

ARTICLE 2

Preamble

We believe that all matters of life and faith must be evaluated on the basis of God's Word, the Bible, which is our infallible guide (2 Timothy 3:16–17). **The Church** believes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and should seek redemption through Jesus Christ. We believe that God's grace can wipe the slate of guilt and sin clean and can restore the person to a right relationship with God and His Church, though the consequences are still incurred. **We** are all in need of God's grace. With that understanding, we know there will be those that disagree with some of the beliefs below. If that is you, we hope that this statement of belief will not be a hinderance to you coming to FBC Round Rock to discover more about life with Jesus Christ. We are a fellowship **with** strong convictions. **At** the same time, **we** want to extend grace to everyone who is seeking to **experience new life in Jesus Christ**. Every person is welcome to worship with us.

John 3:16, Romans 3:23

STATEMENT OF FAITH

God: The God of the Bible is the Creator, Preserver, and Ruler of all creation. God eternally exists and reveals Himself as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three revelations of God have distinct attributes, but remain one in essence and being.

Genesis 1:26-27; Exodus 15:11-13; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 19; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-18; 10:27-30; 38; 17:1-5, 21-22; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 1:1-3;

- **God the Father:** God reigns with care over His creation. He is all powerful, all loving, and all wise. He is Father to those who receive salvation by grace through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:1; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Isaiah 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 6:9; 7:11; 28:19; John 5:26; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; Ephesians 4:6

- **God the Son:** Christ is the Eternal Son of God. In his incarnation, he was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born to the Virgin Mary. Jesus lived without sin and He died on the cross as a perfect sacrifice to redeem all people from their sin. He arose from the dead on the third day from his crucifixion, was witnessed by his disciples, and then ascended into heaven. He will one day return to judge the world and establish His eternal kingdom.

Matthew 1:18-23; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16; 28:1-6; Mark 1:1, 9-11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:9-11, 29; 10:30; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; 20:1-20; Acts 1:9-11; 2:22-24; Romans 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, 24-28; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Hebrews 12:2; Revelation 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 19:16; 22:20-21

- **God the Holy Spirit:** The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and of Jesus. He inspired the writers of the Bible and He enables people to understand its truths. He convicts people of their sin and calls them to Salvation in Jesus Christ. He indwells the hearts of believers when they accept Jesus Christ. He develops Christian maturity in believers so they may become more like Christ. He gives spiritual gifts to each believer and empowers believers to use those gifts for God's work. He equips and enables believers to live daily in their relationship with God the Father.

Genesis 1:2; Psalm 51:11; 139:7-12; Isaiah 61:1-3; Matthew 1:18; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10, 12; Luke 4:1; 18-19; 11:13; 12:12; John 14:16-17, 26; 16:13-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 38, 4:12; Romans 8:9-11, 14-16, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:3-13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Timothy 3:16; 1 John 4:13; Revelation 22:17

The Bible: The 66 books of the Bible are the perfect word of God and were written by men through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This Holy Scripture is God's revelation of His truth to mankind and is the absolute authority for our faith and conduct. The lens through which we interpret the Bible is the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 4:1-2; Psalm 19:7-10; 119; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:17-18; Luke 21:33; John 5:39; 17:17; Romans 15:4; Ephesians 6:7; Colossians 3:16; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 4:11

Salvation: The Bible is clear that all people are sinful by nature and by their own actions are separated from God and need redemption through Jesus Christ. All people are therefore naturally destined to eternity apart from God in a real place of punishment called Hell. No one can receive salvation or eternal life by their own good works. However, because of the gracious act of Jesus dying on the cross, salvation is freely offered to anyone who will accept Jesus as Lord and Savior. Salvation comes by grace through faith alone, and eternal life begins the instant someone receives Jesus into his or her life. Eternal life culminates in escaping Hell and finding a permanent home with God in his eternal kingdom.

Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14; 3:3-21, 10:9, 28-29; 14:5-31; Acts 2:21; 4:12; Romans 3:23-24; 5:6-21; 6:1-23; 8:1-18; 10:9-10; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:21-22; 1 Peter 3:18

Security of the Believer: We believe that a person who has truly received eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ will remain in Jesus. Christians are still susceptible to sin after salvation, but true faith in Christ has a lasting effect that cannot be undone.

John 3:16; 10:27-29; Romans 5:9-10; 2 Corinthians 5:18-19; Philippians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 3:3; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 1:1-9

The Church: A church is an autonomous local group of baptized believers in Jesus Christ who are united by covenant based on their shared beliefs and mission. Those joined together through membership share in the responsibility to care for the church family and pursue the Gospel mission given by Jesus.

The Bible also speaks of the Church as the body of Christ, including all born again believers from every generation, which will be complete at the return of Jesus.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2-3; 21:2-3

Ordinances of our Church: There are two ordinances of the church that were instituted by Jesus Christ:

- **Baptism:** Baptism is the symbolic act of immersing a new believer in Jesus fully into water and raising them up again. It is an act of obedience which symbolizes the death and the burial of the sinful self, and the rising to a new spiritual life in Jesus Christ. It is a prerequisite for church membership and for sharing the Lord's Supper. Baptism does not complete or assist in the salvation process. Jesus commanded the disciples to baptize believers in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit **following His example.**
- **The Lord's Supper:** The Lord's Supper commemorates the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The broken bread represents his body, which was broken during his crucifixion, and the drink in the cup represents his blood which he shed on the cross. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic celebration through which we remember his sacrifice and anticipate his return. Those who have been scripturally baptized can participate in the Lord's Supper.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12

The Purpose of the Church: The Church exists to glorify God in the world, to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to develop believers as they grow in their relationship with Christ. We do this by engaging the world with evangelism and missions, and demonstrating the love of Christ through actions of service. We glorify God as we serve in his name, and as we gather for worship and fellowship in our own church and with like-minded believers.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:42; Colossians 3:16; 2 Thessalonians 5:11; 1 Peter 2:9-10

Sexuality, Gender, and Marriage: The Bible is clear 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. God instituted marriage in the Garden of Eden before sin entered the world as the perfect expression of love and commitment between man and woman. Therefore, we believe marriage is a covenant commitment between one man and one woman in the presence of God and not the government. Marriage is the only context for sexual desire and expression. We believe any sexual act outside God's perfect design for mankind is sinful, including premarital sex, homosexual behavior, extra-marital sexual behavior, and the use of pornography.

Since First Baptist Church Round Rock recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment, this church's pastors and staff will only officiate marriages between

one biologically born male living as male and one biologically born female living as female. **For this reason, the church's property and resources are only available to be used for this type of wedding.**

Genesis 1:26-28, 2:24; Jeremiah 29:6; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:26-27; 13:12-14; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 18-20; 7; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3, 21-33, Colossians 3:5-10; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Hebrews 13:4

Human Life: We believe every human life is created in the image of God and has intrinsic value that is not dependent upon the desirability or the potential contribution of that life. Therefore, we stand in opposition to any act that would end life prematurely between the moment of conception and the moment of natural death. We also commit to demonstrate the love and care of Christ to anyone impacted by decisions of life and death, and to encourage and support their choice to embrace the life God has created.

Genesis 1:26-27; 4:4-10; 9:6; Exodus 20:13; 21:14, 22-24; Job 14:5; Deuteronomy 5:17; Psalm 8:4-5; 22:10; 51:5; 127:3; 139:13-16; Proverbs 31:8; Jeremiah 1:4-5; 22:3 Luke 1:39-44; Acts 17:25; Hebrews 9:27