

FBC PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

Here at FBC, we hold that the truths contained in Scripture need to drive all that we do in life and ministry. The following truths contained in Scripture comprise the most basic components which form the foundation upon which Faith Baptist Church is built:

The Centrality of God

We believe there is one true God (Deut 6:4; Is 45:5-7) who is supreme in all His attributes. He is the creator of all things (Gen 1:1), has existed from all eternity (Ps 90:2), is sovereign over all (Ps 103:19). We believe God is three equally divine persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) who exist as One (Matt 28:19).

We believe God created all that exists in six literal days and that He created man in His image on the sixth day (Gen 1-2). We believe Satan was an angel who led a host of angels in a revolt against God (Ezekiel 28:12-18). As the enemy of both God and man, He will suffer final defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev 20:10).

The Supremacy of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son (John 3:16) and is the second person of the Trinity (Matt 28:19). He is the creator (John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2) and sustainer (Col 1:17) of all things. He was born of a virgin (Is 7:14, Matt 1:23) and lived a sinless life as God incarnate (John 1:1, 14). He died a substitutionary atoning death on the cross (Rom 5:8), Rose again from the dead (Rom 1:4; Acts 2:24), and ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9). He is the mediator between God and man who makes intercession for His people (Rom 8:34, Heb 7:25).

The Sufficiency of the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a person (John 14:26; 16:13) who comprises the third members of the Trinity (Matt 3:16-17). He was instrumental in the creation of the world (Gen 1:2) and the inspiration of the Word of God (2 Pet 1:2). His ministry is to convict sinners of sin (John 16:8), regenerate the heart and indwell all believers at the moment of salvation (John 3:5, 1 Cor 3:6), incorporate them into the body of Christ at conversion (1 Cor 12:13), and seal believers for a future inheritance (Eph 1:13, 2 Cor 1:22). He also fills believers for daily obedience (Gal 5:22-25, Eph 5:18, teaches them God's truth (1 Cor 2:12), guides believers (Rom 8:14), prays for believers (Rom 8:26), and bestows believers with spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12 :7).

The Authority of the Bible

We believe the Bible is the Word of God, written by men inspired by God (2 Tim 3:16), and that the inspiration was verbal, plenary, infallible, inerrant, unlimited and complete (Ps 19:7-9, Is 30:8, Matt 5:18, John 10:35; 17:17).

- Verbal – the actual words, not just the thoughts, are inspired
- Plenary – all the words, not just some of the words, are inspired
- Infallible – all of the words are authoritative
- Inerrant – all of the words are accurate
- Unlimited – the inspiration applies to all addressed topics, not just theological ones
- Complete – the canon is finished, divine revelation is not continuing

The Condition of Man

We believe that in the beginning, mankind was created in the image of God (Gen 1:27) sinless and holy (Gen 1:27, 31; 2:25). We believe that mankind chose to rebel against his creator (Gen 3:6-7) by disobeying God's specific instructions (Gen 2:16-17). This act of rebellion plunged the human race into sin and death (Rom 5:12) resulting in mankind's separation from God (Isa 59:2). All people are born sinners and commit sin (Eph 2:1-10, Rom 3:11-18; 23). Every person will face physical and spiritual death because of sin. The natural man is totally incapable of producing works to commend himself to God (Isa 64:6). As a result mankind is worthy of the Wrath of God (Rom 1:18; 5:6, Col 3:6) and eternal death (Rom 6:23) and , therefore hopelessly lost (Eph 2:12).

The Reality of Salvation

We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell. We believe that in order to be saved from facing the wrath of God for eternity in Hell (Rom 6:23), one must come to Jesus Christ in repentance believing in Him as Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-10). Only through the sacrificial death of the Lord Jesus Christ is salvation possible (Acts 4:12, John 14:6). Christ's death satisfied God's wrath against sin (1 Thess 1:10). This salvation is accessible by grace through faith, apart from any merit or work on man's part (Eph 2:8-10). Salvation is secured forever by God Himself (John 6:37-44). Those who come to Christ in repentance believing in Him and placing their trust in Him, will be born-again (John 3:3) exhibiting a new nature (2 Cor 5:17), walking in newness of life (Rom 6:4) and will go to heaven when they die and ultimately spend eternity with God on the new heaven and new earth (Rev 21).

The Nature of the Church

We believe a true local church is an autonomous congregation of baptized believers who assemble to worship God, learn His Word, and carry out the *Great Commission*. The three main duties of the church are, 1.) Exalting God (Eph. 1:6, 12, 14; 1 Peter 2:5). This is done through singing, prayer, preaching, and communion. 2.) Equipping the saints (Eph. 4:12; Matt. 4:21, Hebrews 13:20-21). 3.) Evangelizing the lost (Matt. 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, Colossians 4:2,3).

The Nature and Mode of Baptism

We believe Biblical baptism is the immersing of a believer in water as a public testimony of his or her professed faith in Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:19-20). We believe that although Baptism is not necessary for salvation, it is a necessary step in sanctification. Baptism is one of two ordinances for the church (the Lord's supper being the other). We believe baptism illustrates Christ's death and resurrection (1 Cor. 15:3-4). It also illustrates our union with Christ's death and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4), and it illustrates the washing away of sin and new life in Christ (John 3:5; Acts 22:16).

The Lord's Supper

We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial to the broken body, shed blood, and death of the Lord Jesus Christ as well as a reminder of his return. It is to be observed by believers until the day Jesus Christ returns (1 Cor. 11:24). The Lord's supper is not a sacrament of salvation. The New Testament refers to communion as, The Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20), The Lord's table (1 Cor.10:21), communion (1 Cor. 10:16), and an ordinance (1 Cor. 11:2).

The Act of Giving

We believe that Christians should, with a joyful heart, financially support the church that they are members of. This should be done on a regular basis by faith trusting in the Lord for His provision. We believe a good place to start is by tithing (giving 10% of income) as a rule. An offering would be anything given beyond this general tithe.