



## Purpose

This Statement of Faith expresses the beliefs that guide the life and teaching of Fellowship Bible Church. It promotes unity around the truth of God's Word and serves as the theological qualification of elders, deacons, and pastors.

## Core Beliefs

Our Core Beliefs summarize the essential doctrines that have been confessed by faithful Christians throughout history. These truths are clearly taught in Scripture and form the foundation of our faith. They unite believers across cultures and generations, and they shape the worship and discipleship of Christians everywhere.

### **The Bible**

We believe God supernaturally guided the authors of the Bible to write exactly what He intended to communicate. Every word of Scripture, not merely the ideas behind the word, is included because God wanted it there. All parts of the Bible are equally of divine origin. Accordingly, the Bible is without error in the original writings.

As a result, the Scriptures are authoritative and without error in all that they affirm, including matters of history and science, and they stand as the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and life. We believe the Scriptures are to be interpreted in a normal and literal way and are understood as believers are guided by the Spirit of God.

(John 10:35; Matt 5:18; 2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21; 1 Cor 2:13; John 16:12-15; Heb 4:12; John 5:39; Acts 8:35; Isa 40:8)

### **The Trinity**

We believe in one God eternally existing in three equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

(John 6:27; Heb 1:8; Acts 5:3-4; Deut 6:4; 2 Cor 13:14; Matt 28:19; Isa 48:16; Matt 3:16,17; Isa 61:1)

### **God the Father**

We believe God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, orders and directs all things according to His own purpose, pleasure, and grace. The Father is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption. He has decreed all things that come to pass for His own glory. He graciously involves Himself in the affairs of men, hears and answers prayer, and saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

(Ps 103:19; Matt 6:9; John 5:19-24; Eph 1:2-6; 1 Pet 1:2-4; Jas 1:16-18; Rom 8:28-30; Isa 64:8)

### **God the Son**

We believe that God the Son became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, Who was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary and is both fully God and fully man. He died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice so that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood.

He rose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. Jesus now serves as our high priest, intercessor, and advocate on our behalf with the Father.

He will personally, bodily, and visibly return in the glory of His Father to set up in the earth a kingdom in which He shall reign in righteousness and peace.

(John 1:14; Matt 1:18-25; Rom 3:24-26; 5:8-9; 1 Pet 3:18; Rom 1:4; John 20:25-27; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; 1 John 2:1; Heb 7:25; 2:17; 4:14; Matt 24:30; Rev 20:4-6)

### **God the Holy Spirit**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person. He possesses all the distinctively divine attributes. He is God. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates, seals, and sets apart the believer to a holy life. At regeneration, He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ, comes to indwell him permanently, and distributes spiritual gifts to each believer as He wills.

(1 Cor 2:10,11; 12:11,13;13:8; Isa 40:13,14; Ps 139:7; Titus 3:5; John 3:5-7; John 14:16,17; 16:8; Eph 1:13; 2 Thes 2:13; Rom 8:9)

### **Humanity & Sin**

We believe that man was created in the image of God, and that he sinned and consequently experienced not only physical death but also spiritual death (which is separation from God). The consequences of this sin affect the entire human race. All human beings are born with a sinful nature and continue to live according to that nature. All human beings are essentially and unchangeably sinful apart from divine grace.

(Gen 1:26; 2:17; 3:6; Rom 5:12-19; Eph 2:1-3; Eph 4:18; Mark 7:20-23; John 2:24-25)

## **The Gospel & Salvation**

The gospel is the good news of what God has accomplished to save sinners through the person and work of Jesus Christ. God, who is holy and righteous, created all things for His glory and will judge the world in justice. Humanity, though created in God's image, has rebelled against Him through sin and stands guilty and helpless apart from divine grace. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, lived a sinless life, died on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for sinners- bearing the penalty for sin, and rose bodily from the dead.

Salvation is offered freely by God to all who place their faith in Jesus Christ alone. Those who respond in repentance and faith are forgiven, justified, reconciled to God, and granted eternal life. This salvation is not the result of any human effort or merit. All true believers are kept eternally secure by the power of God through the new birth, the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Christ.

(Isa 53:4-6; Mark 1:15; Rom 3:23-28; 4:5; 5:1; 1 Cor 15:1-4; 2 Cor 5:18-21; Eph 2:8-9; John 1:12; Rom 10:9-10; John 10:28-30; 14:16-17; 1 Pet 1:23; Eph 4:30; Rom 8:34-35,38-39)

## **The Church & The Great Commission**

We believe that the church in its visible form is local and is comprised of a local body of believers. God has ordained local churches to be God's visible expression of Christ, and they are exhorted to assemble together. The local church exercises its God-given authority to ordain elders, and deacons, to carry out biblical discipline, and to properly administer the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper until Christ returns.

We believe that the purpose of the local and universal church is to worship and glorify God. The Lord Jesus Christ explicitly commands all whom He has saved to be sent into the world, just as He was sent by the Father. The church is commissioned to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to observe all that Christ has commanded. This commission defines the mission of the church and continues until the return of Christ, empowered by His presence and authority.

