

Coastal Baptist Church Doctrinal Statement

PREAMBLE

In the name of God and for His glory, we, the members of the Coastal Baptist Church, believing that “all things be done decently and in order,” unite as a body in adopting the following constitution as a statement of our faith and principles for the government of our local church.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this church is to worship, praise, and honor God through the evangelism of the unsaved and the edification of the believers. To accomplish this purpose, this church will maintain a place of public worship where the gospel will be shared and the whole counsel of God preached and taught. In addition, this church will administer the ordinances of baptism and the Lord’s supper, provide a place of fellowship and service, exert a Christian influence in the greater Belfast area, and support an effective missionary ministry to the world.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Section 1 – The Scriptures

We believe all Scripture was given by inspiration of God. God has promised to preserve every jot and tittle of what He inspired. We hold to the Authorized Version (King James Bible) as the inerrant standard for English speaking people and believe we find within it the certainty of the words of truth. The Holy Scriptures, written by men controlled by the Holy Spirit, are inerrant, infallible, and are preserved by God in the verbal, plenary inspired text of the sixty-six (66) books comprising the Old and New Testaments in the Authorized King James Version. The Bible is the divinely authoritative standard for every age and every life.

Psalms 19:7-11; 119-89; 105, 130, 160

Proverbs 22:20-21

Proverbs 30: 5,6

Isaiah 8:20

Matthew 5:18

Luke 16:31; 24:25-27, 44, 45

John 5:39, 45-47; 12:48; 17:17

Acts 1:16

Romans 15:4

Ephesians 6:17
II Timothy 3:16, 17
I Peter 1:23
II Peter 1:19-21
Revelation 22:19

Section 2 – The Godhead

We believe that there is one living and true God existing eternally in three persons: The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit – equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct, but harmonious, functions in the great work of redemption. God is the absolute and sole creator of the universe, is inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and is worthy of all possible honor, praise, confidence and love.

Genesis 1:1,26
Exodus 20:2,3; 15:11
I Chronicles 29:11
Psalms 83:18, 90:2; 96:4,5; 145:17; 147:5
Isaiah 6:3
Jeremiah 10:10
Matthew 28:19
Mark 12:30
John 4:24; 10:30; 15:26; 17:5
Acts 5:3-4
Romans 11:33
I Corinthians 2:10-11; 8:6; 12: 4-6
II Corinthians 13:14
Ephesians 2:18; 4:6
Philippians 2:5,6
I Timothy 1:17
I John 5:7
Revelation 4: 8,11

Section 3 – The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person and that He is equal to and is of the same nature as God the Father and God the Son. To the unbelieving world, the Holy Spirit restrains Satan until God's purpose is fulfilled, bears witness to the truth of the Gospel, and convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. The Holy Spirit indwells, baptizes, seals, and sanctifies all believers at the moment of their salvation. He also endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, and fills all believers in response to confession of sin and being yielded.

We further believe that the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance) and permanent spiritual gifts are evidences of His indwelling rather than speaking in tongues or other ecstatic and spectacular demonstrations.

Genesis 1:1-3; 6:3

Psalms 139:7

Matthew 3:11; 28:19

Luke 1:35; 3:22; 12:12

John 1:33; 3:5,6; 14:16,17,26; 15:26,27; 16:7-15

Romans 8:9-16,26,27

Galatians 5:22,23

Ephesians 1:13,14; 4:30; 5:18

II Thessalonians 2:13

Hebrews 9:14

I Peter 1:2

Section 4 – The Son

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son. As both God and man, He lived a sinless life, taught with authority, wrought mighty works, wonders, and signs, was crucified and died as a penalty for our sins, and was raised from the dead bodily on the third day. He later ascended to the Father's right hand where He is the Head of the Church, is interceding for the believers, is preparing an abode for His children, and from whence He is coming in the clouds to rapture His church immediately prior to the Tribulation and from whence He is coming again personally, bodily, and visibly to this earth at the conclusion of the Tribulation to set up His Millennial Kingdom.

