

Attachment I

STATEMENT OF FAITH

What we believe:

1. About God

We believe that there is only one true, living, and eternal God and that the Godhead is revealed as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

- a.) One true and eternal God: Deut. 6:4; Jer. 10:10; Mark 12:29; I Cor 8:4-6
- b.) The Godhead:
 - 1.) God the Father: Gen 1:1; Matt. 6:9; Eph. 4:6
 - 2.) God as Son: Isa. 9:6; Jn. 1:1; 3:16; 1 Cor 15:28; Matt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:26-38
 - 3.) God as Holy Spirit: Jn. 14:16, 26; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:1-4

2. The Bible

We believe that the Holy Scriptures are the Old and New Testaments; the inspired and infallible Word of God and therein is found the only reliable guide of Christian faith and conduct.

- a.) The Inspired Revelation: Lk. 24:44-46; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21
- b.) The Infallible Word: Isa. 40:8; Jn. 17:17; I Peter 1:25
- c.) The Reliable Guide: Deut. 6:6-9; Rom. 10:14-15; 15:4

3. Man

We believe that God created man in His own image to bring Him honor through obedience, and that when man disobeyed, he became a fallen and sinful creature, unable to save himself. We believe that infants are in the covenant of God's grace and that all persons become accountable to God when they reach a state of moral responsibility.

- a.) Man's Origin: Gen. 126-27; 2:7
- b.) Man's Purpose: Gen. 1:28-31; 2:15-25
- c.) Man's Sin: Gen. 3:1-24; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 1:18-3:23; 5:12-21
- d.) Man's Accountability: Rom. 4:15; 5:13; 6:16

4. Salvation

We believe that salvation (regeneration, sanctification, justification and redemption) has been provided for all mankind through the redemptive work (life, death, resurrection, ascension, and intercession) of Jesus Christ, and that this salvation can be received only through repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

- a.) Salvation: I Thess. 5:9; Heb. 7:25
- b.) Regeneration: Jn. 3:3-8; Eph. 2:1-10; 2 Cor. 5:17
- c.) Sanctification: I Cor. 1:30; Heb. 10:9-10; I Pet. 1:2
- d.) Justification: Rom. 5:1-2, 18; I Cor 6:11
- e.) Redemption: Isa 53:6; Col. 1:14; I Pet. 1:18-19
- f.) Christ's Redemptive Work: Jn. 3:16; Rom. 5:8, Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12
- g.) Life and Death: Heb. 9:12-15; Jn. 10:11
- h.) Resurrection: Rom. 4:25; I Pet. 1:3; I Cor. 15:14, 17
- i.) Ascension: Heb. 4:14-16, 6:19-20; 9:24
- j.) Intercession: Rom. 8:34; Isa. 53:12; I Tim. 2:5
- k.) Repentance: Isa. 55:6-7; Lk. 24:47; Acts 2:38
- l.) Faith: Jn. 3:16-18; Heb. 11:1,6

5. Assurance and Endurance

We believe that those who abide in Christ have the assurance of salvation. However, we believe that the Christian retains his freedom of choice; therefore, it is possible for him to turn away from God and be finally lost.

- a.) Assurance: Matt. 28:20; I Cor. 10:13; Heb. 5:9
- b.) Endurance: Lk. 9:62; Col. 1:23
- c.) Finally lost: Heb. 6:4-6

6. Christian Duties

We believe that Christians should live faithfully by serving in and through the local church, praying diligently, witnessing earnestly, practicing tolerance, showing loving kindness, giving as God prospers, and conducting themselves in such a way as to bring glory to God.

- a.) Faithful Service: I Chron. 16:11; Matt. 28:18-20; Jn. 15:7-14; I Cor. 13
- b.) Prayer: 2 Cor 7:14; Matt. 6:1-13
- c.) Witnessing: Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 1:8
- d.) Tolerance: Matt. 18:15-17; Gal. 5:22-23
- e.) Loving Kindness: Jn. 13:35
- f.) Financial Stewardship: Matt. 23:23; I Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7

7. The Church

We believe that the Church Universal is the Body of Christ, the fellowship of all believers, and that its members have been called out from the world to come under the dominion and authority of Christ, its head. We believe that a local church is a fellowship of Christians, a part of the Body of Christ, voluntarily banded together for worship, nurture, and service.

