

# OUR CONFESSION OF FAITH

## *Adopted August 20, 1970*

### **1. THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally and plenary inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men and therefore is truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the center of true Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. [II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-31].

### **2. THE TRUE GOD**

We believe there is only one true and living God, an infinite, sovereign Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love. We believe that in the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. [Exodus 22:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11].

### **3. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ who has existed from all eternity as co-equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that in His humanity He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and truly became man without ceasing to be God. [John 1:1-2; I John 5:20; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26-35].

### **4. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Holy Spirit who has existed from all eternity as co-equal with God the Father and God the Son. We believe that He has been active in creation, revelation, and redemption. That He now restrains and convicts the world of evil and that He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, and seals all who become children of God by faith in Christ. We believe that He teaches, sanctifies, guides, and fills believers who daily surrender to Him. We further believe that the gifts of tongues, prophecy, and healing were “sign-gifts” until the Scriptures were completed, at which time they ceased. [Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; Luke 24:49; John 1:33; John 3:56; John 14:16-17 John 14:26; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; Acts 11:16; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27; Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 2:4; Hebrews 9:14].

### **5. THE DEVIL [SATAN]**

We believe in the personality of Satan that he is the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to eternal punishment in the lake of fire. [Matthew 4:1-11; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10].

### **6. CREATION**

We believe the Genesis account of creation to be literal and historical without any evolutionary process, that man [spirit, soul, and body] was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race. [Genesis 1 and 2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3].

### **7. THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe that Adam was created in innocence, but by voluntary transgression plunged the whole race into condemnation and death so that all men are now totally depraved and shaped in iniquity and become practicing sinners with the first expression of personal choice, [Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:10-16].

#### **8. THE VIRGIN BIRTH**

We believe that Jesus Christ was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary as no other man was ever born or can be born. [Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Hebrews 1:8].

#### **9. OF SIN**

We believe that sin is the cause of all disharmony within the church, unrest in the world, disfavor with God and death [both physical and spiritual]. No one born is exempt, except the Lord Jesus Christ, who by His death, burial, and resurrection provided complete atonement and eternal life for all who believe. [Genesis 2:17; 3:6-10; John 3:3, 7, 36; 14:6; Luke 19:10; Romans 3:10, 23, 5:12; 6:23; II Corinthians 5:21].

#### **10. ATONEMENT FOR SIN**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace; that the Son of God freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins. [Isaiah 53:4-7; Matthew 18:11; John 3:16; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24, 25; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8; Philippians 2:7, 8; Hebrews 2:14; I John 4:10].

#### **11. THE RESURRECTION AND PRIESTHOOD OF CHRIST**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our Great High Priest. As both God and man, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior. [Matthew 28:6, 7; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 29, 51; John 20:27; Acts 1:9-11; I Corinthians 15:4; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 2:17; 5:5-10; 7:25; 12:2; I John 2:1; Revelation 3:21]

#### **12. FAITH AND SALVATION**

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. [Romans 4:5; 6:23; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8, 9].

#### **13. GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION**

We believe that in the new birth, the one dead in trespasses and sin is instantaneously made a partaker of the divine nature and receives the free gift of eternal life; that this new creation is brought about by the sovereign working of God through His Spirit and His Word, to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that repentance, faith and the newness of life are the result. [John 3:3, 6, 7; Acts 16:30-33; Romans 6:23; II Corinthians 5:17, 19; Ephesians 2:1, 5, 8, 9; Colossians 2:13; II Peter 1:4, 1; I John 5:1].

#### **14. JUSTIFICATION**

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares us to be righteous through faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works or righteousness which we have

done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood. [Isaiah 53:11; Zechariah 13:1; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1, 1; 8:1; II Corinthians 5:18-21].

### **15. REPENTANCE**

We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit; that it is characterized by Godly sorrow for sin as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; and that true repentance is inseparably related to true faith. [Luke 12:1-3; 15:7; Acts 8:22; 20:21; Romans 2:4; II Corinthians 7:10].

### **16. SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner:

First, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior.

Second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to his life.

Third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return. [John 17:17; Romans 15:16; I Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:25-27; I Thessalonians 4:3-4; Hebrews 3:1; 5:23-24; 10:10-14; I Peter 1:12; I John 3:2; Jude 24-25].

### **17. ADOPTION**

We believe that adoption is the gracious act whereby the Father, for the sake of Christ, places new believers into the honored position of mature sons, in contrast with regeneration whereby the believer receives the nature of God and becomes a child of God. The full benefit of the position accorded by adoption as the sons of God awaits the glorification of the believer at the coming of the Lord. [Ephesians 1:5, 13, 14; Galatians 4:1-7; I John 3: 1, 2].

