**FBC Statement of Faith**

From the time of the Apostles to today, Christians have laid out doctrine (beliefs) in brief, definitive statements. As those who know God, we believe it necessary to set forth in a concise fashion the cornerstone truths of our church as guided by Scripture. Our Statement of Faith summarizes essential Christian beliefs, shows unity in Christ, and guards the church from error.

All who join FBC Fowlerville are required to affirm the FBC Statement of Faith. Once we as members agree to the statement, we are responsible for believing and living in accordance with it.

**1. THE HOLY TRINITY**

We believe that there is one living and true God, Who is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal and immutable, eternally existing in three persons. These persons are equal in every divine perfection, and they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

Gen. 1:1, 26; John 1:1, 3; Jn. 4:24; Matt.3:16-17; 28:19; Rom. 1:19-20; Eph. 4:5-6; II Cor.13:14

**2. THE FATHER**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love, sovereign over all Creation. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Luke. 10:21-22; Matt. 23:9; John 3:16; 5:17-18; 6:27; Acts 17:24-31; Rom. 1:7; I Cor.8:6; I Tim. 1:1-2; 2:5-6; I Pet. 1:3; Rev. 1:6.

**3. THE SON**

We believe God the Son is our only Savior, full of grace and truth, in whom all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily. God the Son is fully divine and fully human (though sinless). He was born of a virgin, died, was buried, and bodily rose again so that through Him we might have redemption and forgiveness of sins. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father until His triumphal return.

Is. 7:14; Matt. 27:57-60; 28:6,7; John 1:1-4; Acts 1:9; 4:12; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14-19; Heb. 1:3; 1 Thess. 4:16-17.

**4. THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe God the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, whom the Father sent to convict the world concerning sin, righteousness and judgment as well as to testify of Jesus Christ. He regenerates all believers and baptizes them into the body of Christ, sealing them until the day of redemption becoming the source of assurance, strength and wisdom. He uniquely endows each believer with gifts for the building up of the body.

We believe that the Holy Spirit enables the believer to understand and apply the truth of Scripture. He makes it possible for a Christian to lead a life of Christ-like character and to bear spiritual fruit to the glory of God as the Spirit’s power is appropriated by faith.

Matt. 28:19; John 16:7-14; Rom. 8:9-10; 1 Cor.2:10-16; 6:19; 12:12-14; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph.1:13-14; 4:7-12; Titus 3:5-6;

**5. THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe that "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," and the whole Bible is inspired in the sense that chosen men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of Scripture. We believe that the whole Bible is without error. We believe that all the Scriptures center about the Lord Jesus Christ in His person and work, and hence that no portion is properly read or understood unless it leads to Him. We also believe that all Scripture was designed for our instruction and is the final authority in all matters of conduct and doctrine.

Luke 24:27,44; John 5:39; Acts 1:16; 17:2-3; 18:28; 26:22-23; 28:23; Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 2:13; 10:11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21.

**6. THE DEVIL**

We believe the Devil is a created being, who was originally a glorious angel. Satan (the Devil) rebelled against God, and as a result, lost his original estate and became the father of lies. He is the open and declared enemy of God and man; the prince of this world, whose power was broken through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and will ultimately be defeated when he is cast into the Lake of Fire.

Gen.3:15; Is.14:12-15; Ezek. 28:11-19; Matt.4:1-11; 25:41; John 12:31; Col.2:15; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:9; 20:2, 10.

**7. THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN**

We believe that the first man, by the temptation of the Devil, chose to rebel against God and as a result alienated himself and the entire human race from God. Every person is born into this world with a sinful nature and is spiritually dead until the miracle of salvation takes place and gives that person eternal life.

Gen. 3:1-7; Rom.3:23; 5:12, 18; 6:23; I Cor.15:22; Eph. 2:1-5; Titus 3:5.

**8. SALVATION**

We believe salvation is by grace through faith in the substitutionary death of Christ on the cross, the righteous for the unrighteous, without any consideration of works or merit on the part of man.

2 Cor. 5:21; Gal.3:13; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 2:24; 3:18a.

We believe people are saved when God grants repentance through His Holy Spirit, whereby a person turns from sin and unbelief and trusts in Christ alone for salvation. The believer is delivered from condemnation, given the righteousness of Christ, adopted into the family of God and granted eternal life.

 II Timothy 2:24-26; Romans 8:1; Romans 3:21-22; Galatians 4:5

**9. ASSURANCE**

We believe that all the redeemed are kept by God’s power and are thus secure in Christ Jesus forever, sealed with the Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance.

