



Highland Park

BAPTIST CHURCH

Statement of Faith

The Word of God

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired and that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

The Triune God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, and infinite, intelligent Spirit, and the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

The Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

Satan

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels. He is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world.

We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy, the Lord of the anti-Christ, and the author of all the powers of darkness—destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Creation

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary changes of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

Original Sin

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of His maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but of choice and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever or can ever be born of woman; and that He is the Son of God, and God the Son.

Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace. Through His office as our mediator, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins. His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree. Having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the most tender compassion with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.

Regeneration/Salvation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the dead in trespasses and in sins are made partakers of the divine nature and receive eternal life, the free gift of God. This new creation is brought about in a

manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel. Evidence of regeneration appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

Free Salvation

We believe that through the grace of God the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel. It is the immediate duty of all believers to accept them as brethren by a cordial, penitent, and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth except a personal, voluntary, rejection of the gospel and such rejection condemns that lost sinner to hell for eternity.

Justification

We believe that Christ secures to such as believe in Him Justification. Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; bestowed not on consideration of any works of righteousness, which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood. His righteousness is imputed unto us.

Repentance and Faith

We believe that Repentance and Faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger, helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Saviour.

Eternal Security

We believe that such only are real believers as endure unto the end, that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors, that a special Providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

New Life

We believe there is a radical and essential difference between the righteousness and the wicked, that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

The Church

We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated together by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of our Savior; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word. Its officers of ordination are pastors or elders and deacons whose qualification, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures.

Mission of the Church

We believe that the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission; First, to make individual disciples; Second, to build up the church; Third, to teach and instruct as He has commanded. The Commission to give the gospel to the world is clearly and unmistakably given to the church.

Autonomy of the Church

We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit. It is Scriptural for churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and the furtherance of the gospel. Each church is the sole judge of the measure and methods of its cooperation and on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence. The will of the local church is final. We also believe that a congregation of believers has liberty to follow God's direction apart from the supervision or mandates of any denominational or hierarchical structures.

Ordinances of the Church

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost with the authority of the local church to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. It is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church membership and to the Lord's Supper in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of the bread and the cup, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth.