

Maranatha Baptist Church STATEMENT OF FAITH

Final Authority for Matters of Belief and Conduct

The statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of our faith, doctrine, and discipline, the members of Maranatha Baptist Church are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

The Bible

We believe in the verbal, plenary (full, complete, absolute) inspiration¹ of the Bible, both in the Old and New Testaments, which, being inerrant in the original, and infallible in content², is the supreme and final authority in matters of faith and practice.³

¹ I Cor. 2:13; II Tim. 3:16; II Peter 1:21

³ Rev. 22:18, 19; Isa 8:20; II Tim 3:16, 17; Deut. 4:2

² John 10:35; Matt. 5:18; 24:35; John 17:17

The True God

There is one God, and only One,¹ Who is self-existent,² eternal,³ all-powerful, perfect, righteous, truthful,⁴ and infinite in every excellence, and Who has revealed Himself as the Holy Trinity that is the Father, Son and Holy Spirit⁵ – the same in Essence but not in Personality.

¹ Deut. 6:4; Isa. 45:21, 22; I Cor. 8:6

⁴ Deut. 32:4

² Exodus 3:14

⁵ Matt. 28:19; John 10:30; I Peter 1:2; John 1:1,2; Acts 5:3, 4

³ Jer. 10:10; John 1:1,2

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ, the Creator and Sustainer of the Universe, only begotten son of God, being wholly God Himself was eternally preexistent with the Father in heaven.¹ At God's appointed time Jesus Christ became wholly man while remaining wholly God. As a man He set aside His visible glory and the independent use of His godly attributes.² Jesus Christ was born of a virgin,³ was tempted as we are but lived a holy and sinless life,⁴ and died on the cross for the sins of the whole world.⁵ On the third day Jesus rose from the dead and remained on earth ministering to the saints for forty days.⁶ He ascended into heaven where he sits today at the right hand of God, interceding before the Father on behalf of believers.⁷

¹ John 1:1, 2; Col. 1:16, 17

⁵ Isa. 53:3-8; Rom. 5:18; I Tim. 4:6

² Phil. 2:6,7

⁶ Mark 16; Acts 1:3

³ Matt. 1:18-25

⁷ I John 2:1; Heb. 9:15

⁴ II Cor. 5:21; Heb 4:15

The Holy Spirit

We believe in the eternal deity and personality of the Holy Spirit¹ whose ministry it is to convict of sin,² bear witness to Jesus Christ,³ and baptize the repentant, believing sinner

into the Body of Christ.⁴ At the new birth the Spirit imparts spiritual life (regeneration),⁵ permanently indwells the believer,⁶ and becomes the seal of divine ownership and the earnest that guarantees the final salvation of the believer.⁷ We believe in the filling of the Holy Spirit—the controlling of the believer by the Spirit in proportion to his yielding and obedience to God and the Word⁸—that is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit in the life.⁹ We believe that it is also the ministry of the Holy Spirit to instruct men.¹⁰

¹John 16:7, 8; Acts 5:3-5

²John 16:8-11

³John 15:26; 16:14, 15

⁴I Cor. 12:13

⁵John 3:3, 5; Titus 3:5

⁶Rom. 8:0; I Cor. 3:16

⁷Eph. 1:13, 14; 4:30

⁸Rom. 6:13; 12:1, 2; Gal. 5:16

⁹Gal. 5:22, 23; Col. 1:10

¹⁰I Cor. 2:13; John 16:13; John 14:26; I John 2:27

Creation

We believe in the creation of all things by the direct act of God, accepting the literal interpretation of Genesis as opposed to the evolutionary theory of origins, whether atheistic in concept.

Gen. 1-3; Psalms 33:6, 9; Col. 1:15-17; Heb. 11:3

The Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image.¹ 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.² We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.³

¹Gen. 1:26

²Job 1:21; Psalm 139:13–16

³Gen. 9:5–6; Job 33:4; Psalm 8:1–5, 100:3

Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female in His image.¹ We believe that men and women are created as equals before God, yet serve distinct, complementary, God-given roles in the home and the church.² Men have been given the responsibility for leadership in the home and the church, and women have been given the responsibility to honor, affirm, and submit to that leadership.

