

There Is Hope Statement of Faith

I. The Holy Scriptures

WE BELIEVE the Bible - the Scriptures of the Old Testament and the New Testament, preserved for us in the Masoretic text (Old Testament), Textus Receptus (New Testament), and in the King James Bible - is verbally and plenary inspired of God. It is the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and altogether authentic, accurate and authoritative Word of God; therefore, it is the supreme and final authority in all things. **WE BELIEVE** the Word of God has been preserved for the English speaking people in the King James Bible.

II. The Trinity

WE BELIEVE in one God (monotheism), eternally existing in three Persons: the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit—the Trinity. They are co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and have the same attributes and perfections.

III. The Deity of Christ

WE BELIEVE in the deity of Jesus Christ, that He was supernaturally begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and is truly, totally God and truly, totally man. He is the only begotten Son of God and at the same time God the Son; therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ is the sinless, omnipotent, omniscient, Saviour of sinners, King of kings, and Lord of lords.

IV. The Resurrection of Christ

WE BELIEVE in the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His literal, physical, bodily ascension into Heaven and in His present work there as High Priest, Mediator, and Advocate for us.

V. The Depravity of Man

WE BELIEVE man was created in the image of God, that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also that spiritual death which is the eternal separation from God and an everlasting abode in Hell. **WE BELIEVE** that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and, in the case of those who reach the age of moral responsibility, become sinners by choice

and practice, in thought, word, and deed, and that sin creates a debt which no man can pay for himself.

VI. The Gospel

WE BELIEVE the Gospel is the good news that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for our sins; that He was buried that He arose alive and triumphant from the grave, and in so doing, He made the necessary sacrifice for atonement, became the Substitute for our redemption, which thereby paid our sin debt and purchased our salvation for us; and that all who place their faith and full trust in Him are saved by His shed blood.

VII. Believer's Baptism

WE BELIEVE each person claiming Christ as Saviour should promptly make public their profession of Christ, that each new Christian should follow the Lord's command for believer's baptism. **WE BELIEVE** that scriptural baptism is always by immersion (after salvation). **WE BELIEVE** that baptism does not save, but that it is the Lord's prescribed way for us to identify ourselves with Him in open confession. **WE BELIEVE** that baptism is a symbolic representation, a picture of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.

VIII. Eternal Security

WE BELIEVE each believer, at the time he puts his trust in Christ, is born into the family of God and does instantaneously become a son or daughter of the living God, thus is redeemed by the Lord's purchase price paid for us, is henceforth preserved in Christ and, therefore, is forever secure in Christ, possesses everlasting, eternal life and is sealed by the Holy Spirit for eternity

IX. The Holy Spirit

WE BELIEVE that at the precise time of the new birth the believer immediately receives the Holy Spirit and is by Him baptized (placed) into the body of Christ, is forever indwelt by the Holy Spirit as Comforter, Teacher and Guide, and if yielded to Him, is filled by the Spirit and is empowered for service. **WE BELIEVE** that speaking in tongues or any other physical action or emotion is not a modern day sign of being filled with or baptized by the Holy Spirit. We reject the use of modern day speaking in tongues.

X. Heaven and Hell

WE BELIEVE Heaven is a real place that is the eternal home of all who by faith claim the salvation of Christ.

WE BELIEVE Hell is a real place of fire and torment, that is the eternal home of all who die without Christ as their Saviour.

XI. Resurrection of the Dead

WE BELIEVE in the literal, physical, bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the everlasting blessedness of the saved (Heaven), and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost (Hell).

XII. Satan

WE BELIEVE Satan is a real being, a personal devil, that he is the enemy of God, the “father of lies,” the great deceiver of mankind, the instigator of all false systems of religion, and that both he and all his followers will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire.

XIII. The Church

WE BELIEVE the Scriptures teach that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by a covenant of 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 His Word; that its only scriptural officers are male pastors (pastor, bishop and elder are three terms for the same office) and deacons. **WE BELIEVE** the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have the opportunity, the building up and edifying of the saints and to glorify God. **WE BELIEVE** that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations and that the one and only Head is Christ through the Holy Spirit. **WE BELIEVE** our ministry is to avoid contemporary worship made up of rock or contemporary praise and worship music, overemphasis on media, and casual dress. We believe our services should be held in a traditional style with conservative music and dress while maintaining an emphasis on preaching. **WE BELIEVE** that since Baptists have from their beginnings most correctly held to Bible doctrine and principles, There Is Hope

is forever to be known and titled an independent Baptist ministry under the authority of Victory Baptist Church.

