

FBFA DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

ARTICLE I – Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible (66 books), as originally written, was verbally, plenary inspired and the product of God using Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe that it is the only complete and final revelation of God with regard to His personal being and will for man; and that it is the supreme standard of all matters concerning faith and practice (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Isa. 40:8; Matt. 24:35; Rev. 22:18-19; John 5:39-47).

ARTICLE II – Of the True Triune God and Creation

We believe there is one, and only one, triune-God, who is knowable; an intelligent Spirit who is infinite, eternal, and perfect, in whom all things have their being, source and end. We accept the Genesis account of creation (in six twenty-four hour days) as literal and came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. (Gen. 1-2; Col. 1:16, 17; John 1:3; Ps. 139:7-10; 90:2; 18:30; Deut. 33:27; 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

ARTICLE III – Of God the Father

We believe that God the Father, as revealed in the Bible, is holy, infinite, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, immutable, creator of all things (invisible and visible), perfect, and worthy of all worship and praise (Ps. 95:1-6; 90:1-2; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 57:15; Acts 15:18; Ps. 100:1-5; 103:1-17; 104:1-35).

ARTICLE IV – Of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God who co-existed with the Father before His incarnation and possesses all the attributes of God; that nothing was created without Him; that He was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin (Mary) in fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and that He is truly God and truly man without sin. We believe that Jesus Christ, though truly tempted, was not able to sin. We believe that He died a substitutionary death on the cross for sinners, that His actual body was resurrected three days later from the dead, and that He ascended to heaven where He is seated on the right hand of the Father where He ever liveth to make intercession for believers. We believe that He shall descend into the air to call/receive unto Himself the Church (His Bride) before the tribulation period on earth. We believe that following the tribulation period, He shall return visibly and bodily to the earth to re-gather Israel and establish His millennial earthly reign (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; John 1:1-3, 14; Luke 1:35; Phil. 2:5-8; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Cor. 15 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Peter 2:24).

ARTICLE V — Of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains evil until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of unrighteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth. We believe He is the Administrator of all things of God on earth in this age: revealing truth, convicting of sin, indwelling, filling, sealing and comforting believers. He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ at the moment of spiritual birth (John 14:16, 17, 26; 16:7-14; Acts 5:30-32; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13; 2:22; 5:18).

ARTICLE VI – Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe in the existence of a personal devil, who is known in Scripture as: Satan, Adversary, Beelzebub, Lucifer, Wicked One, Evil One, Prince of the power of the air, Prince of this world, god of this age, tempter, that old serpent, and the

devil. He was originally created Lucifer the anointed cherub of Ezekiel 28, and, being the highest of all God's created intelligence, was assigned a position as guard to the throne of the Most High. But because of pride and self-will, described in Isaiah 14, he was cast out of Heaven and also led in rebellion a multitude of angels who according to Jude 6, are reserved— "kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day." We believe Satan will be bound for one thousand years during the millennial reign of Christ after which he will be released briefly, and then cast alive into the Lake of Fire for eternity (Rev. 12:1-9; 20:1-10).

ARTICLE VII – Of Man

We believe that the human race was created in the image of God in Adam—spirit, soul, and body; being propagated from him by natural generation. We believe because of Adam's failure, sin and death entered into the human race and sin is therefore passed upon all men. Man in his sin is condemned, dead spiritually, dying physically, and bound for eternal death in hell (1 Thess. 5:23; Gen. 1:27-28; 5:3; Rom. 5:12; Rev. 21:8).

ARTICLE VIII – Of Sin

We believe that sin originated in disobedience and rebellion in the heart of Satan; that through deception by Satan and in willful disobedience by Adam and Eve, who were created in innocence, sin was introduced on earth; and that through Adam's sin the entire human race fell. We also believe that Christ paid the penalty for sin, which is eternal death and separation from God, in His atoning death on the Cross for those who receive Him as Lord and Savior (Isa. 14:12-15; Ezek. 28:12-18; Gen.3; Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Isa. 53; John 1:12; 3:16).

ARTICLE IX – Of Salvation

We believe salvation to be by grace alone through faith, wholly apart from any merit of man; and that every individual is a sinner by birth and choice. We believe therefore, that each individual must exercise repentance (voluntarily turning from sin to Christ) and must exercise personal faith (voluntary turning to Jesus Christ) for redemption (forgiveness of sin) on the basis of His finished work at Calvary. (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 10:9-11; Acts 16:30-31).

ARTICLE X – Of Justification

We believe that all who are born again from above (spiritual birth) are justified by that judicial act of God by which, on account of Christ to whom the sinner is united by faith, He declares that sinner to be no longer under the penalty of the Law, but rather restored to God's favor, and the righteousness of Christ is added to their account (Romans 8:28-30; 1 Peter 3:18).

ARTICLE XI – Of Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the separation and dedication of a person or an object to and for God to belong wholly to Him and to be used for His glory. In relation to the believer, there is:

- A. Positional Sanctification:** which begins at conversion and is instantaneous, that is, the sinner suddenly becomes a saint (Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:4-6; Rom. 6:1-4).

- B. Progressive Sanctification:** which is a continual process through-out life on earth, a work of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and includes yielding of life, a pruning process, chastening, growing in grace, abounding in love and a godly walk, and a bringing of every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ (Eph. 4:11-16; Eph. 4:2, 2 Cor. 10:3-6; Eph. 4:20-24, Col. 3:12-14).

C. Ultimate Sanctification: which will be experienced by the believer at the coming of Jesus Christ, when we shall receive a glorified body like unto His (Ps. 4:3; 2Peter 3:10; 1 Cor. 6:11; Phil. 3:20; 1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Jn. 3:2-3).