John 8:31-32; 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; Eph. 1:13-14; Col.1:21-23; I Pet 1:4-5.

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God’s Word, which tells us that we are dead to the power of sin and are commanded to walk in newness of life.

John 14:15; Rom.6; 13:13-14; Gal.5:13, 16-18; Col. 3:17; Titus 2:12; James 2:14-17.

**10. SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that sanctification has a two-fold meaning:

First, the setting apart of things, days, or persons specifically for God, and that the believer at the time of his regeneration is so set apart by God the Father.

Rom. 12:1-2, 13; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 6:14; 7:1; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Heb. 10:10-14; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11.

Secondly, sanctification is the progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer, obedient to the Word of God, experiences the power of the indwelling Christ for holiness of life and victory over the old nature. This work will be completed when the believer stands in Christ's presence and is fully conformed to His image.

John 17:17; Rom. 8:28-30; Col. 1:26-29; Phil. 1:6; 2 Cor. 3:18.

**11. THE CHURCH**

We believe the church is the bride of Christ, and it is the body of which Christ is the head (Matt. 16:16-18; Col. 1:18; Rev. 19: 7-8). It is made up of all who have believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior. (Acts 11:15-16, I Cor. 1:1-2, Eph. 1:22-23) We believe that by the same Spirit, all believers in this age are baptized into, and thus become, one body that is Christ's. Having become members one of another, we are under solemn duty to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian differences, and fervently loving one another with a pure heart.

 Acts 2:42-47; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 1:20-23; 4:3-10; Col. 1:18; 3:14-15.

We believe in the local church, consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

Matt.28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Eph. 2:19-22; 5:19-21; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:23-25

**12. THE ORDINANCES**

We believe there are two ordinances given to the church. Both of these visibly and tangibly express the gospel as they are symbols of the work already completed by Christ and the response of the believer to it.

Baptism:

We believe that Christian Baptism is the believer's immersion in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. In Scriptural order, baptism precedes the privilege of church membership and is the public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

 Matt.3:6; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 8:36-39; Rom.3:3-5; 6:4-5; Col.2:12

The Lord’s Supper:

We believe the Lord's Supper is a memorial service in which the elements of bread and wine represent the body and blood of Christ. These elements remind us of the love of God in Christ Jesus, "(Who) spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all". This ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of His second coming and preceded by solemn self-examination.

Matt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-28

**13. FUTURE DESTINY**

We believe there is a literal Hell, a place of torment and anguish, prepared for the Devil and his angels, in which those who do not believe in Christ Jesus as their personal Savior shall suffer the wrath of God for eternity as just punishment due to their sin.

Matt. 25:41; Luke 16:22-26; Rev. 13:15; 20:10.

We believe there is an eternal Heaven where all the redeemed shall live in perfect peace and bliss forever in the presence of God.

Psalm 16:11; John 14:1-6; Rev. 21:3-4; 22:1-5.

**14. THE RESURRECTIONS**

We believe that Jesus was the first to be raised from the dead to a glorified existence no longer subject to death as a punishment for sin. When Jesus Christ returns to this world He will raise His servants to a resurrection life like His own. He will, indeed, raise the whole human race from the dead; but those who are not His will be raised to appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire to suffer everlasting punishment for their sins.

John 5:29; Acts 26:23; I Cor. 15:20-23; 50-54; 2 Cor. 5:1-5; Phil.3:20-21; I Thess.4:13-18; Rev.2:11; 21:8

**15. JUDGMENTS**

We believe that while believers have their sins forgiven through Christ and are no longer under condemnation they will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive reward for what they have done in this life.

I Cor. 3:11-15; 4:5; 2 Cor. 5:10

We believe unbelievers will be condemned to the Lake of Fire based on their faith in their own performance and not in the finished work of Christ.

John 3:18-20; Rev. 20:11-15

**16. THE RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING**

We recognize that there are differing views concerning the Rapture and the Second Coming, and we are open to fellowship with those of differing views. Traditionally, FBC has held the following views:

We believe there is an imminent, personal return of Christ in the air for His saints, which event is the blessed hope of the church and at which time the righteous dead shall be raised and the living saints shall be caught up into the air to be eternally with Christ. We believe there is a personal pre-millennial return of Christ to the earth with His saints in power and glory; judging the nations and setting up His kingdom.

Matt. 25:31-34; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 19:11-16.

**17. Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct**

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of FBC’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our body of elders, by the authority granted them by the membership, is the final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.