

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF DANVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA

(Article III, Church Constitution)

Each and every member, in order to become or remain a member of this church shall subscribe to the following doctrinal statements:

1. We believe that the Bible, consisting of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the verbally inspired Word of God (II Tim. 3:16, II Peter 1:20, 21) written by men divinely and uniquely inspired, and is therefore inerrant in the original writings (Matt. 5:18), and that it is the supreme and final authority for faith and daily conduct (II Tim. 3:17).

2. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4, Isa. 45:5, Matt. 28:19,20, II Cor. 13:14), creator of heaven and earth (Gen. 1:1), perfect in holiness (Lev. 11:44), infinite in wisdom and measureless in power (Rom. 11:33). We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears prayer and that He graciously saves from sin and eternal death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23).

3. We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Begotten Son (John 3:16), pre-existent with the Father (John 8:58), conceived of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35), born of the Virgin Mary (Matt. 1:20-25), and sinless in His life (Heb. 4:15). We believe in His substitutionary and atoning death on the cross (Eph. 1:7, Col. 1:14), His bodily resurrection (Luke 24:39, 40), His ascension into heaven (Acts 1:11), His high priestly intercession for His people (Rom. 8:34, Heb. 9:11-16), His personal visible (Acts 1:11), and pre-millennial return to the world according to His promise. (I Thess. 4:13-17, Rev. 20:1-6).

4. We believe in the Holy Spirit, that He is God (Acts 5:3,4, John 4:24); that He came forth from God to convince the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:7-12); that He guides into all truth, glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:13,14); that He regenerates believers by making them children of God through the new birth (John 3:5, Rom. 8:16); that He joins them to the Body of Christ, the Church (I Cor. 12:3,13); that He seals believers and assures them of Heaven (Eph. 4:30, Rom. 8:16,17), and by His indwelling enables believers to live godly lives (Gal. 5:16,22-25).

5. We believe that man was created in the image of God by His direct act, without sin, and not from any previously existing form of life (Gen. 1:26-31, Heb. 11:3); that as a result of Satan's work, man sinned and incurred physical and spiritual death or separation from God (Gen. 3:1-24); and that without God's grace applied to one's life, every man and woman is destined to hell for eternity (Eph. 2:1-3, John 3:36, Rev. 20:10-15); and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and become sinners in thought, word, and deed (Ps. 51:5, Rom. 1:18;3:10-23), but "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that who-so-ever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

6. We believe in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, according to the scriptures (I Cor. 15:1-5), and that He is our substitutionary sacrifice so that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (I Cor. 15:22, 45, Col. 1:13-14, Heb. 9:11-14). We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour are born again (John 3:5), and become children of God (John 1:12,13, Rom. 8:14-16), that they are saved by grace and not by works (Eph. 2:8,9), are called to a life of good works and personal holiness (Eph. 2:10, Gal. 5:16-26), and that all who are truly born again are kept by the power of God and are incapable of losing their salvation (John 6:37-44;20:30,31, I John 5:13). We believe that those who accept Christ as personal Lord and Saviour will rejoice forever in God's presence and those who refuse to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour will be forever separated from God (John 3:36).

7. We believe that Satan, or the Devil, is a person and the originator of sin (Gen. 3:1-5, Rev. 20:2, I Thess. 3:5), that he will be eternally punished (Rev. 20:10), and that he can only be resisted by believers protected by the power of God and the armor He provides (Eph. 6:10-17, I John 4:1-4).

8. We believe in the Church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head (Eph. 4:15), and of which all regenerated, born again believers are members (Rom. 12:4, 5). We believe that a local church is a company of regenerated, baptized believers, voluntarily associated together for the purpose of worship, prayer, fellowship, and service (Acts 2:41,42). We believe that a local New Testament church is autonomous and responsible alone to Jesus Christ its Saviour (Acts 5:29). We believe that the glorious mission of the church is evangelization of the world and that this mission merits the complete consecration of the time, talent and money of every Christian (Acts 1:6-8).

9. We believe in the two ordinances of baptism (Matt. 28:19, 20), and the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:26). We believe that baptism, by immersion in water, is only for those who have accepted Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour (Rom. 6:4, Acts 18:8). We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of the Lord's death wherein the elements are bread and fruit of the vine (Luke 22:14-20, and that those who have been saved through faith in His atoning sacrifice and are walking in fellowship with Him ought to partake of it (I Cor. 11:23-32).

10. We believe that the local church is self governing in function (Acts 6:5; 15: 22), and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority (Matt. 22:21). We further believe that every human being is directly responsible to God in matters of faith and life (Acts 5:29; 17: 28), and that each should be free to worship God according to the dictates of his/her conscience (John 4:23, 24).