experience a life-changing relationship with the living God.

If you're new, we'd love to walk with you.

You are welcome at Christian Baptist Church.

Article 1 - Scripture

1. **We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God.** The 66 books of the Old and New Testaments were breathed out by God and written by human authors, carried along by the Holy Spirit. Because Scripture comes from God, it is without error, it is true and completely trustworthy in everything it affirms, and it will not pass away. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 10:35
2. **We believe that the Bible is not just a religious book for Sundays but is living and active.** Through Scripture, God still speaks to his people, exposing our sin, comforting our hearts, correcting our thinking, and training us to live in a way that honours him. When we open the Bible, God is addressing real people in a real world, like people on Main Street in Newmarket, and calling us to trust and obey him in everyday life. Hebrews 4:12; John 17:17; Romans 15:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:13
3. **We believe that God is sovereign over all things and exercises his rule with perfect wisdom.** Through Scripture, God calls people to repentance and faith, grows his Church, and shapes us into the likeness of Jesus. At the same time, every person is responsible for how they respond to what God says. We are commanded to listen, to repent, to believe, and to obey. We refuse to use any theological system like Calvinist, Arminian, or otherwise, to sit in judgement over Scripture. Instead, we want to let the whole counsel of God's Word correct our systems wherever needed. Isaiah 55:10-11; Romans 10:17; Acts 20:32; James 1:22-25; Philippians 2:12-13; Acts 13:48; 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 17:11
4. **We believe the Bible is sufficient.** Everything we need to know for salvation, for godly living, and for life together as a Church has been given to us in Scripture. We do not need new revelations that correct or compete with the Bible. The Holy Spirit will never lead us in a way that contradicts what he has already inspired in his Word. 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Jude 3; Galatians 1:8-9; John 16:13-14

5. **We believe the Bible should sit at the centre of our life as a Church.** Scripture shapes our worship, our preaching and teaching, our decisions, our relationships, and our mission. Our vision is to love God and love our neighbours so that one more might know and experience a life-changing relationship with the living God. We believe God uses his Word, applied by his Spirit through his people, to bring that “one more” from death to life and to grow them up in Jesus.
Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16; Romans 1:16; 1 Peter 1:23; Matthew 22:37-39; Matthew 28:18-20
6. **We believe that the Bible, as originally given, is inspired by God and without error in all that it affirms.**
2 Timothy 3:16; Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 19:7-9; John 17:17
7. **We believe that the Bible is clear in its central message of salvation, even though some parts are hard to understand and require patient study.**
Deuteronomy 29:29; Psalm 119:130; 2 Peter 3:15-16
8. **We believe that the Bible is the final authority over Church tradition, denominational positions, personal experience, and cultural pressure.**
Mark 7:6-9; Acts 5:29; Colossians 2:8
9. **We believe that the same Holy Spirit who inspired Scripture now opens our eyes to understand, believe, and obey it in community with other followers of Jesus.**
1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Ephesians 1:17-18; John 14:26

Article 2 - The Triune God

1. **We believe there is one true and living God**, who eternally exists as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - three distinct persons, one in essence, equal in power and glory. Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14
2. **We believe God is the Creator and sustainer of all things, visible and invisible.** He rules over nature, history, and every human life. Genesis 1:1; Psalm 24:1; Psalm 115:3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:3
3. **We believe God is perfectly holy, righteous, and just.** He cannot ignore sin and will judge the world in righteousness. Isaiah 6:3; Habakkuk 1:13; Psalm 96:13; Romans 2:5-6
4. **We believe God is love - gracious, compassionate, and slow to anger.** In love, he purposes to redeem a people for himself from every nation through the saving work of Jesus Christ. Exodus 34:6-7; John 3:16-17; Ephesians 1:3-5; Revelation 7:9-10
5. **We believe God is both sovereign and good.** He works all things according to his wise will, yet he is never the author of evil, and his sovereignty does not cancel human responsibility. Genesis 50:20; Isaiah 46:9-10; Acts 2:23; Romans 8:28
6. **We believe the Father plans and initiates salvation, the Son accomplishes salvation, and the Holy Spirit applies salvation.** The Father sends the Son, the Son saves through his life, death, and resurrection, and the Spirit gives new birth, indwells, and empowers believers. John 3:16; Galatians 4:4-6; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2
7. **Because God is our holy Creator and loving King, he alone is worthy of our highest love, trust, and obedience.** Exodus 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-38; Romans 12:1-2