ARTICLE XII – Of Security of the Believer

We believe that those who are born again from above, on account of the shed blood of Christ, are made partakers of the Divine nature and have eternal life abiding in them and are kept by the power of God unto salvation. We believe redemption was accomplished at Calvary by our Savior; that every believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit who also indwells every believer; and that Christ, as our High Priest is constantly interceding for us. We believe we are secure because of the work of the God-Head and not by any human efforts (Jn. 19:30; Eph. 1:13, 14; 4:30; Heb. 7:25; 1 Jn. 2:1; 1 Peter 1:5; 2 Peter 1:4; Jn. 6:47-51; 10:28; Rom. 8:35-39).

ARTICLE XIII – Of the Church

We believe the local church, which is a part of the Body of Christ, to be a body of baptized believers immersed upon credible confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, meeting together for worship, observance of the ordinances, service, fellowship, and world-wide proclamation of the Gospel (Acts 14:23; Rom. 16:5; 1 Cor. 1:2; 1 Thess. 2:14).

ARTICLE XIV – Of Gospel Liberty

We believe that the local church has the absolute right to self-governance, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Head is Christ, with the Holy Spirit as the Chief Administrator; that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge in the measure and method of its cooperation, of discipline, of benevolence, and that the will of the local church is final (Acts 2:41, 42; 20:17-28; Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18).

ARTICLE XV – Of Ordinances of a Local Church

We believe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, designed only for believers, having in themselves no meritorious grace but rather symbolizing our identification with Christ are the only ordinances Christ established for His church. We briefly define them as follows:

- A. **Baptism**: We believe is the immersion in water of the believer upon a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus, a symbol of the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection to newness of life (Rom. 6:4; Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:36-39).

- B. **The Lord's Supper**: to believers, the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death and an expression of the hope of His return. The elements are symbolic of the body of Him who is the Bread of Life and the shed blood of the True Vine and may be properly taken by the regenerate and baptized church living in a godly manner (Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:14-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-33).

ARTICLE XVI – Of the Rapture

We believe in a "pre-tribulation," imminent return of Jesus Christ, who is currently seated on the right hand of the Father, to receive His church unto to Himself (John 14:1-3; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 3:10).

ARTICLE XVII – Of the Great Tribulation

We believe that the Tribulation (a seven year period) which is also called "the time of Jacob's trouble," in Scripture will come upon the entire world and that Anti-Christ will be Satan's puppet ruler during it (2 Thess. 2; Rev. 5ff.).

ARTICLE XVIII – Of the Resurrection; Personal, Visible, Pre-Millennial Return of Christ and Related Events

- A. **Christ's Bodily Resurrection**: We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:6, 7; Luke 24:6, 39; John 20:27; Mark 16:6; 1 Cor. 15:4).

- B. ***Christ's Ascension:*** We believe in the *ascension* of Jesus Christ (Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19).
- C. ***His High Priesthood:*** We believe Jesus Christ is our high priest (Heb. 2:17).
- D. ***Christ's Second Coming:*** We believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16).
- E. ***The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead:*** We believe in the resurrection of the righteous dead (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 52).
- F. ***The Change of the Living in Christ:*** We believe all believers who are alive when Christ returns will be changed (1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).
- G. ***The Throne of David and Millennial Reign:*** We believe Christ will be given the throne of David by the Father and that He will reign for one thousand years (Luke 1:32; 1 Cor. 15:25; Rev. 20:6) on that throne.

ARTICLE XIX – Of Judgments

We believe the Bible teaches a series of judgments over a wide expanse of times:

- A. ***The Judgment of Believer's Sin at the Cross:*** We believe God the Father “made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf...” and that He judged Him for us so “that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” (2 Cor. 5:21; Rom. 5:25).
- B. ***The Judgment of the Believer's Daily Work*** (1 Cor. 3:11-23), which will occur at ...
- C. ***The Judgment of the Believer at the Judgment seat of Christ:*** We believe that all Believers will “appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each

may be recompensed for his deeds in the body....” This judgment will be immediately following the Rapture of the Church (2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

- D. ***The Judgment of the living nations:*** We believe the judgment of the living nations will take place when Christ returns to earth (Matt. 25:31-46).
- E. ***The Judgment of the nation of Israel:*** We believe the nation of Israel will be judged as preparatory to entering the Kingdom blessings (Ezek. 20:33-34).
- F. ***The Judgment of fallen angels and Satan:*** We believe the judgment of the fallen angels and Satan will be prior to the Great White Throne judgment (Rev. 20:10; Jude 6).
- G. ***The Judgment of the unbelieving dead at the Great White Throne:*** We believe this will be the final judgment, *“And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire”* (Rev. 20:11-15).

ARTICLE XX – Of Heaven

We believe in a literal heaven where Jesus Christ is now seated at the right-hand of God the Father. We believe at the time of death, the soul of the believer is taken into the presence of the Lord in heaven, to await its reunion with the resurrected and glorified body. Heaven is a prepared place of eternal bliss for a prepared people (John 14:1-4; Phil. 1:20-23; 3:20, 21).

ARTICLE XXI – Of Hell

We believe in a literal hell, which is described in Scripture as the Lake of Fire, a place of torment, and the second death. It is the final and eternal abode for Satan, fallen angels, and all unbelievers. We also believe that Hell will be a well-ordered

prison of conscious, unending punishment (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10-15; 21:8; Luke 16:19-31).

ARTICLE XXII – OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests 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 God (Rom. 13:17; 2 Sam. 23:3; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:20).