### **18. THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS**

We believe that we are kept by the power of God so that we cannot fall out of His grace; that all true Christians will endure to the end, and that their perseverance is the mark that distinguishes them as true believers. [John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6; Jude 1].

### **19. WORKS AND REWARDS**

We believe that works in no way contribute to salvation, however, salvation will bring forth good works in the life of a Christian and these good works will be rewarded as a token of his faithful stewardship at the judgment seat of Christ. We believe all good works are initiated by the Holy Spirit and any works in the life of a Christian not so motivated will be burned at this judgment seat and he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire.

There is another Judgment Seat - - the Great White Throne - - before which shall stand the unbeliever, those who have rejected Christ, to be rebuked by the very hand of God and cast - - body, soul, and spirit - - into the lake of fire, there to remain eternally.

[Daniel 12:2; Matthew 6:19-21; 7:17-20; John 15:8, 16; Romans 7:4; 14:10-12; I Corinthians 3:13-15; Galatians 6:7; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:8; Hebrews 11:6; James 1:22-25; 2:14-26; Revelation 20:11-15].

### **20. THE CHURCH [THE BODY OF CHRIST]**

We believe in the unity of all true believers in the universal church which is the Body of Christ established on the day of Pentecost, and that all believers from the Pentecost to the Rapture, both Jews and Gentiles, are added to this Church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This should be distinguished from the local church in the following paragraph.

We believe that this church is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers associated by the covenant of faith, fellowship of the Gospel, and observance of the ordinances of Christ; and that its officers and pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scripture. We believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church should be autonomous, and that the one and only head and chief corner stone is Christ Jesus; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with one another in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. [Ephesians 1:22, 23; 3:1-6; 4:11-16; 5:23, 24; I Corinthians 11:2; 12:12, 13; Acts 2:41-47; 15:13-18; 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:1-7; Colossians 1:18; I Peter 2:6, 7].

## **21. SEPARATION**

We believe in obedience to the Biblical command to separate unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy. We defend the right of both church and state to function as separate institutions. We resist the union of all religions as contrary to the Word of God and shall not align our church with any secular or religious organizations holding positions not consistent with our Confession of Faith. [II Corinthians 6:14-17; I Thessalonians 1:9, 10; Romans 16; II John 9:11].

## **22. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, under the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and arose to a new life; that baptism is a prerequisite to the privilege of church membership. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded always by a solemn self-examination. We believe that the Biblical order of the ordinances is baptism, the Lord's Supper, in that order, and that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers. [Matthew 3:16; 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41, 42; 8:36, 38-39; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12].

## **23. THE BELIEVER'S TWO NATURES**

We believe that each believer has two natures [human and divine, or flesh and spirit] each contrary to the other, and that these two natures give rise to conflict which lasts through life. That the body of the believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit and the believer is to "put off" the old man and "put on" the new man. [II Corinthians 6:16; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22, 23].

## **24. THE BELIEVER'S WALK**

We believe that Christians should confess Christ before men, walk circumspectly in the world, manifest holiness and personal devotion to God, and strive to give Him absolute authority in their lives. [Psalm 1; Psalm 119:11; Matthew 6:25, 33; romans 10:9, 10; 12:1, 2; Ephesians 5:15; II Corinthians 6:14; 7:1; Colossians 3:22; II Timothy 2:15; Titus 2].

## **25. MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM**

We believe the Great Commission is foundational to the work of the church; that this Commission includes the ministry to God's people in the local Church, and also extends to all men by means of

missions and evangelism. Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15; John 15:9-112; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:18-20; I Peter 2:17; I John 4:7-21].

## **26. APOSTACY [FALLING AWAY FROM FAITH]**

We believe that the Bible teaches that many will fall away from the faith in the last days, and commands us to avoid fellowship or compromise with those who deny the standards and doctrines of the Word of God. [Ecclesiastes 7:5; Proverbs 22:28; 27:5; 9:8, 9; 28:23; Matthew 7:15-23; 18:15-17; Romans 16:17, 18; I Corinthians 16:1`3; II Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6, 14; II Timothy 4:1-3; 5:20, 21; 6:2-5; Titus 1:10-16; I John 1:7; 4:1].

## **27. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ are truly righteous in His sight; while all that continue in unbelief are in His sight wicked and lost; and that this distinction holds among men for time and eternity; in the everlasting joy of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the lake of fire. [Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 14:32; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 25:34-41; Luke 16:25; John 8:21; Romans 6:17, 18, 23; 7:6; I John 5:19; Revelation 20:14, 15].

## **28. ISRAEL**

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she has been dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, but that she is being regathered in the Holy Land to be purified during the time of Jacob's trouble [the seven years of tribulation after the completion and rapture of the church]. [Genesis 13:14-17; Ezekiel 20:33-44; Romans 11:1-32].