God the Father

1. **We believe God the Father is the source of all that exists**, who lovingly rules over creation according to his wise and holy will.
1 Corinthians 8:6; Psalm 103:19; Ephesians 1:11
2. **We believe the Father plans and initiates salvation**. Before the foundation of the world he purposed to redeem a people for himself in Christ, not because of any goodness in us but purely by grace.
Ephesians 1:3-6; 2 Timothy 1:8-9; Romans 9:15-16
3. **We believe the Father desires all people to be saved and come to know the truth, and he genuinely calls all to repent and believe the gospel**. Those who refuse this call are fully responsible for their unbelief.
Ezekiel 18:23; Matthew 11:28; John 3:16-18; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9
4. **We believe the Father adopts all who trust in Christ as his children, disciplines them in love, and cares for them with perfect wisdom and faithfulness**.
John 1:12; Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Hebrews 12:5-7

God the Son

1. **We believe Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became truly human without ceasing to be truly God**. In the one person of Jesus Christ, two complete natures, both divine and human, are united without confusion, change, division, or separation. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, he lived a sinless life in perfect obedience to the Father.
John 1:1-3,14; Colossians 1:15-20; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 4:15
2. **We believe Jesus died on the cross as our substitute, bearing the punishment our sins deserve and satisfying the justice of God**. His death was a once-for-all sacrifice that fully secured salvation for all who trust in him.
Isaiah 53:4-6; Mark 10:45; Romans 3:23-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 3:18
3. **We believe Jesus rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and now reigns at the right hand of the Father as Lord of all**. He intercedes for his people and will return in glory to judge the living and the dead.
Luke 24:36-43; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; Revelation 19:11-16

4. **We believe Jesus is the only mediator between God and humanity, and that salvation is found in no one else.** Everyone who turns from sin and trusts in him is forgiven, reconciled to God, and given eternal life.
John 14:6; Acts 4:12; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; John 3:36

God the Holy Spirit

1. **We believe the Holy Spirit is fully God, the third person of the Trinity, who proceeds from the Father and the Son and works to glorify Christ.**
Acts 5:3-4; John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13-14; 2 Corinthians 3:17
2. **We believe the Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgement, and brings new birth to spiritually dead people.**
John 16:7-8; John 3:5-8; Titus 3:4-6; Ephesians 2:4-5
3. **We believe the Spirit indwells every believer** from the moment of conversion, uniting us to Christ, assuring us of our salvation, producing his fruit in our lives, and empowering us for obedient service and witness.
Romans 8:9-16; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:22-23; Acts 1:8
4. **We believe the Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer to build up the Church.** All gifts mentioned in the New Testament are given according to his will, and are to be exercised in love, under the authority of Scripture, and in an orderly way.
1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 14:1, 39-40;
1 Peter 4:10-11
5. **We believe we are called to be open to the Spirit's ongoing work while carefully testing all things by Scripture.** We must not quench the Spirit, nor should we accept any experience or teaching that contradicts the written Word of God.
1 Thessalonians 5:19-21; Galatians 1:8-9; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
6. **We believe the Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures, enabling human authors to write God's Word faithfully and without error in the original writings.** The Spirit continues to illuminate the Scriptures, helping believers understand, trust, and obey God's truth, applying it to their lives for growth in faith and holiness.
2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 14:26; 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14;
Romans 8:13-14

