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ARTICLES OF FAITH

Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; 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.

II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:19-21; Acts 1:16; Acts 28:25; Ps. 119:160; Ps. 119:105; Ps. 119:130; Luke 24:25-27; John 17:17; Luke 24:44-45; Ps. 119:89; Prove. 30:5-6, Rom. 3:4; I Pet. 1:23; Rev. 22:19; John 12:19; John 12:48; Is. 8:20; Eph. 6:17; Rom. 15:4; Luke 16:31; Ps. 19:7-11; John 5:45-47; John 5:39.

Of the True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, 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.

Ex. 20:2-3; Gen. 17:1; I Cor. 8:6; Eph. 4:6; John 4:24; Ps. 147:5; Psa. 83: 18, Psa. 90:2; Jer. 10:10; Ex. 15:11; Rev. 4:11; I Tim 1:17; Rom. 11:33; Mark 12:30; Matt. 28:19, John 15:26, I Cor. 12:4-6; I John 5:7, John 10:30, John 17:5; I Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6; Eph. 2:18; II Cor. 13:14.

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, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1:1-3; II Thess. 2:7; John 16:8-11; John 15:26-27; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13-14; Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; John 16:13; Rom. 8:14; Rom. 8:16; II Thess. 2:13; I Pet. 1:2; Rom. 8:26-27.

Of the Devil

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and after him a host of angels; that 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 greatest 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 antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's own Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:14-17; Rev. 12:9; Jude 6; II Pet:2.4; Eph. 2:2; John 14:30; I Thess. 3:5; Matt. 4:1-3; I Pet. 5.8; I John 3:8; Matt. 13:39; Luke 22: 3-4; Rev. 12: 10; II Cor. 11:13-15; Mark 13:21-22; I John 4:3; II John 7; I John 2:22; Rev. 13:13-14; II Thess. 2:8-11; Rev. 19:11, 16, 20; Rev. 12:7-9; Rev. 20:1-3; Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41.

Of 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 change 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."

Gen. 1:1, Ex. 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; John 1:3; Rev. 10:6; Rom. 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:26-27; Gen 2:21-23; Gen. 1:11; Gen 1:24.

Of the Fall of Man

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.

Gen. 3:1-6, 24; Rom. 5:12; Rom. 5:19; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1, 3; Rom. 1:18; Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:32; Rom. 1:20; Rom. 1:28; Gal. 3:22.

Of 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 born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son.

Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Mark 1:1; John 1:14; Psa. 2:7; Gal. 4:4; I John 5:20; I Cor. 15:47.

Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that 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; that, having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:18; Phil. 2:8; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; I Pet. 3:18; Isa. 53:11; Heb. 12:2; I Cor. 15:20; Isa. 53:12; Heb. 9:12-15; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:2.

Of Grace in the New Creation

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 one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the 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; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; Luke 5:27; I John 5:1; John 3:6-7; Acts 2:41; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9.

Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and an obedient faith; and nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

I Thess. 1:4; Col. 3:12; I Pet. 1:2; Titus 1:1; Rom. 8:29-30; Matt. 11:28; Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Rom. 10:13; John 6:37; Isa. 55:6; Acts 2:38; Isa. 55:7; John 3:15-16; I Tim. 1:15; I Cor. 15:10; Eph. 2:4-5; John 5:40; John 3:18; John 3:36.

Of Justification

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

Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 5:1; Tit. 3:5-7, Rom. 1:17; Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38.

Of 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 and 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 Savior.

Acts 20:21; Mark 1:15; Acts 2:37-38; Luke 18:73; Rom. 10:13; Psa. 51:1-4; Psa. 51:7; Isa. 55:6-7; Luke 12:8; Rom. 10:9-17.

Of the Church

We believe that a Baptist Church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, said church being understood to be the citadel and propagator of the Divine and Eternal Grace; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are pastors or elders whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures; we believe 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. We do not believe in the reversal of this order; we hold 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 superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to

cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Acts 2:41; Acts 2:42, I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; Eph. 4:11; I Cor. 12:4, 8-11; Acts 14:23, Acts 6:5-6; Acts 15:23; Acts 20: 17-28; I Tim. 3:1-13; Matt. 28:19-20, Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; I Pet. 5:1-4; Acts 15:22; Jude 3, 4; II Cor. 8:23-24; I Cor. 16:1, Mal. 3:10; Lev. 27:32; I Cor. 16:2; I Cor. 6:1-3; I Cor. 5:11-13.

Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

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; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and the fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:6; John 3:23; Rom. 6:4-5; Matt. 3:16, Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts 2:41-42, Matt. 28:19, 20; I Cor. 11:23-28.

Of the Perseverance of the Saints

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.

John 8:31-32; Col 1:21-23; I John 2:19; Matt. 13:19-21; Rom. 8:28; Psa. 121:3; Heb. 1:14; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6, John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:35-39.

Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous 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.

Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; Prov. 11:31; I Pet. 1:18; Rom 1:17; I Cor. 15:22; Acts 10:34-35; I John 2:29; Rom. 6:16; I John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; Rom. 7:6; Rom 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34, 41; John 8:21; Luke 9:26; John 12:25; Matt. 7:13-14.

Of Civil Government

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

Rom. 13:7; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Tit. 3:1; I Pet. 2:13, 14; I Pet. 2:17; Acts 4:19-20; Dan. 3:17-18; Matt. 10:28; Matt. 23:10, Phil. 2:10-11; Psa. 72:11.

Of the Resurrection and Return of Christ and Related Events

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value. Of the Resurrection, we believe that Christ rose bodily "The third day according to the Scriptures;" that He alone is our "merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God;" "that this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" - bodily, personally and visible; that the "dead in Christ shall rise first," that the living saints "shall all be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump;" "that the Lord God shall give unto Him the throne of His Father David;" and that "Christ shall reign a thousand years in righteousness until He hath put all enemies under His feet."

Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor. 15:4, Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-7; Acts 1:9, 11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:1; Heb. 12:2; Heb. 8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1 ; Heb. 2:17; Heb. 5:9-10, John 14:3; I Thess. 4:16; Matt. 24:27; Matt. 24:42; Heb. 9:28; / Cor. 15:42-44, 51-53; I Thess. 4:17; Phil. 3:20, 21; Luke 1:32; I Cor. 15:25; Isa. 11:4-5; Psa. 72:8, Rev. 20:1-4; Rev. 20:6.

Of Missions

The command to give the gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this Commission was given to the churches.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Mark 16:15

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

John 20:21

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

Romans 10:13-15

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? and how shall they preach except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Of the Grace of Giving

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith.

II Corinthians 8:7

Therefore as ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week.

II Corinthians 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Under Grace we give, and do not pay, the tithe - Abraham GAVE the tenth of the spoils. Hebrews 7:2 mentions giving four hundred years before the law was given, and is confirmed in the New Testament. Jesus said concerning the tithe:

Matthew 23:23

“These ye ought to have done”

We are commanded to bring the tithe into the common treasury of the church.

Leviticus 27:30

The tithe... is the Lord's.

Malachi 3. 10

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine houses and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

In the New Testament it was the common treasury of the church.

Acts 4:34, 35, & 37

And brought the prices of the things that were sold and laid them down at the apostles' feet . . . Having land, sold it, and brought the money, and laid it at the apostles' feet.

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage or the abuse of chemical substances and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rule of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We, moreover, engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible unite with some other Church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

MISSION STATEMENT

High Street Baptist Church exists to glorify God together, by entering His Presence, evangelizing the lost, edifying one another and equipping every believer to do to the work of ministry.

CORE VALUES

1. We value the Word of God. The Bible is the Word of God and is timeless, trustworthy and authoritative. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
2. We value prayer. Prayer honors God because it declares our dependence on Him and our desire to do His will. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
3. We value worship. Honoring God and expressing our love and devotion to Him is an important part of what we do both individually and corporately. (Matthew 22:37)
4. We value Christ-likeness. Godliness is God's transforming work, which begins at the moment of salvation and is a powerful witness to those around us. (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20)
5. We value people. People are important to God and should be important to us. We will put into practice the "one anothers" of scripture. We must have a genuine respect and vision for the people God brings into our lives and ministry. (1 Peter 3:8)
6. We value disciple-making. Reconciling lost people to God, baptizing them, teaching them to obey all the commands Jesus has given, edifying every believer and equipping each one to do the work of ministry. (Matthew 28:18-20)
7. We value missions. The Great Commission commands us to take the Good News of Jesus Christ across the street and around the world. (Acts 1:8)
8. We value teamwork and total involvement. We are all in ministry. Working together, using our unique gifts and abilities is the best way to accomplish what God has called us to do as a church. (Ephesians 4:11-16)

OPERATING AGREEMENTS

The following operating agreements will serve as the foundation for maintaining sound relationships between all pastors, church leadership and members. These values represent how we work together to fulfill our vision and mission.

