

STATEMENT OF FAITH OF MARLOW BAPTIST CHURCH

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired word of God, the authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed (II Timothy 3:16-17; Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13).

2. 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; II Corinthians 13:14).

3. 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, has been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35)

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, 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 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; I Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; I Peter 1:3-5; 2:24 and II Peter 2:1).

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 Representative, Intercessor and Advocate (Acts 1:9, 10; Hebrews 4; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2)

4. 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; that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them into the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; II Corinthians 3:6; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:1-17; Ephesians 1:13-14).

We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 16:13; I John 2:20, 27; Ephesians 5:18).

5. The Total Depravity 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 is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

6. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man 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 (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:18-19).

7. The External 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 (John 6:37-40; 10:17-30; Romans 8:1, 38, 39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I 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 however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

8. The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-15; I John 3:5-9).

9. Separation

We believe that all saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (II Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Corinthians 6:14; 7:1).

10. Missions

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20).

11. The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today (I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).

12. The Church

We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25, 27; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2).

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32); I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

13. Ordinances

We believe that two ordinances are significant above any other that Christians are commanded to observe, namely, water baptism and the Lord's Supper. While recognizing that Water Baptism has no saving merit it is our conviction that after one is saved, Baptism is the next step in order to portray to the world the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. It is our conviction that the scriptural method of Water Baptism is immersion. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death until He comes. We further believe that Water Baptism by immersion is observed but once, and is a sign of identification, and testimony to newness of life, but the Lord's Supper is commemorative and is to be observed often as a memorial of the Body and the Shed Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper shall be open to all born again believers (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:9-13; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:23-33).

14. The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; II Corinthians 4:3-4; I Peter 5:8; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).

15. The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed Hope," the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation 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 (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; I Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelations 3:10; Titus 2:13; I Corinthians 15:51-52; John 14:1-3).

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

We believe that the souls of the 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 (Luke 16:19-30) Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

17. Marriage

1) Marriage is a covenant designed by God. 2) This biblical definition of marriage is not conditioned by culture or personal perspective but decided by God from the beginning and expected to continue until eternity. 3) Marriage is intended to be between one man and one woman as God biologically created them male and female at birth. Hence, any other proposals for marriage are outside of God's intended design. 4) God's design is for marriage to last until the death of one of the spouses. 5) Marriage is designed by God to promote the command to populate the Earth with children who are nurtured and trained in the admonition of the Lord (Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 19:4b-6; Romans 1:20-28).