Article 3 - Creation and the Spiritual Realm

- 1. We believe that God created everything that exists out of nothing, by his powerful word and for his glory.** Creation is not an accident or a random process. The universe, the earth, and every living thing came into being because God willed it, and he continues to sustain all things by his wise and loving care.
Genesis 1-2; Psalm 33:6-9; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; 11:3
- 2. We believe that God created humanity, male and female, in his image.** Men and women are equal in dignity and worth, designed to reflect God's character, steward his creation, and live in relationship with him and with one another. Our identity, value, and purpose come from our Creator, not from our desires, our achievements, or our culture.
Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 18-25; Psalm 8:3-8
- 3. We believe that the account of creation and the fall in Genesis describes real events in history.** Adam and Eve were real people, and their disobedience brought sin, death, and brokenness into God's good world. Because of this, all people are born as sinners in need of rescue.
Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22
- 4. We believe that God also created angels as spiritual beings who worship him, carry out his purposes, and minister to his people.** Angels are not to be prayed to, worshipped, or treated as a shortcut to spiritual power. They are servants of God, not substitutes for God.
Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 103:20-21; Luke 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:13-14; Revelation 5:11-12
- 5. We believe that Satan is a real, personal being—a created angel who rebelled against God—and that demons are fallen angels who share in his rebellion.** They oppose God and his people, deceive the world, and seek to destroy faith. Yet they are not equal to God in power, and their defeat has been secured through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Followers of Jesus are called to resist the devil, stand firm in the faith, and trust in Christ's victory, avoiding all forms of occult practice, witchcraft, spiritism, and superstition.
Genesis 3:1-5; Job 1-2; John 8:44; Colossians 2:13-15; Ephesians 6:10-12; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; Revelation 12:9-11

Article 4 - Humanity and Sin

1. **We believe God created the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, as real people in history.** God made all people in his image and likeness, with great worth and dignity from the womb to old age, no matter their ethnicity, ability, or social standing.
Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7,18-25; Psalm 8:3-6; Acts 17:26-28
 - a. We believe that human life is a sacred gift from God and is to be honoured and protected from conception to natural death. Because every person is created in the image of God, human dignity does not depend on age, ability, health, independence, or quality of life.
 - b. We therefore affirm the value of unborn children and reject abortion as the intentional taking of innocent human life. We also reject assisted suicide and euthanasia, including Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), as violations of God's authority over life and death.
 - c. At the same time, we recognize that many people carry deep pain, regret, fear, or confusion related to abortion, end-of-life decisions, disability, suffering, or terminal illness. The gospel offers forgiveness, hope, and healing to all who turn to Jesus in repentance and faith. As a Church, we are called to speak the truth with compassion, to care for the vulnerable, to walk with the suffering, and to bear witness to the value of life even in its weakest moments.
Genesis 1:26-27; Deuteronomy 32:39; Job 1:21; Psalm 139:13-16; Proverbs 24:11-12; Matthew 25:40
2. **We believe God created every person as male or female, both fully equal in worth and dignity.** Our sex as male or female is part of God's good design, not a mistake. In a fallen world we may struggle with our sense of identity, but our hope is to learn to see ourselves the way God sees us and to honour him with our bodies.
Genesis 1:26-27, 31; Genesis 2:18, 20-25; Psalm 139:13-16; Matthew 19:4; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
3. **We believe that marriage is a lifelong promise between one man and one woman.** God gave marriage to be a place of deep friendship, faithful love, shared work, and, when he provides it, the raising of children. Sex is a good gift from God, and it belongs inside this one-man, one-woman marriage. Any sexual relationship outside of this—whether between a man and a woman or between two people of the same sex—is outside God's design and called sin in Scripture.

We also believe single followers of Jesus are called to sexual purity and wholehearted devotion to the Lord, and that both marriage and singleness are good gifts in the family of God. We know many people carry questions, confusion, or regret in the area of sexuality. As a Church family, we want to speak clearly about what God says is good, while welcoming anyone who is willing to walk toward Jesus with us in honesty and repentance.

Genesis 2:18-24; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; 1 Corinthians 7:7-8,32-35; Hebrews 13:4

4. **We believe humanity was created good, to know God, love God, and live under his wise and loving rule.** We were made to worship God with our whole lives and to care for creation as his stewards.

Genesis 1:28-31; 2:15; Deuteronomy 6:5; Micah 6:8; 1 Corinthians 10:31

5. **We believe that Adam, as the first man, chose to disobey God's clear command. Through his sin, rebellion and death entered the world.** Since then, every person is born with a sinful nature, separated from God, bent toward self-rule, and deserving of God's just judgement.

Genesis 3:1-19; Romans 5:12-19; Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:1-3

6. **We believe sin is more than just doing wrong things.** Sin is also failing to do what God commands and living as if we are in charge instead of God. Sin reaches into every part of our being—our thoughts, desires, choices, and bodies—so that we cannot save ourselves or earn God's favour. Only the grace of God by the Holy Spirit can free us from slavery to sin and enable us to trust and obey Jesus, yet every person is truly called to repent and believe the gospel.

Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:9-23; Jeremiah 17:9; John 6:44; Acts 17:30; Titus 3:3-7

7. **We believe all people are both hurt by sin and guilty of sin.** We live in a broken world marked by injustice, suffering, confusion, and death, and we also willingly add to that brokenness by our own choices. No one is beyond the reach of God's mercy, and no one is beyond the need of it. Our only hope is the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ, who came to rescue us from the guilt, shame, and power of sin and to make us new.
Matthew 9:12-13; Romans 8:18-23; Romans 10:9-13; 2 Corinthians 5:17;
1 John 1:8-10

Satan and Spiritual Forces of Evil

1. **We believe that Satan is a real, personal, created being who rebelled against God and now stands as the enemy of God and his people.** He, along with other fallen angels (demons), works to deceive, accuse, and destroy, blinding the minds of unbelievers and opposing the advance of the gospel.
2. **We believe that Satan is powerful but not equal to God in any way.** He is not all-knowing, not all-present, and not all-powerful. His defeat was decisively secured through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and his final judgement in the lake of fire is certain.
3. **We believe that followers of Jesus are delivered from the kingdom of darkness and no longer belong to Satan.** Still, we are called to stand firm in the faith, resist the devil, put on the armour of God, pray, and refuse any involvement with occult practices or forms of spiritual darkness. Our confidence is never in ourselves but in Christ, who has overcome the world.

Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 2:1-3;
Ephesians 6:10-13; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Peter 5:8-9;
1 John 3:8; Revelation 12:9-11; Revelation 20:10

Article 5 - Christian Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

- 1. We believe that every person is created by God, loved by God, and made in the image of God with equal dignity, worth, and purpose.** Our identity and value are not self-constructed; they are received gifts from the One who formed us.
Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 43:1
- 2. We believe that God created humanity as male and female, and that this distinction is a good gift rooted in his design, not a cultural accident.** Our bodies are not mistakes to correct but sacred creations to honour.
Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4
- 3. We believe that God established marriage as a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman.** Marriage reflects the covenant love between Christ and the Church, and it is the only biblical context for sexual intimacy.
Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:31-32; Hebrews 13:4
- 4. We believe that all sexual activity outside this covenant—whether heterosexual or same-sex—is outside God’s design and therefore harmful to individuals, families, and communities.** Scripture calls followers of Jesus to flee sexual sin, to pursue holiness, and to honour God with their bodies.
1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5
- 5. We believe that the fall has impacted every part of our humanity, including our desires, self-understanding, and relationships.** We all experience brokenness in different ways, and we all stand in need of the Redeemer who forgives sin, heals wounds, reshapes desires, and restores hope.
Romans 3:23; Romans 8:20-23; 1 Peter 2:24
- 6. We believe that the call of Jesus is the same for every person: repent, believe the gospel, and follow him with a surrendered life.** For some, this means embracing their biological sex when that feels complicated or painful. For others, it means turning from sexual sin or harmful patterns. For all of us, it means trusting that God’s commands are expressions of his love.
Mark 1:15; John 8:11; Galatians 5:16-25

- 7. We believe that the Church must be a place of truth and grace, where sexual sinners (that is, all of us) and those wrestling with identity questions are met with compassion, patience, and the hope of the gospel. No one is beyond the reach of God's mercy.**
Romans 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:15-16; Galatians 6:1-2
- 8. We believe that Christian discipleship calls married couples to faithfulness, single believers to chastity, and every follower of Jesus to honour God with their mind, body, and relationships.**
Matthew 5:27-28; 1 Corinthians 7:7-9, 32-35; Colossians 3:1-5
- 9. We believe that through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God delivers sinners from the domain of darkness and transfers them into the kingdom of his beloved Son. This freedom is applied through repentance and faith in Christ, as the gospel is proclaimed and the Holy Spirit brings new life.**
Colossians 1:13-14; John 8:31-36; Acts 26:18; 2 Corinthians 4:3-6
- 10. We believe that believers are called to proclaim the gospel, resist the devil, pray for deliverance, and stand firm in the victory Christ has already won.**
James 4:7; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 John 3:8

