

Bayou City Fellowship > Doctrinal Statement

THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the Bible (both the Old and New Testament) is the inspired Word of God. It is without error in its original writings and is the final authority over all men. (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:20-21)

THE GODHEAD

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit — co-eternal in being, co-eternal in nature, co-equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections. (Deuteronomy 6:4, 2 Corinthians 13:14)

THE PERSON and WORK of CHRIST

We believe Jesus is Lord and has been given the name that is above every name. (Philippians 2:9-11) He is God, was with God in the beginning, and creation was made through Him. (John 1:1-3) Jesus was sent by God to save people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21) Jesus is the son of God and was born of a virgin named Mary. (Luke 1:34-35) He lived a sinless life. (1 Peter 2:22) He performed miracles. (Luke 7:1-17) He taught the way to God. (John 14:1-7) He willingly let himself be betrayed, arrested, tortured, convicted, and crucified. (John 10:17-18, Luke 22: 47-23:56) On the third day God raised Him from the dead; He made many appearances, and then ascended back to heaven. (Luke 24:1-52) He is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our high priest, He acts as representative, intercessor, and advocate. (Acts 1:9-10, Hebrews 7:25, 9:24, Romans 8:34, 1 John 2:1-2) Because of His life, death, and resurrection, we can be forgiven by God, justified before God, and free from the power of sin. (Romans 5:9, Hebrews 9:22, Revelation 1:5)

THE PERSON and WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; He is the supernatural agent in new birth, baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them for the day of redemption. (John 16:8-11, 2 Corinthians 3:6, 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Romans 8:9, Ephesians 5:18) He empowers believers for ministry and to overcome sin. (Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:16)

HUMANITY

We believe God made human beings different from the rest of creation by placing His image or likeness in them. (Genesis 1:26, 2:20) However, Adam's sin became our sin because he represented us as our head. Therefore all men and women are born corrupted, sinful, and condemned. (Romans 5:12-21) Since we are born corrupted, sinful, and condemned, we are enslaved to sin and unable to understand the things of God. (Romans 6:20, 1 Corinthians 2:14)

SALVATION

We believe salvation is the gift of God offered to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose sinless blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (Ephesians 2:8-10, John 1:12, Ephesians 1:7)

ETERNAL SECURITY and ASSURANCE of BELIEVERS

We believe that all believers are held by God's power and are secure in Christ forever. (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30, 1 Peter 1:5) We also believe the Bible teaches that our Christian freedom is not an excuse to sin. (Romans 13:13-14, Galatians 5:13, Titus 2:11-15)

THE MINISTRY and SPIRITUAL GIFTS

We believe ministry and evangelism is the work of all Christians. Spiritual gifts are assigned by God to each member of the church and should be used with faith for the common good. (Romans 12:3, 1 Corinthians 12:7) We are to be informed about and eagerly desire the spiritual gifts, especially prophecy. (1 Corinthians 14:1) We believe all the gifts listed in the New Testament are still active and good for this generation of the church. However, any spiritual gift used without love is useless and unprofitable. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3)

THE CHURCH

We believe the Church is the people Jesus ransomed with His blood from every tribe, language, people, and nation. (Revelation 5:9) In Scripture the Church is called God's House (Hebrews 3:6), the Temple of God (1 Corinthians 3:16-17), the Body of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23), and Bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7-9). The local expression of the Church gathers to worship, encourage each other, and be salt and light in their community. (Hebrews 10:24-25, Matthew 5:13)

BAPTISM

We believe baptism by immersion is for those who have definitively placed their faith in Christ and are choosing to follow Him. (Acts 8:35-38, 16:1-15) It was commanded by Jesus and it identifies us with his death and resurrection. (Matthew 28:19, Romans 6:1-4)

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe the Lord's Supper is the breaking of bread and drinking from the cup by followers of Jesus to remember Jesus' broken body and his shed blood. (Luke 22:17-20) It is to be observed often and with reverence. (1 Corinthians 11:23-30)

CHURCH DISCIPLINE

We believe membership in a local expression of the Church should be a commitment to love, pray for, and encourage each other. (John 13:34, Romans 15:30, Hebrews 10:24) In extreme cases, an unrepentant member should be gracefully confronted multiple times in an organized, thoughtful way. (Matthew 18:15-17) If that person will not listen and repent, they should be removed from fellowship for the good of their own soul. (1 Corinthians 5:1-5)

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

We believe there are two levels of leadership in the local church. The Bible calls the primary leaders overseers or elders. These men are responsible for giving leadership, care, and protection to the church. (1 Timothy 5:17, Acts 20:28) Elders or overseers should meet the requirements listed in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. There should be consensus, unity, and shared authority among the elders and overseers. However, it is also wise to have a leader among the leaders similar to Timothy and Titus.

The secondary leaders are called servants or deacons in the Bible. They serve the members of the church and give leadership to the specific ministries of the church. (Acts 6:1-7) Deacons are appointed by the elders and overseers with input from the members of the church. (Acts 6:1-7) These servants or deacons may be men or women and must fit the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:8-13. (Romans 16:1, 1 Timothy 3:11)

LAST THINGS

We believe God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, 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. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 2 Corinthians 5:8-10) The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. (Revelation 20:14-15) The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and will dwell forever with the Lord. (1 Corinthians 15:35-44, 2 Corinthians 5:6-8)