

## STATEMENT OF FAITH AND PREAMBLE

### PREAMBLE

Baptists have always emphasized the soul's competency before God, freedom in religion, and the priesthood of the believer. However, this emphasis should not be interpreted to mean that there is an absence of certain definite doctrines that Baptists believe, cherish, and with which they have been and are now closely identified.

Your Statement of Faith Committee chose to rely heavily upon the Holy Scriptures and the "The Baptist Faith and Message" adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1962. As we began, the committee noted the historic Baptist idea as to the nature and function of confessions of faith:

(1) Throughout their history, Baptist bodies, both large and small, have issued statements of faith which comprise a consensus of their beliefs.

(2) This statement of faith is not to be regarded as a complete, infallible statement of faith, nor as an official creed carrying mandatory authority.

(3) The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are our only authority for faith and practice. This statement may be helpful as a guide to their interpretation.

(4) Oakland Church is free to revise this statement of faith as may be deemed necessary or wise in the future.

It is the purpose of this statement of faith to clearly set forth certain teachings which we believe.

### STATEMENT OF FAITH

#### I. THE SCRIPTURE

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were written by men who were inspired by God and are sufficient, certain and authoritative for salvation, faith and obedience. (Psalm 119:11, 105; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

#### II. GOD

There is but one God, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of all things. He reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes.

Father - God the Father is ever-present, all-powerful, all-loving, and all-wise.

(Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Psalms 19:1-4; 103:8-13; 104:1-35; Isaiah 64:8; Matthew 6:9-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6)

Son - Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. Conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, Jesus took upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature and identified Himself completely with mankind, yet was without sin. Through His death on the cross and His resurrection, He made provision for the redemption of mankind from sin. He is the one Mediator in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man.

(Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3; 10:30; 14:6; 17:1-5; Acts 2:22-24; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 1 John 4:14-15)

Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit reveals to us the mind of God and intercedes for us according to the will of God. Through the Holy Spirit, we are convicted of our sins and called to faith in and obedience to Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit comforts, bestows the spiritual gifts, and empowers believers in worship, evangelism, and service.

(Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 12:28-32; Mark 1:10; John 14:26; Acts 2:1-4, 38; 4:31; 10:44; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 12:3-11)

#### III. MAN

God created man in His own image. Through the temptation of Satan, man chose to transgress the command of God and fell from his original innocence. From that time forward, the intent of man's heart has been evil from his youth. Only the grace of God can bring man into His holy fellowship.

(Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7, 15-18, 21-23; 3:1-24; 6:5-8; 8:21; Psalm 8:3-8; Jeremiah 17:5; Romans 3:23; 5:12, 19; Ephesians 2:3-5)

#### IV. SALVATION

Salvation is God's gift of divine grace, received by mankind through repentance and faith, and offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Salvation begins with a change of heart, brought about by the conviction of sin, to which the sinner responds in a genuine turning from sin toward God. In accepting Jesus Christ through faith, God transforms us from self-centered to Christ-centered, making us more like Him. Growth in grace continues throughout the person's life through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Those whom God has accepted in Christ and has sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall be preserved to the end.

(Matthew 16:24-26; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 24:6-8, 44-48; John 3:3-21; 6:44-45, 63-65; 10:27-30; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 5:6-8; 8:28-39; 10:9-13; 11:5-7, 26-36; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Ephesians 1:4-14; 2:8-10; 4:11-13; Colossians 3:5-17; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 9:24-26; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-5, 13-23; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9)

#### V. BAPTISM

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience, proclaiming the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour. Baptism symbolizes the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

(Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:35-39; Romans 6:3-5)

## VI. LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby Christians memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming through partaking of bread and the fruit of the vine.  
(Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

## VII. THE RESURRECTION AND JUDGMENT

God, in His chosen time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell. The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

(Isaiah 2:1-4; Matthew 16:27; 24:27, 30, 36, 44; 25:31-46; Mark 8:38; Luke 12:40, 48; 16:19-26; 17:22-35; 21:25-35; John 14:1-6; Acts 1:9-11; 17:31; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 15:20-28, 35-58; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 2 Timothy 4:8; Philippians 3:20-21; Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Peter 3:8-13; Revelation 20:1-22)