

## ***Greenwood Baptist Church Statement of Faith***

### **A. The Bible**

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God; fully inspired and without error in the original writings; written by men who were divinely inspired; preserved for eternity; and that it has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (Psalm 119:105; Matt 5:18; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:17-21)

### **B. The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing as one in His essence yet in three persons (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit); that these are equal in every divine perfection, existing eternally, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption, but without division of nature, essence, or being. (Gen 1:1, 26; Deut 6:4; Matt 28:19; John 1:1, 3; 4:24; Rom 1:19-20; Eph 4:5-6)

### **C. God, the Father**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass; reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace; hears and answers prayer; saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (Matt 23:9; Luke 10:21,22; John 3:16; 6:27; Rom 1:7; I Tim 1:1-2; 2:5-6; I Peter 1:3; Rev 1:6)

### **D. God, the Son**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's eternal Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and truly God and truly Man, one Person with two natures. We believe in His sinless life, miracles, and teachings. He died as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all men, and all who receive Him are justified on the grounds of His perfect life and shed blood. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, and perpetual intercession for His people. We believe in His personal, visible, and pre-millennial return to earth. (Matt 1:18-25; 20:28; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-2; 20:28, 30-31; Acts 1:11; Rom 5:6-8; 6:9-10; 9:5; 8:46; II Cor 5:21; Eph 1:4; I Tim 3:16; I Peter 2:21-23; Heb 7:25; 9:28)

### **E. God, the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the eternal deity and personality of the Holy Spirit. He inspired the writers of the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables us to understand truth. He was sent from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells, seals, gifts, and keeps every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide. His presence in the Christian is the assurance of God to bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. (Jn 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26, 27; 16:9-14; Rom 8:9; I Cor 3:16; 6:19; Gal 5:22-26)

### **F. Creation**

We believe in the Genesis account of the creation of the world as a literal, historical record of the direct acts of God, without the involvement of any evolutionary process; that the entire universe was brought into existence by the creating act of the great Triune God in six 24-hour days. (Gen 1:1-2:3; Jer 10:12; John 1:1-3)

### **G. Satan**

We believe in the existence of Satan, the arch-enemy of God and man, the deceiver and god of this present world; that he was defeated and judged at the cross of Calvary; and that he will be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (John 8:44; 12:31; 16:11; 2 Cor 4; Rev 20:8-19)

### **H. Man and Original Sin**

We believe that man was created by God in innocence and in His own image; that he sinned (sin entered the world when Adam, representing humanity, disobeyed God) and thereby incurred physical, spiritual and eternal death, which is separation from God; that as a consequence, all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice and therefore under condemnation; that he is totally depraved and is utterly unable apart from God to remedy his lost condition. (Gen 1:26-27; 2:7-3:24; 2 Sam 12:23; Matt 18:10-14; Rom 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; 8:5-8; 1 Cor 15:45; Gal 5:17; Eph 2:1-3)

### **I. Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the gift of God, completely of divine grace apart from any works of merit by the sinner, received by those who repent and forsake sin and trust Jesus Christ as Savior. Sinners are regenerated by the Holy Spirit to become new creatures; justified by the imputed righteousness of Christ; sanctified by a continuing process of transformation into the image of Christ; and delivered from condemnation to receive eternal life. (John 1:12; Eph 2:8-9; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Heb 10:19; 12:24; Rev 1:5)

## ***Section 2 - Distinctives of our Church***

### **A. Eternal Security**

We believe in the eternal security of the true believer in Jesus Christ. We believe that they will never totally or finally fall from grace; that their perseverance is in itself evidence of the reality of their profession; that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal and complete salvation. (John 10:27-28; Rom 8:28-39; Eph 4:30; Phil 1:6; 2 Tim 1:12)

### **B. The Church**

We believe in the one true Church; the body of Christ, which He began to build on the day of Pentecost, and will complete at His second coming, and into which all true believers of the present age are placed; that the members of this spiritual body should assemble together in local churches, which consist of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith for worship, evangelism, prayer, fellowship, teaching, united testimony, and the observance of the two New Testament ordinances, namely baptism by immersion as a public testimony of faith, and the Lord's Supper as a commemoration of the death of Christ. The church has two Biblical offices, which are Pastors and Deacons. (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:38-39, 41-47; 8:26-39 1 Cor 11:23-28; 12:12-13; Eph 4:4; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; Heb 1:25)

### **C. End Times**

We believe that the return of Jesus Christ is in two phases. The imminent, personal, bodily, pre-tribulational rapture of the church to meet the Lord in the air. Then the personal, bodily, pre-millennial second coming to set up His literal, physical reign on earth for a thousand years; followed by the eternal punishment of unbelievers in hell; and the eternal blessings for believers

in heaven. (Matt 25:1-13; 1 Cor 15:24-28; 1 Thess 4:14-18; 2 Thess 4:16-17; Rev 19:11-20:15; 21:22)

#### **D. Civil Government**

We believe that all governmental authority is ordained of God for the good of the citizens under its jurisdiction, that believers in Christ are to be the most careful to obey its every ordinance for the Lord's sake, and that we are to faithfully pray for those who occupy positions of civil authority. We believe, however, in the absolute separation of church and state, that each has been ordained of God to render service in entirely different spheres and for different purposes, and therefore neither is to dictate to the other. (Matt 22:21; Rom 13:1-7; 1 Tim 2:1-6)

#### **E. World Evangelization**

We believe the mission of the Church is to evangelize the world, from local neighborhoods to the farthest reaches of the earth, and to make Christian disciples of those that believe, baptizing them in Christ's name and providing them thorough teaching of the Word of God. (Matt 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8)

#### **F. Marriage and Human Sexuality**

We believe that men and women are created as spiritual equals, yet designed to complement each other with differing God-given roles in the home and church; that marriage is designed by God to join one man and one woman in a lifetime covenant of love. We believe that God forbids intimate sexual activity outside of marriage; that any form of adultery, fornication, incest, polygamy, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex; that God determines our sex and any attempts to alter one's sex by surgery or appearance is forbidden by God. (Gen 1:26-27; 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev 18:1-30; Jer 1:5; Rom 1:26-29; 1 Cor 5:1; 6:9; 7:10-11; 1 Thess 4:1-8; Heb 13:4)

#### **G. Abortion**

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. (Job 3:16; Psalm 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; Jer 1:5)