## **29. CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that civil government is the divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the King of kings and Lord of lords. [Exodus 18:21, 22; Samuel 23:3; Daniel 3:17, 18; Matthew 22:21; Acts 4: 19, 20; 5:29; 23:5; Romans 13:1-7; "I Timothy 2:1-3; I Peter 2:13, 14].

## **30. THE RAPTURE**

We believe that Christ will personally and bodily return for His Church before the seven-year tribulation period begins; that the bodies of those who have died in Christ will be resurrected and glorified; that the living believers will likewise be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and that together will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and to be with Him forever. We further believe that no unfulfilled prophetic Scripture stands in the way of our Lord's return at any moment. [I Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-54; Philippians 3:20, 21; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 3:10].

## **31. HEAVEN**

We believe in a literal, actual, and wonderful place whose Builder and Maker is God, wherein dwelleth God and perfect righteousness, together with all heavenly angels, a place of indescribable beauty, peace, and joy. A place where no night is, neither need for sun nor moon, for the glory of God and of the Lamb is the light thereof. There we will be eternally at home with Jesus our Lord. [Psalm 2:4; 14:2; 16:11; 115:3; Isaiah 6:1; Daniel 12:3; Matthew 5:12; John 17:24; I Corinthians 2:9, 11; II Corinthians 12:2; Ephesians 1:10; Colossians 4:1; Philippians 3:20; I John 5:7; Revelation 2:4-7; 7:13-17; 22:1-15].

### **32. HELL**

We believe in a literal, actual, terrible place prepared for Satan and his angels. There man will be a trespasser. Hell is a place of eternal separation from God, having no love present, no righteousness, no rest, no peace, no joy, no fellowship, and no beauty. A place where dwelleth only darkness, sorrow, unrighteousness, ugliness, unrest, frustration, tears, unhappiness, memories, misery, and torment. A place of no return to be shunned. Rejecting the Son of God gains an entrance. [I Samuel 2:9; Matthew 13:36-43; 22:8-14; 25:41-46; Luke 16:19-31; John 3:16-21; II Peter 2:7; Revelation 14:9-11; 20:10-15; 21:8].

### **33. THE ORDER OF THINGS TO COME**

We believe that the Bible, God's master plan for the ages, teaches the following sequence of future events:

1. The bodily, personal, pre-tribulation, pre-millennial return of Christ for His Church and that only Church age believers are included in the following [A-D].
  - A. The resurrection of the righteous dead. [I Thessalonians 4:18-18; I Corinthians 15:52]
  - B. Catching away of all righteous, both dead and living. [I Thessalonians 4:13-18].
  - C. The Judgment Seat [Bema Seat] for the believer in Heaven. [Romans 14:10; I Corinthians 3:13-15].
  - D. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb. [Revelation 19:7-10].
2. The Tribulation Period on earth [simultaneous to the Judgment Seat and the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in Heaven].
  - A. Manifestation of the anti-Christ on earth. [II Thessalonians 2:8-12].
  - B. Approximately seven years in length. [Psalm 2:4, 5; Daniel 12:11; Matthew 24:21; Mark 13:14-23; Revelation 4:9].
3. The return of Christ, visibly and bodily with His Church, to close the Tribulation Period on earth [The Revelation of Christ]. [Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-16].
  - A. To judge the living nations. [Matthew 25:31-46].
  - B. To set up His Millennial reign on earth. [Isaiah 32:1; 11:4, 5; I Corinthians 15:25; Revelation 20:4-6].
4. The millennial Reign of Christ on earth will last for 1,000 years. [Revelation 20:3].
5. The loosing of Satan on earth for a season to lead a final rebellion at the close of the Millennial Reign. [Revelation 20:3, 7-9].
6. The casting of Satan, his angels, and the wicked who rebelled with Satan into Hell. [Revelation 20:9, 10].
7. The resurrection of the wicked dead of all ages to stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment. There they are judged for their rejection of the Son of God and cast into the lake of fire. [Revelation 20:11-14].
8. The renovation of Heaven and earth into a new Heaven and a new earth. [I Peter 3:12, 13; Revelation 21: 22:7].
9. The Eternal Reign. [Revelation 21:22; I Corinthians 15:28].

### **(Additions to the Confession of Faith)**

#### **34. MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY** (adopted February 24, 2016)

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female, and that these two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-

28; Matt. 19:4) We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman, and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:5; 1 Cor. 7:2-3)

**35. MARRIAGE POLICY** (adopted February 24, 2016)

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4-5), Faith Baptist Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. The Pastor and staff of Faith Baptist Church, therefore, shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Furthermore, the facilities and property of Faith Baptist Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

**35. THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE** (adopted February 24, 2016)

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image (Gen. 1:26-28). Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life (Ps. 139)