A Lifestyle of Commitment

We resolve to maintain disciplines that will keep us spiritually strong and growing as a part of this local body. These disciplines include: faithful Bible study and prayer (quiet time), giving and church attendance.

* Bible Study – 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; Proverbs 30:5

* Prayer – 1 Thessalonians 5:17, 25; Colossians 1:9; Hebrews 13:18

* Giving – Hebrews 7:5-9; Malachi 3:8; 1 Corinthians 16:2

* Church Attendance – Hebrews 10:24-25

Christlikeness

We resolve to live as Christ would have us live. We will endeavor to hate what is evil, cling to what is good, and to live as those who will give an account unto God.

1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 3:12; 1 Peter 2:21; 3:15-16; 4:5; Romans 12:21

Loyalty

We resolve to be loyal to one another as unto Christ. We will speak well of each other, stick together in tough times, and believe the best of each other as we seek to serve God and others. Romans 12:5,10; Galatians 6:2; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13, 16; Hebrews 3:13; 10:24,25; James 5:16; 1 Peter 3:8; 1 John 4:7, 11, 12

Confidentiality

We resolve to maintain confidentiality in our personal interactions. We will make a conscious effort to model a professional code of ministerial ethics regarding honesty and humility in self-disclosure. Proverbs 25:9-10

Leadership

We resolve to honor and respect those God has placed in leadership. We recognize that leadership is a gift ordained by God, and must be carried out with much prayer. Hebrews 13:17; Romans 12:8

Excellence

We resolve to strive for excellence in all our endeavors. We believe that excellence honors God and inspires, and whatever we are called to do will be done to the very best of our ability and resources. Colossians 3:17, 23

Growth

We resolve to take an active role in ongoing education and training activities. We will continually strive to improve our knowledge, skills, attitudes, and habits in order to improve our personal and ministry effectiveness. Luke 2:52; Ephesians 4:13; 2 Peter 1:8; 3:18

Communication

We resolve to communicate clearly and effectively with one another. We will do our best to establish and maintain clear lines of communication regarding all ministry events and activities. Matthew 5:37; Ephesians 4:15

Conflict Resolution

We resolve to handle conflicts in a Christ-like manner. While recognizing and celebrating our differences, we will strive to avoid over-sensitivity and defensiveness, which can lead to disunity. When conflicts occur, they will be resolved quickly, biblically, confidentially, and respectfully. Matthew 18:15-17; James 4:1-4

Creativity & Innovation

We resolve to be creative and innovative in our attempts to develop programs, ministries, and activities that address the needs of those we are called to serve. Isaiah 43:18-19; 1 Corinthians 9:22

Hardships

We resolve to endure hardships as we work together for the cause of Christ. We will pray for one another, encourage one another, and lift one another up during difficult times. We will recognize the value of hardships in teaching us patience and strengthening our faith in God. 2 Corinthians 8:2; Romans 8:28; Galatians 6:2

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We are often asked the following questions:

Question: What kind of Baptist is High Street?

Answer: We are independent fundamental Baptists, affiliated with the Baptist Bible Fellowship for the purpose of missions.

Question: What does fundamental mean?

Answer: When people speak of sports, they talk of the “fundamentals of the game”. That is the same way we use the word. Fundamentalists hold to the BASICS of what the Bible teaches.

Question: Why do you believe in baptism by immersion only?

Answer: We believe that the Bible teaches immersion (or dunking) as the only method whereby people were baptized in the New Testament, it is what the word ‘baptize’ means, and it is the best picture of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Question: Are you Southern Baptists?

Answer: No.

Question: What is the difference between Southern Baptists and you?

Answer: We are not responsible to any church governing authority, outside of the local assembly. We do not report to a governing body. Also, we differ in our method of sending and supporting missionaries. The Southern Baptist model is to allow a central management, where we encourage each church to send missionaries, and we work with other churches to support missionaries, but no one tells us who to support.