



Lewis  
Memorial  
BAPTIST CHURCH

## **Doctrinal Statement**

# Core Doctrines

## A. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible, and God-breathed.

*(Cf. Matthew 5:18, 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)*

## B. The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections.

*(Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14)*

## C. God the Father

We believe that God the Father is a spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in all of His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of the universe, and Giver of all life in sovereign authority over all His created beings, the Keeper over the nation Israel, and the Father and Disciplinarian of His chosen in Jesus Christ.

*(Cf. Psalm 139:7-10; Isaiah 46:9; Romans 11:33; Revelation 19:6)*

## D. The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men.

*(Cf. John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35)*

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him is assured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

*(Romans 3:24, 25; 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24)*

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Intercessor and Advocate.

*(Cf. Acts 1:9, 10; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1, 2)*

## **E. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment and that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption.

*(Cf. John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14)*

We Believe that He is the Divine teacher who guides believers into all truth and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit.

*(Cf. John 16:13; 1 John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18)*

## **F. Creation**

We believe that the Triune God, by a free act, in the beginning and for His own glory, without the use of existing materials or secondary causes, brought into being – immediately and instantaneously, in six literal days by the word of His mouth – the whole visible and invisible universe.

*(Cf. Genesis 1:1-27; Exodus 20:8-11; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 104:24, 25; Isaiah 40:26, 28; John 1: 1-5; Colossians 1:16-17)*

## **G. The Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man, of himself, is utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

*(Cf. Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:22, 23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12)*

## H. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God, wholly available by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.

*(Cf. John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18, 19)*

## I. The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

*(Cf. John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38, 39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5)*

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, also clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to sin.

*(Cf. Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15)*

## J. Separation

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God.

*(Cf. Romans 12:1, 2; 14:13; 2 Corinthians 6:14; 7:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11)*

## K. Missions

We believe that all men everywhere are lost and condemned; and that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to God's saving grace and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

*(Cf. Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20)*

## L. The Church

We believe that the Church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age.

*(Cf. Ephesians 1:22, 23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2)*

We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local church is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures.

*(Cf. Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; Titus 1:5-9)*

We believe in the autonomy of the local church, free of any external authority or control.

*(Cf. Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4)*

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ established two ordinances for the Church in this present age. These are believer's water baptism, practiced by immersion, and the Lord's Supper, observed as a memorial of His death.

*(Cf. Acts 8:12, 35-39; 10:47, 48; 1 Corinthians 1:14; 11:23-34)*

### **M. The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a created being, the author of sin, the tempter in the fall, the declared enemy of God and man, and the god of this age. He shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

*(Cf. Job 1:6, 7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10)*

### **N. The Second Advent of Christ**

We believe in the "Blessed Hope," the personal, imminent, pretribulation, and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

*(Cf. Zechariah 14:4-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; 5:9; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6)*

### **O. The Eternal State**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men: the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

*(Cf. Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25, 26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13)*

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord where, in conscious bliss, they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.

*(Cf. Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6)*

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection when, with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment.

*(Cf. Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15)*

## **P. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ gives the Church evangelists and pastor-teachers. These gifted men are to equip the saints for the work of the ministry.

*(Cf. Ephesians 4:7-14)*

We believe the Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts upon believers for Christian service and the edification of the Church.

*(Cf. Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11)*

We believe the church age was initiated through the ministry of the apostles and prophets accompanied by sign gifts to confirm their message. These sign gifts gradually ceased by the time of the completion of the New Testament.

*(Cf. 1 Corinthians 12:28, 31; 13:8-10; 14:1-28; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 2:19-22; Hebrews 2:3-4)*

We believe that God hears and answers prayer in accord with His own will for healing of the sick and afflicted.

*(Cf. John 14:13-14; 15:7; 1 John 4:14-15)*

## **Q. Dispensationalism**

We believe the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations which define man's responsibility in successive ages. A dispensation is not a way of salvation, but a Divinely ordered stewardship by which God directs man according to His purpose.

*(Cf. John 1:17; 1 Corinthians 9:17; 2 Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 1:10; 3:2-10; Colossians 1:24-25; Hebrews 7:19; Revelation 20:2-6)*

We believe salvation is always by grace through faith, regardless of the dispensation in which the believer may have lived. God's purpose of salvation by grace through faith alone has always been based upon the substitutionary atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross.

*(Cf. Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 11:6; 1 Peter 1:10-12)*

## **R. 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.

*(Cf. Acts 4:19-20; Romans 13:1-7)*

## **S. Giving**

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established that our giving be sacrificial and cheerful and that our gifts be used for the purposes of the local church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that once the offering has been given, the Christian authorizes the church body to direct its use for the benefit and stated purposes of this ministry.

*(Cf. Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)*

## **T. Abortion**

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

*(Cf. Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)*

## **U. Human Sexuality**

We believe that God creates people in his image as either male or female, and that this creation is a fixed matter of human biology, not individual choice.

*(Cf. Genesis 1:27; 2:24; Matthew 19:5)*

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that marriage is instituted by God, not government, is between one man and one woman, and is the only context for sexual desire and expression.

*(Cf. Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 25:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4)*

# **Lewis Memorial Baptist Church**

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