Genesis 3:15

Psalms 2:7

Isaiah 7:14; 52:13-15; 53:1-9

Matthew 1:18-25; 28:5,6

Mark 1:1

Luke 1:31,35

John 1:1,2,14,18; 14:2,3; 19:16-18, 30,33

Acts 1: 9,11

Romans 3:24-26; 4:25

I Corinthians 15:3,4, 12-19,47,51-53

II Corinthians 5:21
Galatians 4:4
I Thessalonians 4: 14-17
Titus 2:13
Hebrews 4:14-16; 7:23-25; 9:24
I John 2:1,2; 3:2; 5:20

Section 5 – The Devil

We believe that Satan (Lucifer) was once perfect and enjoyed heavenly honors, but through pride and ambition to be as God, fell and took with him a host of angels. He is now the malignant prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world. Satan is man's great tempter, the enemy of Christ, the accuser of the saints, the father of lies, the author of all false religions, the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all powers of darkness. He is, however, destined to a final defeat at the hands of God's Son and to the judgment of an eternal hell – a place prepared for him and his angels.

Genesis 3:14,15
Isaiah 14:12-15
Ezekiel 28:14-17
Zechariah 3:1
Matthew 4:1,3,6,9; 13:25, 37-39; 25:41
Mark 13: 21-22
Luke 22: 3,4
John 8:44; 14:30
II Corinthians 11:13-15
Ephesians 2:2
I Thessalonians 3:5
II Thessalonians 2:8-11
I Peter 5:8
II Peter 2:4
I John 2:22; 3:8; 4:3
II John 7
Jude 6
Revelation 9:11; 12:4-12; 13:13,14; 19:20; 20:1-3; 10

Section 6 – The Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in complete innocence in a perfect environment, but of his own volition, transgressed God. The result of Adam's sin is not only physical death and spiritual death (separation from God for eternity) for all mankind, but the fall also endowed upon all mankind a sinful nature. Therefore, all people are sinners, not

only by constraint, but by choice, are unable to regain their former position of innocence, and are under just condemnation without defense or excuse before God.

Genesis 3:1-6

Psalms 51:5; 53:1,3

Isaiah 64:6

Ezekiel 18:19,20

John 3:18

Romans 1:18,20,28,32; 3:10-19,23; 5:12,19; 6:23

Galatians 3:22

Ephesians 2:1,3,12

Hebrews 2:3

Section 7 – Salvation

We believe that salvation is a gift of God given to man by grace through a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and that this faith is more than intellectual assent, but is comprised of: repentance of sin, surrender of will, and a commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Salvation was made possible by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ who made a full and vicarious atonement for our sin, redeemed us from the curse of the law, and justified us through His substitutionary death on the cross. Salvation is being born again. The new birth (regeneration) results in a new creature (transformation) in Jesus Christ that is instantaneous and not a process. In the new birth, the one dead in trespasses and sins is imparted a new nature and spiritual life not previously possessed, is forgiven of sin, and is given eternal life solely by the power of the Holy Spirit. Salvation is totally apart from any effort of man such as good works, baptism, or church membership. A true believer is eternally secure – he cannot lose his salvation, but sin in his life may interrupt the joy of his fellowship with God and bring the loving discipline of His Heavenly Father.

Genesis 15:6

Psalms 37:24; 51:1-4; 7,10,12

Isaiah 53: 4-7,11,12; 55:6,7

Matthew 16:24,25; 18:11

Mark 1:15

Luke 12:8, 18:13,14

John 1:12,13; 3:5-8,16,17; 5:24; 6:37; 10:18, 27-30

Romans 1:17; 3:24,25,28; 4:1-8; 5:1,8,9,15,20; 6:1,2,10-13, 23; 8:1,9-11;16,17,29-39; 10:9-13

I Corinthians 3:12-15; 15:3,4,20

II Corinthians 5:17-19,21

Galatians 1:4; 3:11
Ephesians 1:7; 2:1,8-10; 4:30;
Philippians 2:5-8
Colossians 2:13-15
Titus 3:3-7
Hebrews 2:14; 7:25; 8:12; 9:12,22; 10:39; 12:2, 5-8; 13:5
James 2:14-26
I Peter 1:23; 2:24; 3:18
II Peter 1:4
I John 2:1,2; 4:10,15; 5:1,11-13
Revelation 3:20

Section 8 – Sanctification

We believe in immediate positional sanctification at the moment of salvation, whereby God eternally sets the believer apart as belonging to Him by redemption and places the believer into the family of God as children, joint heirs with Jesus Christ. We are made partakers of God's holiness in the process of progressive sanctification that begins at the new birth and is carried on in the heart of the believer as he yields his life to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit; through the Word of God, surrendered will, prayer, watchfulness, and self-examination. Ultimate sanctification will be the portion of every believer when finally in the presence of the Lord, the soul and spirit will be united in the resurrected body; complete and free from every trace or effect of sin and rebellion.

