

Pioneer Baptist Church

Declaration of Faith

Section 1 – The Bible

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God, inerrant, complete and final revelation of God's will to man, and the supreme standard to all faith and life. (Isaiah 40:8; II Timothy 3:16, 17; John 10:35; II Peter 1:19-20)

We believe the King James Bible, A.V. 1611, to be God's Word kept intact in English, providentially preserved and transmitted to the people of our time. We believe it is unique in its unerring portrayal of the exact rendering of the original Text, and that it reigns Supreme, having no rival among all English translations of the world. We do not believe there is any need to revise, update, correct, better explain, or change in any way the present King James Bible, A.V. 1611.

Section 2 – God

We believe in one God – omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, manifesting himself in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; one in nature, attributes, power, and glory. (Genesis 1:1; Mark 12:29; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1-4; John 5:27-27; Philippians 2:6-11).

Section 3 – Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin, Mary, and that he is true God and true man. (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:1-4, 14; John 5:17-27; Philippians 2:6-11).

Section 4 – Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, that he sinned, and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners in thought, word, and deed. (Genesis 1:26; 2:7-9, 16, 17; 3:1-9; Psalm 14:3,4; 51:5; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3).

Section 5 – Salvation

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe on Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood on the cross, and we are saved by grace through faith, wholly apart from human merit and works. (John 1:29; Acts 13:38,39; 16:31; Romans 3:21-28; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:3-8).

Section 6 – Regeneration

We believe that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by faith are born again by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, and thereby become children of God. (John 3:3-8, 14-16; 1:12,13; 10:28,29; I Peter 1:4-7; I John 3:1-3).

Section 7 – The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, and the administrator of the things of God: convicting of sin, revealing Christ, teaching the truth, restraining evil, energizing believers in prayer, worship and service, and is ever-present in the believer as our comforter and helper. (Psalm 139:7-12; John 7:38,39; 15:26; 16:13,14; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19; II Thessalonians 2).

Section 8 – Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan: that he is a created being of beauty and power, the prince of this world, the god of this age, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience; that he fell through pride, and that he will be judged and cast into the lake of fire. (Ezekiel 28:12-18; Isaiah 14:12-14; Job 1:6,7; John 8:44; Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 4:4; 11:13-15; Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10).

Section 9 – The Return of Christ

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, His ascension into Heaven, His present life there for us as our High Priest and Advocate, and His personal, bodily, visible, premillennial return to establish His kingdom on earth, to reign as the only potentate: the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Luke 24:26-43; John 20:24-29; Acts 1:9,10; I Corinthians 15:20-25; I Timothy 6:14,15; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-16; 20:6).

Section 10 – The Rapture of the Church

We believe that at any moment the rapture of the saved may occur, when "...the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven..." to catch up His people to meet Him in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (John 14:1-3; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-58).

Section 11 – Heaven and Hell

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead: the saved, to a life of eternal glory and bliss in heaven with God; the unsaved, to eternal judgment of conscious suffering and woe in the lake of fire. (John 5:28,29; Revelation 20:6, 11-15; 21:1-8; Matthew 10:29; 18:8,9; 25:41,46; Mark 9:43-49; II Thessalonians 1:6-9).

Section 12 – Evangelism

We believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to be a personal soul winner and to do his utmost to give the Gospel of Christ to the whole world. (Mark 16:15,16; Acts 1:8; Matthew 4:19; John 17:18; 20:21; II Corinthians 5:20).

Section 13 – Separation

We believe that we are called to be a separated people to abide in Christ, to walk in the Spirit and to enjoy victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. (Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16; I John 2:15-17; Colossians 3:1-17; II Corinthians 2:14).

Our Resolution on Separation

1. Separation from the Doctrinal Schismatics and Apostates
 - a. “Mark them” (Philippians 3:17-18)
 - b. “Avoid them” (Romans 16:17,18)
 - c. “Identify them” (I Timothy 1:20; II Timothy 1:15, 4:14)
 - d. “From such turn away” (II Timothy 3:5)
 - e. “Reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11)
 - f. “Have no fellowship with them” (Ephesians 5:11)
 - g. “Be not unequally yoked together with” (II Corinthians 6:17)
 - h. “Come out from among them” (II Corinthians 6:17)
 - i. “Reject them” (Titus 3:10)
2. Separation from disobedient saints and appeasers
 - a. “Note that man” (II Thessalonians 3:14)
 - b. “Withdraw thyself” (II Thessalonians 3:14)
 - c. “Have no company with” (II Thessalonians 3:14)
 - d. “Rebuke them sharply” (Titus 1:13)
 - e. “Admonish him as a brother” (II Thessalonians 3:15)
 - f. “Count him not as an enemy” (II Thessalonians 3:15)
 - g. “Keep not company” (I Corinthians 5:11)
 - h. “With such an one no not to eat” (I Corinthians 5:11)
3. Separation in soul-winning activity

Jude 22-23, “And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh”

Be it further resolved that while adhering to the separatist position, we “let brotherly love continue.” Hebrews 13:1

Section 14 – Ordinances

We believe that there are two ordinances of the Church: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We believe that believer’s baptism by immersion is the scriptural mode. (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; I Corinthians 11:23-32; Matthew 3:16).

Section 15 – Eternal Security

We believe that all who have truly been born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ are eternally secure. We believe it is the privilege of all such to be assured of their present salvation and eternal security. (John 10:20-29; 5:24; II Timothy 1:12; Philippians 1:6; Romans 8:33-39).

Section 16 – Church Finances

We believe the only method of financing God's work to be the freewill tithes and offerings of God's people as set forth in the scriptures. (II Corinthians 8:12; Leviticus 27:30-33; Malachi 3:10-12).

Section 17 – Christian Liberty

We believe in and practice Biblical Christian liberty. Paul the Apostle, along with other New Testament writers, taught that a strict adherence to man-made standards does not honor or please God, and we believe Paul's message is as relevant today as it was back then. We believe Biblical liberty has been replaced in Christian circles with the "touch not, taste not, handle not" legalism described in Colossians 2:20-23. We are fully aware of and believe in the dangers of abusing liberty (Galatians 5:13), however, we are also aware of the dangers of legalism and hypocrisy (Matthew 15:8). Those who take liberty too far give an occasion for the flesh, while those who deny liberty puff the flesh. Thus we believe the correct position is between the two. We stand firm against drunkenness and the immoderate use of any substance or activity (I Corinthians 6:10; Ephesians 5:18), but we also stand strong against those who put personal standards and traditions of men above what the Bible teaches (Colossians 2:8). Specifically regarding alcohol, we stand against the crowd which teaches that the wine of the Bible was non-alcoholic and also against those who believe it is a sin to drink one drop of alcohol (I Peter 4:3; Proverbs 23:29,30; Ephesians 5:18; Luke 5:37; I Timothy 5:23; Psalms 104:15). Those who teach that the wine spoken of in the Bible was non-alcoholic are either scripturally ignorant or dishonest, and an often result of their teaching is a loss of faith in the Bible. Jesus made real wine and a moderate use of alcohol is not unbiblical. Regarding the use of tobacco, we believe the Bible when it says that the things which come out of the mouth defile and not the things that go in (Mark 7:15). We also believe the earth is the Lord's (I Corinthians 10:26) and that nothing God has made is unclean of itself (Romans 14:14). Regarding these two examples and all other activities not prohibited by the Bible, we believe moderation is a key guiding principle (Philippians 4:5).