We believe that marriage is a covenant uniting one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture.³ We believe that God has designed the marriage relationship to portray the profound mystery of Christ and His Church,⁴ to produce godly offspring,⁵ to provide helpful companionship,⁶ and to promote sexual purity and fulfillment.⁷

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other.⁸ We believe any other form of sexual expression is a sinful perversion of God's gift of sex.⁹

¹Gen. 1:26–27

²Gen. 2:18; 1 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 5:25–33;

1 Tim. 2:11–14

³Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:3–6

⁴Eph. 5:31–32

⁵Gen. 1:28

⁶Gen. 2:18

⁷1 Cor. 7:2–5

⁸1 Cor. 6:12–20; Heb. 13:4

⁹Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8–9;

Lev. 18:1–30; Rom. 1:26–29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 1 Cor. 6:9;

Gal. 5:19–21; 1 Thess. 4:3–7

Man

Man was created innocent.¹ By disobedience² to the command³ of God he fell, thereby losing his innocence⁴ and becoming subject to physical and spiritual death⁵ and to the eternal wrath⁶ of God.

¹Gen. 1:27-31

²Gen. 3:1-6

³Gen. 2:16, 17

⁴Gen 3:7-19

⁵I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12

⁶Matt. 25:46; II Thes. 1:7; Rev. 20:15

Salvation

We believe in the salvation of sinners through Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, who is the only Savior of men¹ by virtue of His shed blood,² i.e., His substitutionary death for sinners.³ We believe that salvation is completely dependent on the grace of God,⁴ is a free gift of God⁵ that man cannot earn or merit in any way,⁶ is applied by the work of the Holy Spirit using the instrumentality of the Word of God,⁷ and is appropriated by repentance⁸ and faith in the resurrected Son of God.⁹ We hold that in salvation the believer is called,¹⁰ regenerated,¹¹ Spirit baptized into union with Christ,¹² justified¹³ (including the forgiveness of sin¹⁴ and restoration to favor with God through the merit or righteousness of Christ¹⁵), adopted,¹⁶ sanctified,¹⁷ and glorified.¹⁸ We believe that God secures and guarantees the final salvation of every true believer.¹⁹ We believe the genuine believer will not abandon the faith,²⁰ and that the true measure of salvation can be found in the believer bearing fruit and growing in faith.²¹

¹John 14:6; Acts 4:12

²Rom. 3:25; 5:8-10; Heb. 9:14, 15, 22

³Isa. 53:4-6, 8, 9, 11, 12; II Cor. 5:21

⁴Rom. 4:16; Eph. 2:8

⁵Rom. 5:15-17; 6:23; Eph. 2:9

⁶Eph. 2:9; Titus 3:5

⁷John 16:8-11; Eph. 5:26; Jas. 1:18; I Pet. 1:23

⁸Acts 3:19; 20:21; 26:20; Heb. 6:1

⁹Acts 16:31; Rom. 4:5, 16; Eph. 2:8, 9

¹⁰Rom. 8:28, 30; I Cor. 1:9, 24; I Tim. 6:12;

II Tim. 1:9

¹¹John 1:13; 5:25; Titus 3:5

¹²Rom. 6:3-10; I Cor 12:13

¹³Rom. 4:1-5, 25; 5:1, 18, 19

¹⁴Eph. 1:7; 4:32; Col. 1:14; 2:13

¹⁵I Cor. 1:30; II Cor. 5:21

¹⁶Rom. 8:15; Gal 4:5

¹⁷I Cor. 1:2, 30; 6:11

¹⁸Rom. 8:30

¹⁹John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:35-39; Phil. 1:6; Jude 24

²⁰John 8:31, 32; II Tim. 2:12; I John 2:4, 19; Jude 21-24

²¹Gal. 5:22, 23; John 15:1-8; II Pet. 1:5-9

Spiritual Gifts

The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to all who are born again. Those to whom these gifts have been given are commanded to exercise them for the benefit of the body of Christ, to the glory of God.¹ However, lacking a particular spiritual gift does not exempt the believer from his responsibilities in that particular area (e.g. giving, teaching, hospitality,

etc.). “Sign” gifts were given in the early days of the church to apostles and some others for the specific purpose of authenticating their message as being from God.² The need for and bestowal of “sign” gifts on the individual believers has passed away as man came to possess the New Testament Scriptures.³ God Himself, however, can and does continue to perform miracles and healing as He deems appropriate to glorify Himself.⁴