John 1:12; 17:17
Acts 20:32; 26:18
Romans 8:14-17; 15:16
I Corinthians 1:2; 6:11,20
II Corinthians 6:18; 13:5
Galatians 3:29; 4:7; 5:22-25
Ephesians 5:9, 26; 6:18
Philippians 2:12,13; 3:20,21
I Thessalonians 4:3; 5:23
II Timothy 2:21
Titus 3:7
Hebrews 2:10; 10:10-14; 11:7
James 2:5
I Peter 3:7
I John 3:1,2

Section 9 – Separation

We believe in a three-fold doctrine of separation encompassing: (1) – the separation of the believer from all worldly practices that may dishonor Jesus Christ, that contradict biblical instruction, or that might damage the testimony of the individual believer or the church, (2) the separation of the local church from all affiliation and fellowship with those individuals or organizations that deny the verities of the faith, and (3) the separation of church and state.

Matthew 22:21

Romans 12:1,2; 14:13,21

I Corinthians 8:9

II Corinthians 6:11 – 7:1

II Timothy 3: 1-5

James 4:4

I John 2:15-17

II John 9-11

Section 10 – The Eternal State

We believe that the souls of believers do, at death, immediately pass into the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ in Heaven and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at the rapture of the church, when the body and soul will be reunited and will be in glory forever with Him. The souls of unbelievers, at death, immediately pass into conscious torment in hell until the final judgment at the Great White Throne, when the body and soul will be reunited and cast into the Lake of Fire; not to be annihilated; but to be punished with an everlasting separation from the holiness, glory, power, and love of God.

Psalms 9:17

Isaiah 14:9-11

Ezekiel 32:21

Matthew 7:21-23; 25:46

Luke 16:19-26; 23:43

John 3:14-18

I Corinthians 15:51-54

II Corinthians 5:8

Philippians 1:23; 3:20

I Thessalonians 4:16,17

II Thessalonians 1:7-9

Hebrews 9:27

II Peter 2:9

Revelation 14:13; 20:11-15; 21:1,4,27

Section 11 – The Church

We believe in the Church – a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and in which all regenerated people in this dispensation are members; and that those who are truly born again are baptized by the Holy Spirit into a vital union with Christ and into the universal Church which is His body and Bride. The local church is the visible expression of the Body of Christ and is a congregation of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, scripturally baptized, and associated by covenant for worship, teaching, evangelism, edification, observance of the ordinances, and fellowship. The mission of the local church is to make individual disciples, baptize them, and teach them. The local church has the absolute right of self government, free from the interference of any earthly hierarchy of individuals or organizations. The officers of the local church are pastors and deacons. The local church is the center of God's program for this age.

Matthew 16:16-18; 28:19,20

Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-37; 6:1-6; 14:23,27; 15:22; 20:17-28

I Corinthians 3:9-11; 5:1-5, 11-13; 6:1-3; 11:2; 12:12-27; 16:1,2

II Corinthians 8:23,24

Galatians 3:27

Ephesians 1:22,23; 4:11-16; 5:23-27

Colossians 1:18,24

I Timothy 3

Titus 1:5-11

I Peter 5:1-5

Revelation 2,3

Section 12 – The Ordinances of the Church

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances to be observed by all believers until His return -- baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a part of the believer's obedience to Christ and involves immersion once in the water in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, and our identification with the Saviour in death to sin and resurrection to new life – a public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Baptism follows a public confession of the believer's salvation and is a pre-requisite to church membership. The Lord's Supper (communion) is a memorial service in which the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine symbolize the body and blood of Christ, reminding the believer of the love of God. Participation in the Lord's Supper is only for those who are members of this local

church (or churches of like faith and practice) and is always preceded by careful self-examination.

Matthew 26:26-28; 28:19

John 3:23

Acts 2:38-42,47; 8:12,36-39; 9:17,18; 10:44-48;16:14,15,32,33; 18:8; 19:4,5

Romans 6: 3-6

I Corinthians 11:23-30

Colossians 2:12

We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal with those who oppose us graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions.

Lev. 19:18

Matt. 5:44-48

Luke 6:31

John 13:34-35

Rom. 12:9-10; 17-21; 13:8-10

Phil. 2:2-4

2Tim. 2:24-26

Titus 3:2

1 John 3:17-18