Article 6 - Salvation

1. **We believe that every person needs to be rescued from sin and its consequences, and that salvation is only found in Jesus Christ.** We are saved by God's grace alone, not by our effort, goodness, religion, or good intentions. We receive this gift through faith alone in Christ alone.
John 3:16-18; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:23-24; Ephesians 2:8-9
2. **We believe that Jesus Christ secured our salvation through his life, death, and resurrection.** In love, he took our place on the cross, bearing the judgement we deserve, satisfying the righteous wrath of God, and breaking the power of sin, death, and the devil. His resurrection is the proof that the debt is paid and the victory is won.
Isaiah 53:4-6; Mark 10:45; Romans 5:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 20-22
3. **We believe that salvation is first and foremost God's work from beginning to end.** Before we ever reached for God, he chose us in Christ, set his love on us, and planned our redemption. By the Spirit, he awakens spiritually dead hearts, convicts us of sin, opens our eyes to the beauty of Christ, and draws us to himself. No one can boast, because salvation is God's gracious initiative.
John 6:37, 44; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:4-5; Acts 16:14; Jonah 2:9
4. **We also believe that people are genuinely responsible before God to repent and believe the gospel.** God commands all people everywhere to turn from sin and trust in Jesus. The call of the gospel is a real and sincere invitation to every person, and no one who comes to Christ in repentance and faith will ever be turned away. Those who refuse to repent remain under God's judgement.
Mark 1:15; Matthew 11:28-30; John 3:16, 18, 36; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 10:9-13; Revelation 22:17
5. **We believe that when a person turns to Jesus in repentance and faith, God unites them to Christ and makes them completely new.** In that moment, God declares them righteous in his sight (justification), gives them new spiritual life (regeneration), and adopts them into his family as dearly loved sons and daughters (adoption). This is a once-for-all act of God's grace that cannot be earned and does not need to be repeated.
John 1:12-13; 3:3-8; Romans 3:21-26; 5:1; 8:1, 14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:4-7; Galatians 4:4-7

6. **We believe that everyone who is truly saved has already been set apart as holy in God's sight and will also be changed over time by the Holy Spirit.**

Sanctification is, first, a completed act: through the finished work of Christ, believers are bought with a price and made holy positionally before God. At the same time, sanctification is a lifelong process, a work of God's grace in which those who have been made holy are being made holy, growing in holiness, obedience, and Christlike character. Our good works do not earn salvation, but they are the necessary and expected fruit of a real relationship with Christ.

Romans 6:11-14; 8:29; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:19-20; Galatians 5:16-25; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:1-10; Hebrews 10:10, 14; 12:14; James 2:14-18

7. **We believe that God keeps and preserves all who truly belong to Christ.** Those whom God has saved he will never abandon, and nothing can separate them from his love. At the same time, the grace that saves us also changes us. Persistent, unrepentant rebellion against Christ is evidence that a person is not walking in genuine saving faith, no matter what prayer they once prayed or what water they were once baptized in.

True believers will struggle, doubt, and fall into sin, but they will not be left there. God will lovingly discipline, restore, and sustain them so that they persevere in faith and grow in obedience to the end. Our assurance does not rest in a past decision or our performance, but in the finished work of Christ, the promises of God's Word, and the present, ongoing work of the Holy Spirit producing repentance, faith, and new life in us.

John 10:27-30; Romans 8:31-39; Colossians 1:21-23; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 3:12-14; 12:5-11; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:3-6, 19; 5:11-13; Jude 24-25

8. **We believe that salvation will be fully and finally complete when Jesus returns.** On that day, believers will be raised in glorified bodies, completely free from sin and its effects, and will enjoy the presence of God forever in the new heavens and new earth. This future hope strengthens us to live faithfully and courageously for Christ today.

John 5:24-29; Romans 8:18-25, 30; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57; Philippians 3:20-21; Revelation 21:1-5

Article 7 - The Church (Universal and Local)