¹Rom. 12:5-8; I Cor. 12; 12:28; Eph. 4:11-16

³I Cor. 13:8-10

²Luke 5:18-26; Acts 3

⁴James 5:16; Jer. 32:17

Satan

We believe in the reality of Satan as a distinct personality,¹ who, though having been created in a state of perfection and enjoying a heavenly abode with God,² was prompted by pride to rebel against God and fell from his original exalted state,³ leading a multitude of other angels in his revolt. Over whom he is king.⁴ Satan is the acknowledged god of this world⁵ and the archenemy of God and believers; his purpose and work are to thwart the divine counsels,⁶ accuse and oppose believers,⁷ incite persecution against believers,⁸ sow counterfeits among the believers,⁹ and tempt believers to sin.¹⁰ We believe in Satan’s final destruction by God and the destruction of his followers.¹¹

¹Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Matt. 4:1-11

⁶Gen. 3:4, 5; II Cor. 11:13-15

²Ezek. 28:12-15; Rev. 12:3, 4

⁷I Pet. 5:8; Rev 12:10

³Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:17; I Tim 3:6

⁸Rev. 2:10

⁴Matt. 12:24; 25:41; Rev. 9:11; 12:3, 4, 7

⁹Matt. 13:39

⁵John 12:31; II Cor. 4:3, 4

¹⁰I Cor. 7:5

¹¹Rev. 20:10, 14; Rev. 19:20

Ordinances Of The Church

The Ordinances of the New Testament Church are Baptism,¹ and the Lord’s Supper.²

Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ³ “in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,”⁴ and symbolizes the believer’s identification with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection.⁵

The Lord’s Supper is the partaking of the bread and cup by the believer as a memorial of the broken body and shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁶ The privilege of the Lord’s Supper is extended to all those present that are saved and surrendered to the Lord having examined themselves and confessed all known sin.⁷

¹Acts 2:41

⁵Rom. 6:3-13; Col. 2:12

²I Cor. 11:23-29

⁶Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:19, 20

³Acts 8:38, 39

⁷I Cor. 11:23-29

⁴Matt. 28:19, 20

The Lord’s Day

The first day of the week is to be observed as the Lord’s Day. On Sunday we celebrate our Lord Jesus Christ’s resurrection and we believe that true believers should give due reverence to God on this day.

Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1, 2; Matt. 28:1-9; John 20:1

The Second Coming

We believe in the literal return of Jesus Christ that will take place in two stages. The first stage is the Rapture, or His personal,¹ imminent,² and pre-tribulational³ coming for all saints of the church age.⁴ The second stage is the Revelation of the Second Coming in Glory, which is His personal and public coming at the close of the Tribulation Period to establish the messianic, Millennial Kingdom on earth⁵ when Israel will be restored to covenant favor with God⁶ and to her land in faith.⁷ The Church and saints who died in the Tribulation will reign with Christ for the thousand years.⁸ After the Millennium there will be a new heaven and earth wherein God will dwell eternally with His people.⁹

¹I Thess. 4:16; II Thess. 2:1; I John 3:2

⁶Jer. 31:31-34; 31:28; Mic. 4:7, 8; Zech. 10:6

²Rom. 13:12; I Thess. 5:6; Titus 2:13; Jas. 5:8, 9

⁷Gen. 13:14-17; 15:18; Deut. 30:1-11

³I Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10

⁸II Tim. 2:12; Rev. 3:21; 20:1-6

⁴John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51, 52; I Thess. 4:16, 17

⁹II Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1-3

⁵Dan. 7:9-14; Zech. 14:1-4; Mal. 3:1, 2;

Matt. 24:29, 30

Civil Government

Civil government is of divine appointment, and its magistrates are to be prayed for and conscientiously honored and obeyed,¹ excepting only those things opposed to the written will of Our Lord Jesus Christ,² who is the only Lord of the Conscience, and the Prince of the Kings³ of the earth.

¹Rom. 13:1-7; Matt. 22:21

³Rev. 1:5

²Acts 4:18-20; 5:28, 29