XIV. Missions

WE BELIEVE the Lord's Great Commission is His command to us to get the Gospel to the world. **WE BELIEVE** that in order to carry out the Great Commission it is the church's job to support in prayers, offerings, and man power both homeland and world evangelists and missionaries. **WE BELIEVE** the evangelists and missionaries we support must have the goal of winning people to Christ, baptizing them, and teaching them everything the Lord has commanded us. They should also believe and practice the Articles of Faith found in this doctrinal statement.

XV. Stewardship

WE BELIEVE the Scriptures teach us to give tithes and offerings from our income and resources into the Lord's treasury in the local church and that all of us have a responsibility before God to be faithful every week in our stewardship.

XVI. The Lord's Day

WE BELIEVE that Sunday, the first day of the week, is the Lord's Day. It is therefore a sacred and special day. It should be a day of worship of the Lord and service to Him, as well as a day of respite and rest from the ordinary routines of life.

XVII. Civil Government

WE BELIEVE that God has ordained and created all authority, consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home, 2) the church, and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. **WE BELIEVE** that God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective, biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God.

XVIII. Marriage & Sexuality

WE BELIEVE that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. **WE BELIEVE** that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage. **WE BELIEVE** that any form of homosexuality, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. **WE BELIEVE** that God is against any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

XIX. Personal Separation

WE BELIEVE that Christians should be separated unto God and separated from the world and that all believers are called into a life of personal separation from all worldly and sinful practices. **WE BELIEVE** a Christian should seek to live a life that is clean, holy and above reproach. He should exhibit both attitude and actions so as to be of good report. Practices which are questionable or which may cause another person to stumble or which may mar the testimony of Christ should be avoided altogether. Therefore personal standards of dress, demeanor and deportment are encouraged.

XX. Abortion

WE BELIEVE that human life begins at conception and the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life.

XXI. Creation

WE BELIEVE that God created the universe in six literal, twenty-four hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin.

XXII. The Lord's Supper

WE BELIEVE that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration, by the use of unleavened bread and of unfermented grape juice, of the death of Christ until He comes again and that it is to be preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XXIII. The Fall of Man

WE BELIEVE the Scriptures teach that man was created in innocence, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression he fell from that holy and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

XXIV. The Virgin Birth of Christ

WE BELIEVE the Scriptures teach that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son.

XXV. The Way of Salvation

WE BELIEVE the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the shed blood and mediatorial offices of the Son of God. **WE BELIEVE** Jesus Christ, according to the will of the Father, assumed our nature, yet without sin, honored the Divine Law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for our sins. **WE BELIEVE** that Jesus Christ having risen from the dead, is now enthroned in Heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the most tender sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

XXVI. Soul Winning

WE BELIEVE that the command to get the Gospel to the world is a clear and unmistakable mandate, that this command is therefore, the commission of God to all of us who are saved. **WE BELIEVE** salvation is received when a person honestly sincerely, consciously and deliberately repents (changes their mind about God) and places their faith (trust) in the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour. **WE BELIEVE** that when we follow Christ appropriately and obediently, we will be a "fisher of men" / a "Soul Winner."

XXVII. The Believer's Two Natures

WE BELIEVE every truly regenerated, born-again Christian is saved by the grace of God through faith placed in Jesus Christ and is thereby awarded a new and spiritual nature which he did not previously possess. **WE BELIEVE** the old nature which we possess from birth is not eradicated but lingers yet within us. It is for this reason that true Christians are not perfect people and can still sin. **WE BELIEVE** the new nature, if nourished properly, should begin to dominate the Christian's life, and the old nature should be less and less prominent.

XXVIII. Ecclesiastical Separation

WE BELIEVE that Christian believers and local, New Testament churches should be guided and governed by the Bible, and consequently, we believe it is imperative that we identify false doctrine and those who perpetrate it, and subsequently, stand separate and apart from them. **WE BELIEVE** that all who come to us are to be welcomed, but we give no place on our platform to honor or to hear the opinions and the views of those who do not hold to "sound doctrine." There Is Hope tent ministry will work exclusively with other Independent Baptist Churches.

XXIX. Christian Education

WE BELIEVE it is our God-entrusted duty to give our children both a sound Bible and academic education. We thus accomplish our Godly commission through our Home, Church and Christian education.

XXX. The Second Coming of Christ

WE BELIEVE in "that blessed hope," the personal, literal and visible pre-tribulational, pre-millennial return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. **WE BELIEVE** the second coming will be a two-phased event: first the rapture and then the revelation. The rapture will be followed by a seven-year period of great tribulation on earth. At the end of the Tribulation period, Christ will return to rule and reign on the earth for one thousand grand and glorious years.