- 1. We believe that the Church belongs to Jesus Christ. He is the head, and all who are united to him by faith are members of his body.** The one, universal Church is made up of all true believers in every time and place, called out of darkness into God's marvellous light and adopted into his family.
Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:4-6; 1 Peter 2:9-10
- 2. We believe that the universal Church is a spiritual family made up of people from every tribe, language, and nation who have been saved by grace through faith in Christ.** This Church is held together not by culture, preference, tradition, or denomination, but by the gospel and the abiding presence and sustaining work of the Holy Spirit. While the Church holds certain core beliefs as essential to the gospel, we also recognize that faithful Christians may differ on secondary matters, and we seek unity in Christ without demanding uniformity in all things.
John 10:14-16; Acts 2:39; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 7:9-10
- 3. We believe that the universal Church is expressed in local churches where believers gather regularly in Jesus' name to worship, pray, learn from God's Word, celebrate the ordinances, and encourage one another to follow Christ in everyday life.** A local Church is a community of believers who commit themselves to one another for growth, care, service, and mission.
Acts 2:41-47; Acts 11:22-26; Hebrews 10:23-25
- 4. We believe that a healthy local Church lives under the authority of Scripture and the lordship of Christ.** The Holy Spirit gives different gifts to different members so that together we may build up the body, speak the truth in love, care for the weak, guard the gospel, and keep pointing one another back to Christ.
Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 20:28; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-27; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Peter 5:1-4
- 5. We believe that Jesus sends his Church into the world as his witnesses.** As a local Church, we are called to love God and love our neighbours, to live as salt and light, to do good works that adorn the gospel, and to make disciples of all nations so that one more person might know and experience a life-changing relationship with the living God.
Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 22:37-40; Matthew 28:18-20; Micah 6:8; 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

6. **We believe that worship is the joyful, reverent, and obedient response of God's people to who God is and what he has done.** Worship is offered to God alone and is grounded in the truth of Scripture, centred on the gospel of Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
Psalm 95:1-7; John 4:23-24; Romans 11:36; Revelation 4:11
7. **We believe that worship includes both the gathered worship of the Church and the daily worship of believers in all of life.** When the Church gathers, worship is expressed through prayer, the reading and preaching of Scripture, congregational singing, the ordinances, and giving. When the Church is scattered, worship is lived out through obedience, service, and faithful witness in the world.
Acts 2:42-47; Colossians 3:16-17; Romans 12:1; 1 Corinthians 10:31
8. **We believe that the Word of God governs our worship.** Therefore, our worship seeks to glorify God rather than entertain people, to form disciples rather than follow cultural trends, and to engage both the heart and the mind in ways that are fitting, intelligible, and edifying to the Church.
Deuteronomy 12:32; Nehemiah 8:8; 1 Corinthians 14:26, 40; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
9. **We believe that worship should reflect reverence and joy, unity and participation, and should build up the Church and bear witness to the gospel in our community.** We affirm that God has gifted his people with creativity and spiritual gifts for the praise of his name and the common good, and that these may find expression in corporate worship when they are rooted in Scripture, exercised in love and order, and directed toward the glory of God rather than human performance.
Psalm 150; 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 1 Corinthians 14:26, 33, 40; Ephesians 5:18-21

Article 8 - The Ordinances

1. **We believe that the Lord Jesus gave two ordinances to his Church—baptism and the Lord’s Supper—as visible, tangible signs of the gospel.** They do not save us or earn us favour with God, but they are powerful, God-given ways for believers to publicly identify with Christ, remember his saving work, and strengthen our faith together as a Church family.
Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 2:41-42; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
2. **We believe that baptism is for those who have personally repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.** Following the pattern of the New Testament, we normally baptize believers by immersion in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Baptism is an act of obedience that pictures our union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection, and it marks a believer’s public identification with Jesus and his Church.
Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41; Acts 8:35-38; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12
3. **We believe that the Lord’s Supper (communion) was given to help believers remember and proclaim the death of Jesus until he returns.** In sharing the bread and the cup, we remember that our Saviour’s body was given and his blood was shed for our sins, we renew our trust in him, and we express our unity as members of one body. The bread and cup are symbols, not the literal body and blood of Christ, yet by the Holy Spirit we truly fellowship with Christ and with one another as we share this meal in faith.
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
4. **We believe that all who participate in the ordinances should do so with faith, humility, and self-examination.** Baptism is for those who confess Jesus as Lord and desire to follow him. The Lord’s Supper is for believers who are trusting in Christ alone for salvation and are seeking to live in repentance, forgiveness, and reconciled relationships. In all of this, we want our use of the ordinances to honour Christ, build up his Church, and clearly point one more person to the hope of the gospel.
Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 11:27-32; 2 Corinthians 13:5

