

DEVON PARK BAPTIST CHURCH
STATEMENT OF FAITH

It is hereby declared that the Statement of Faith of the Church is expressed to be as follows as set out in headings (a) through (q) inclusive of this paragraph:

(a) **Concerning the Scriptures**

We believe that the Bible in both the Old and New Testament is the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore, wholly without error as originally given by God, and altogether sufficient in itself as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice. (Matthew 5:18, John 17:17, II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21)

(b) **Concerning the True God**

We believe in one God, the creator of heaven and earth, manifesting Himself in three persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory and great work of redemption. (Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6)

(c) **Concerning the Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in a supernatural manner; He is very God of very God, being “God manifest in the flesh”. He lived a life of absolute sinlessness, and in His death He made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins, dying not a martyr’s death, but a voluntary substitute in the sinner’s place. He rose again bodily from the dead the third day and ascended bodily to the right hand of God in Heaven where He now sits as our great High Priest “ever living to make intercession for us”. We believe in the rapture of the Church and the return of Christ. (John 14:3; Acts 1:11; Jude 14; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 1:7; Revelation 22:20).

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(d) **Concerning the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the absolute essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit, who convinces the unbeliever of sin, unrighteousness and of judgment, who regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates, seals, guides, comforts, indwells and fills for service those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. (John 14:16-17; John 16:8-11; Romans 8:14; II Thessalonians 2:13, Ephesians 4:30).

(e) **Concerning Man**

We believe that man was divinely created in the image of God; that he sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in his total depravity, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death. (Genesis 1:27; Romans 3:10-18; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12-19; Isaiah 53:6).

(f) **Concerning Salvation**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of God's grace through the mediatorial work of the Lord Jesus Christ; it is wholly apart from man's works, and is upon the sole condition of repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that in order to be saved the sinners must be born again, being regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit and thus becoming a recipient of a new nature called the Divine nature. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification which includes pardon of sin and the imputing of divine righteousness and sanctification solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood; that having exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the believer is completely justified and is in possession of salvation which is eternally secure. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; II Peter 1:4; John 3:3-6; Acts 13:38-39; John 10:28-29).

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(g) **Concerning Satan**

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is a personal devil who is “the god of this age; the prince of power of the air” who is full of all subtlety and mischief; who seeks continually to frustrate the purposes of God and to ensnare the sons of man and who will ultimately be confined to the Lake of Fire. (Ephesians 2:2; Revelation 12:9; II Corinthians 4:4; II Corinthians 11:13-15; Revelation 20:10).

(h) **Concerning the Eternal State**

We believe that the Scriptures teach that all who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in full enjoyment of God’s presence in a place called Heaven, and that those who through impenitence and rejection of Jesus Christ as Saviour refuse to accept God’s offer of mercy and salvation will spend eternity in everlasting punishment in the place the Bible calls Hell. (John 14:2, II Corinthians 5:6-8; Matthew 25:41-46; Revelation 20:12-15; Revelation 21:8).

(i) **Concerning the Local Church**

We believe that a church is a company of born-again, immersed believers called out from the world separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe the local church is a sovereign independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Great Head of the Church. (Acts 2:41, 42, 47; I Corinthians 11:2).

(j) **Concerning the Ordinances**

We believe that there are only two ordinances for the Church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order:

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- (i) Baptism is the immersion of believers in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, signifying their obedience to Christ's command and setting forth their identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5).
- (ii) The Lord's Supper is the memorial wherein believers partake of the elements, bread and grape juice, symbolizing the Lord's broken body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes. (Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-28).

(k) **Concerning Separation**

We believe in Ecclesiastical separation of the Church from combined meetings with any and all organizations or groups who deny the inspiration of the Scriptures, the Deity of Jesus Christ, and who repudiate or deny the general principals and practices expressed in this statement of doctrinal basis. (Romans 16:17-18; II Corinthians 6:1-8; II Thessalonians 3:6; Ephesians 5:11; Titus 3:11; II John 9-11). We believe the Scriptures clearly teach non-conformity to the world to every believer, that it is clearly commanded of God to all believers to live lives of separation from worldly, sinful and doubtful practices and associations. (Romans 12:1-2, I John 2: 15-17; Colossians 3:17; I Corinthians 10:31; Colossians 3:1-3).

(l) **Concerning Church and State**

We believe in the separation of Church and State. (Matthew 22:21)

(m) **Concerning Religious Liberty**

We believe in religious liberty, that every man has the right to practice and propagate his beliefs.

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(n) **Concerning the Lord's Day**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day and that, in a special sense, it is the divinely appointed day for worship and spiritual exercise. (Acts 20:7; Mark 16:9; John 20:7; I Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10).

(o) **Concerning Christian Stewardship**

We believe that the stewardship of the believer consists of time, talents, and treasures. We believe in personal voluntary, regular, systematic, and proportionate giving to the support of the local church and the spreading of the gospel to the regions beyond. This best accomplished as the Scriptures teach by tithing of our income and the presenting of an offering unto the Lord. (Genesis 14:20; Malachi 3:8-10; Matthew 6:3; 23:23; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-15; Hebrews 7:1, 2: 6,9).

(p) **Concerning the Return of Christ**

We believe in the imminent and pre-millennial return of Jesus Christ at which time the living saints will be translated and the dead in Christ will be raised. The church which is the body of Christ will be raptured before the period of the Great Tribulation. (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:14-18; I Corinthians 15:50-52; I Thessalonians 5:9).

(q) **Concerning Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society, that all in authority are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the Will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of Kings of the earth. (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-5; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-17; Acts 5:29).