(Heb 10:23-25, Matt 18:15-20; Acts 6:1-6; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Cor 11:24-26; Matt 28:18-20; John 17:18-20; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor 5:18-20; Rom 10:12-15; Isa 6:8; 45:22; 49:6)

## **Christian Growth**

We believe that God calls every believer to live a holy and Spirit-led life, growing in obedience to Christ through union with Him, the transforming power of His cross, the personal knowledge and application of Scripture, and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. By God's provision, believers are enabled to walk according to the Spirit and to live in a way that honors the Lord.

While believers still possess a sinful nature in this life, it is not meant to rule them. Through the Spirit's power, sinful desires are to be continually brought under the authority of Christ so that they do not govern the believer's life.

Repentance is an ongoing part of the Christian life. When believers sin, they are called to turn from their sin and return to God in humility and faith, trusting in His grace and forgiveness.

Every believer is called to pursue spiritual maturity. Growth in Christ is essential for serving effectively within the body of Christ and for strengthening the local church. Scripture emphasizes that believers are to develop the lasting qualities of faith, hope, and love, becoming increasingly mature for the purpose of building up one another in Christ.

(Rom 6:1–14; 7:15–21; 8:2-4, 11–13; Gal 2:20; 5:16–24; Eph 2:10; 4:22–24; Col 1:3–5; 2:1–10; 1 Thes 1:3; 2 Thes 1:3–4; Titus 1:5–9; 1 Pet 1:14–16; 1 John 1:4–9; 3:5–9; Acts 3:19; 1 Cor 13:13, 1 John 1:9)

### **Gender & Marriage**

We believe that God established a permanent pattern for gender, family, and sexuality at creation and reaffirmed it throughout all of Scripture. He created humanity—biologically male and female—in His image, making them distinctly for one another throughout all of created order. There are two distinct, God-given gender identities—male and female—rooted in these two biological sexes that are not interchangeable. There is no distinction between male and female pertaining to the possibility of salvation and heirship in Jesus Christ, having a direct relationship with God through Jesus Christ. There is, however, a distinction between male and female pertaining to God’s prescribed order of headship and roles in marriage and church practice. The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. Men are to have authority in church practice, and the roles of elder and pastor are specifically limited to males. Outside of the offices of elder and pastor, women are encouraged to serve in every other area of church life and ministry. Women may teach and exercise their gifts under the direction and oversight of the elders, contributing fully to the building up of the body of Christ.

God designed marriage to be a lifelong, public covenant only between one biological man and one biological woman that serves His purposes in the world and reflects His relationship with His people. They come together to form the foundational relationship (marriage) of society’s foundational institution (the family). Therefore, all sexual activity outside of heterosexual marriage is sinful because it falls short of God’s wise and wonderful plan for human relationships. Sex is a gift from God to be enjoyed exclusively within marriage as defined by God.

(Gen 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Deut 22:5; Mal 2:13-16; Matt 19:4-9; Gal 3:26-29; 1 Cor 6:9-11; 11:2-16; Eph 5:21-33; 1 Tim 2:8-15; 3:1-2; Titus 1:5-6)

# Distinctives

While faithful Christians may differ on these matters, our Distinctives express important biblical convictions that guide how we teach Scripture and live together as a church. We hold them with charity, seeking conformity to God's Word in the life of Fellowship Bible Church.

## **Miraculous Gifts**

We believe that certain gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues in known languages and miraculous healings, functioned as signs to unbelievers during the initial establishment of the church. The exercise of such gifts in any age remains subject to God's sovereign will and cannot be demanded or presumed by human effort.

Healing is not promised on the same unconditional basis as salvation and should not be claimed as a guaranteed outcome of faith. Likewise, speaking in tongues was never presented in Scripture as the universal or necessary evidence of either baptism or the filling of the Holy Spirit.

We affirm that the highest evidence of the Spirit's work in a believer's life is the fruit of the Spirit. In the gathered body of Christ, love governs the use of all spiritual gifts and expresses itself through clarity, order, and the edification of others.

(1 Cor 12:7–11, 29–30; 14:21–22; Acts 2:5–12)

## **The Second Coming & Final Resurrection**

We believe in the imminent, pretribulational, visible return of Christ for the church. All members of the body of Christ, living or dead, will at that time be caught up to be with the Lord forever.

We believe that the period of great tribulation on the earth will climax in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ. He will then introduce the millennial age; bind Satan and place him in the abyss; lift the curse that now rests on the whole creation; restore Israel and give her the realization of God's covenant promises; and bring the whole world to the knowledge of God.

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men. Believers are resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God. Unbelievers are resurrected to experience judgment and then eternal suffering apart from God.

(1 Thes 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51-53; Titus 2:13; Deut. 30:1–10; Isa. 11:9; Ezek 37:21–28; Matt 24:15–25:46; Acts 15:16–17; Rom 8:19–23; 11:25–27; 1 Tim 4:1–3; 2 Tim 3:1–5; Rev 20:1–3; 1 Cor 15:52; Rev 20:12-15; 20:4-6; 21:1-8; John 5:28-29; Dan 12:2)

**Satan**

We believe in the reality and person of Satan, and when given the opportunity, he attempts to defeat Christians. However, we believe Christians can overcome Satan's schemes through the help of the Holy Spirit in applying Scriptural truth.

(Eph 6:10-19; Luke 10:18; Job 1:6-12; John 8:44; Rev 12:9)