Article 9 - Christian Life and Mission

1. **We believe that everyone who trusts in Jesus is called into a new way of life.** Following Jesus is not a hobby or a side project. It means giving him our whole life—our thoughts, words, choices, time, money, relationships, and plans. We want to live as people who belong to him, learning to say “yes” to Jesus in the everyday stuff of life.
Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Colossians 2:6-7
2. **We believe that the Christian life is a lifelong journey of change.** When we come to Christ, God gives us a new heart, but he is not finished with us yet. By the Holy Spirit, God is always at work to make us more like Jesus, and we are called to respond with daily obedience. With the Spirit’s help we turn away from sin, fight old habits, and grow in things like love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, and self control.
Philippians 2:12-13; Romans 8:12-14, 29; Galatians 5:16-25; Colossians 3:1-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-7
3. **We believe that following Jesus is something we do together, not on our own.** God places us in a Church family where we learn to love, forgive, and serve one another. We want to be the kind of Church where people carry each other’s burdens, speak the truth in love, pray for one another, and use their gifts to build others up. We refuse to make room for gossip, division, or bitterness, and we aim to walk in unity, encouragement, generosity, and practical care.
John 13:34-35; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:3-13; Ephesians 4:1-6, 11-16, 29-32; Hebrews 10:24-25
4. **We believe in the priesthood of all believers, through which every follower of Christ has direct access to God** and shares responsibility in prayer, confession, and mutual care within the Church, trusting God to bring forgiveness and healing.
1 Peter 2:5, 9; Hebrews 4:14-16; James 5:16; Galatians 6:1-2
5. **We believe that following Jesus shapes every part of everyday life.** Faith is not just for Sundays. As followers of Jesus, we want to honour God in our homes, marriages, singleness, sexuality, work, school, friendships, finances, and neighbourhoods. In a confused and often broken world, we are called to live as people of truth and grace—people whose words, attitudes, and choices point others to Christ.
Colossians 3:12-17, 23; 1 Corinthians 10:31; 1 Peter 2:11-12; Titus 2:11-14

6. **We believe that suffering, opposition, and persecution are a normal part of the Christian life.** Jesus told us that in this world we will have trouble, but he has overcome the world. We should not be surprised when following him brings pressure, loss, or rejection. In these moments, we want to stand firm, love our enemies, bless those who mistreat us, and keep our eyes on Christ, knowing that he is with us and will one day make all things right.
John 15:18-20; John 16:33; Acts 14:22; Romans 8:17-18; 2 Timothy 3:12; 1 Peter 4:12-16
7. **We believe that every follower of Jesus is sent into the world as a witness.** The mission of the Church is not just for a few “professionals.” Every Christian is called to share the good news of Jesus in both words and actions. We want to speak about Christ with courage and gentleness, pray for those who don’t yet know him, serve the poor and vulnerable, and seek justice and mercy in our city and beyond—even when it is costly or unpopular. As citizens of the Kingdom of God, we will be called to lovingly speak truth to temporal/civil powers.
Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Micah 6:8; James 1:27
8. **We believe that our life together at Christian Baptist Church is summed up in this vision: To love God with our whole being and to love our neighbours so that one more might know and experience a life-changing relationship with the living God.** We want everything we do—our worship, preaching and teaching, serving, giving, hospitality, and partnerships—to flow out of loving God and loving our neighbours, and to serve God’s mission of drawing people to himself through Jesus Christ.
Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-35; 2 Peter 3:9

Article 10 - End Times

1. **We believe that history is moving toward a day chosen by God—a day when Jesus Christ will return in glory, just as he promised.** His return will be personal, visible, and victorious. He will come not as a suffering servant but as the risen King who brings God’s story to its appointed climax.
Acts 1:9-11; Matthew 24:30-31; Revelation 19:11-16
2. **We believe that every follower of Jesus is called to live with a posture of longing and expectation.** When Jesus taught us to pray, “Your kingdom come,” he invited us to live each day with our eyes fixed on the world God is building and the King who is coming. That simple prayer pulls our hope forward and aligns our lives with the future God has promised. Even now, God’s Kingdom is already at work in and through his people, but we are still waiting for the day it will come in fullness.
Matthew 6:9-10; Titus 2:11-14
3. **We believe that no one knows the exact moment of Christ’s return.** Scripture calls believers not to speculation or fear, but to spiritual alertness, faithfulness, and hope. The Church is to keep watch—not with anxiety or obsession, but with trust—believing that the return of Jesus is good news for the whole creation and the fulfilment of God’s promises.
Matthew 24:36, 42-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Titus 2:11-13