- a.) The Church Universal: Matt. 16:18; I Cor. 3:16; 12:12-24, 27; Eph. 1:22-23
- b.) The Local Church: Matt. 18:17; Acts 2:38-47; 11:19-30; Rev. 1:4; 3:22
- c.) Worship and Service: I Cor. 14:12; Heb. 10:25; Ja. 1:26-27
- d.) Nurture: Eph. 4

8. Ordinances

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances by Christ to be observed by Christians only. We also believe that the Biblical mode of baptism is immersion and that participation in the Lord's Supper should be open to all Christians. (Note: Several associations and local churches recognize feet washing as an ordinance. We believe that this should be left to the individual, and that neither the practice nor the non-practice of it should be any bar to fellowship, either in the church, the local association, the Presbytery, or the General Association).

- a.) Baptism:
 - 1.) Instituted: Matt. 3:13-15; 28:19
 - 2.) Subjects: Acts 2:41; 8:12
 - 3.) Biblical Mode: Rom 6:3-5; Col. 2:12
 - 4.) Purpose: Matt. 26:26-29; I Pet. 3:21
- b.) Communion:
 - 1.) Instituted: Matt. 26:26-29; I Cor 11:23-25
 - 2.) Subjects: I Cor. 11: 27-29
 - 3.) Purpose: I Cor. 11:26

9. The Lord's Day

We believe in the Sanctity of the Lord's Day, the first day of the week, and that this day ought to be observed by worshiping God, witnessing for Christ, and ministering to the needs of humanity. We believe that secular work on Sunday would be limited to cases of necessity or mercy.

- a.) Sanctity: Ex. 20:8; Isa. 58:13-14
- b.) Observance: Mk. 2:27-28; Lk. 4:16; 14:1-6; Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:2; Rev. 1:10

10. Last things

We believe in the personal return of Jesus Christ, and in the bodily resurrection of the dead. We believe that God will judge all mankind by Jesus Christ; that He will reward the righteous with eternal life in heaven, and that He will banish the unrighteous to everlasting punishment in hell.

- a.) Return: Matt. 24, 25; Jn. 14:13; Acts 1:11; I Jn. 3:2; Rev. 1:7
- b.) Resurrection: Jn. 5:25, 28-29; I Cor. 15; I Thess. 4:16-17
- c.) Judgment and Reward: Matt. 25:21; Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:1, 10; Rev. 14:13; 20:10-15; 22:12

ATTACHMENT II

CHURCH COVENANT

Having given myself to Christ, I desire to commit to the First Baptist Church of Mattoon family. Being in agreement with the beliefs and purpose of the church, I am willing to make the following covenant with the members:

1. That I will forsake all unrighteousness, even the appearance of evil. I will abstain from all questionable pursuits and pleasures; I will forego all hurtful habits; I will avoid all evil associations.
2. That I will follow earnestly after righteousness and true holiness in the fear and love of God. I will seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, trusting that all needful and helpful things will be added to me; I will seek entire consecration to God; I will live a life of prayer; I will seek the constant abiding of the Divine Life within us; and I will be satisfied only when I have evidence that I please God and am accepted of Him.
3. That I will faithfully improve all the means of grace. I will attend and support the services of the church, the preaching, the social services, and other congregational meetings; I will contribute freely of my means for the advancement of the Gospel; and I will cooperate with our brethren in every enterprise having for its end the glory of God and the salvation of men.
4. That I will be Christ-like in all our deportment. I will be tender and affectionate toward others in the congregation; I will be careful of the reputation of others, thinking no evil, and backbiting not with my tongue; I will return good for evil; I will be just and honest, as I would be done by; I will be meek, loving and forgiving as I desire and hope to be forgiven.
5. That I will be a faithful, Christian worker. I will do whatever Christian work comes to hand, shunning no cross, shirking no duty; I will even seek opportunities to do good, glorify God and save souls; I will study to win my associates, my neighbors, my family, and all whom I may influence, to become Christians; I will count it more than my meat and my drink, more than all things else, to the will of our Father in heaven, to lead souls from sin and death, and lead them to God and heaven.
6. That when I remove from this place I will, as soon as possible, unite with another church where I can continue to live by the spirit of this Covenant and the principles of the Bible.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____