Throughout Church history, faithful Christians have held differing interpretations regarding the timing of events surrounding Christ’s return. These differences reflect sincere efforts to understand Scripture and do not alter the central Christian hope or the call to live ready lives before God.

a. Pre-Tribulation Understanding

Some Christians believe in a rapture, that Jesus Christ will gather his Church to himself prior to a future period of great tribulation on the earth. Those who hold this view often distinguish this gathering from Christ’s later public appearing, when he returns with his people to judge the world and reign openly. This understanding emphasizes God’s deliverance of his people from divine wrath and highlights the imminence of Christ’s return. Those who hold this view often stress readiness, holiness, and expectancy in daily life.

John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 5:9; Revelation 3:10

b. Post-Tribulation Understanding

Some Christians believe that the Church will endure a future period of tribulation and will be gathered to Christ at his visible return at the end of that time. This understanding emphasizes perseverance, faithfulness under trial, and the public victory of Christ over evil. Those who hold this view affirm that suffering has often marked the people of God and that Christ will ultimately vindicate his Church.

Matthew 24:29-31; John 16:33; Acts 14:22; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-10;
Revelation 7:13-14

4. **We believe that when Christ returns, he will raise the dead, judge every person with perfect justice, and bring God's Kingdom in all its fullness.** For those who belong to Jesus, this is the day of joy—the restoration of all things and life with God forever. For those who reject him, it is the day of judgement and eternal separation from him.
John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:1-4
5. **We believe in the reality of both heaven and hell.** Heaven, the Kingdom revealed, is the eternal home of all who trust in Christ, fully enjoyed in the new heavens and new earth, where God dwells with his people forever. It is the completion of our prayer, “thy kingdom come,” when Christ's reign is fully revealed. Hell is the eternal consequence of choosing to remain in rebellion against God, not a temporary refining process. Both are real, conscious, and everlasting. After death comes judgement, and our response to Christ in this life has eternal consequences.
Matthew 6:9-13; Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 21:1-8
6. **We believe that the details of the end times include mystery.** Faithful Christians have wrestled with different timelines and interpretations, yet the central hope is the same: Jesus is coming again, and God will make all things new. The Kingdom has already broken into this world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Spirit, but we still wait for the day when it will finally be seen in its fullness. Our confidence is not in charts or predictions, but in Christ himself.
Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 22:12-13, 20

A Closing Word of Gratitude and Hope

This Statement of Faith did not appear overnight, and it did not come from us alone. It stands on the prayers, sacrifices, faithfulness, and steady obedience of generations of believers who have walked this road before us.

For more than two hundred years, followers of Jesus have gathered on Main Street in Newmarket as a local Christian witness. Known today as Christian Baptist Church, this congregation has lived through seasons of growth and decline, clarity and confusion, joy and hardship. Through it all, God has remained faithful. People here have preached the Word, taught children, prayed faithfully, given generously, served quietly, repented honestly, and trusted God when the way forward was unclear. We are deeply grateful for their faithfulness.

This document is one small part of that long obedience. It reflects careful study of Scripture, but also lived faith shaped in worship services, kitchen tables, hospital rooms, baptisms, funerals, outreach efforts, and ordinary acts of love and service. We honour those who have gone before us not by freezing their traditions in time, but by holding fast to the same gospel that held them.

We also know this Statement of Faith is not perfect. Like every generation, we see in part and speak with limitation. We have tried to speak clearly where Scripture speaks clearly, and humbly where Scripture calls for restraint. If we have missed the mark, we trust God to correct us through his Word and by his Spirit.

This Statement is offered with gratitude for the past and hope for the future. It is meant to guide us as we seek to be faithful in our own time, in our own town, with the opportunities and challenges God has placed before us. We trust the same God who has carried this Church for over two centuries will carry us still until the day we see Jesus face to face.

Now all glory to God, who is able to keep you from falling away and will bring you with great joy into his glorious presence without a single fault. All glory to him who alone is God, our Saviour through Jesus Christ our Lord. All glory, majesty, power, and authority are his before all time, and in the present, and beyond all time! Amen.

Jude 24-25 (NLT)