

# *Community* BAPTIST CHURCH

## Statement of Faith

Community Baptist Church shall stand Biblical in position, and has been founded and shall be perpetuated on the following doctrinal basis:

### **ARTICLE I -- THE BIBLE**

We believe that the Bible, as originally given, it is verbally inspired of God; that it is inerrant, sufficient, and eternal, and therefore of supreme and final authority in faith and life; that it consists of the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, and was written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; (Psalm 19:7-11; 119:89; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:16-21).

### **ARTICLE II -- GOD**

#### *Section 1 - The Trinity*

We believe in the Triune nature of God: that there is but one God existing in three Persons -- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- who are co-eternal and co-equal (Matt. 28:19; John 16:7-15; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2; I John 5:1-8).

#### *Section 2 - The Father*

We believe that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Heavenly Father of all who have come to saving knowledge of His only begotten Son (John 1:14; 20:17; Romans 4:11; I Peter 1:3-5).

#### *Section 3 - The Son, Jesus Christ*

We believe in the absolute deity of Jesus Christ, His incarnation by means of the Holy Spirit (Luke 2:1-20; John 1:14) expressed in the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56) His sinless life and miraculous ministry on earth (Matt 4:23-24), His death on the cross as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all men (2 Cor. 5:21; 1

John 2:2), His bodily resurrection from among the dead (John 20:24-29; 1 Cor. 15:1-28), His exaltation to the right hand of the Majesty on high as Lord, Mediator, Priest, and Advocate, and to bring into consummation (Phil. 2:9; Heb. 4:15; 9:15,24; 1 John 2:1), His work of redemption by ultimate triumph over Satan and his hosts (1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 19:11-20:10).

#### *Section 4 - The Holy Spirit*

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that it is by His enablement that sinners are brought under conviction of sin and are drawn to Christ for salvation, that through Him men are regenerated and sanctified, that by Him the Saints are indwelt with the Divine Presence, and that by His endowment and enduement God's people are enabled to serve the Lord acceptably, that He testifies of Christ and that He moved men to write the Scriptures. We believe that He is the Divine Witness, Seal, Guarantee, Anointing, Guide, Teacher, and Administrator (John 14:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:5, 8; Acts 2:4) Romans 8:14-27; ( 15:16); I Corinthians 12:1-14:40; II Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; I John 2:20-27; 1 Peter 1:2; II Peter 1:21).

#### *Section 5 - The Second Advent of Christ*

We believe in the pre-tribulational, pre-millennial, personal, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air for all the dead and alive in Christ, our "Blessed Hope," and the post-tribulational visible appearance of the Lord with His saints on the earth to set up His millennial kingdom (Matthew 24:29-30; Luke 1:31-33; with Acts 1:6-7, with Isaiah 11; 1 Cor. 15:23-24; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; 5:9-10; Jude verse 14; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-10).

### **ARTICLE III -- CREATION**

We believe that the entire universe was brought into existence by the creating act of the great Triune God according to a literal translation of Genesis 1 and 2 (6 twenty-four hour days) (John 1:1-3).

### **ARTICLE IV -- SATAN**

We believe in the personality of Satan, "The old serpent, the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world," (Revelation 12:9-10) that he is the arch-enemy of God and man, and that in God's own appointed time he will suffer ultimate defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus and will be tormented throughout eternity in the fires of Hell (Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:1-11; John 8:44; 20:1-2, 7-10).

## **ARTICLE V -- MAN**

We believe that man was originally created by God in His image, but that by disobedience to his Creator he incurred both physical and spiritual death, and that the entire human race was plunged into sin and death; that all men inherit an evil nature and are totally depraved, and if not saved after the day of accountability will endure eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7-3:24; Matthew 18:10-14; Romans 3:10-18; 5:12; 6:23; Eph 2:3; 8:5-8; I Corinthians 15:45; Galatians 5:17 II Samuel 12:23; Revelation 20:14-15).

## **ARTICLE VI -- SIN**

We believe in the universality of sin; that all sin offends God and separates man from fellowship with God; and that there is no remission of sins apart from the shedding of the blood of the Son of God and man's repentance ( Ezekiel 18:4; Luke 24:46-47; Romans 3:10-26; 6:23; 7:13-14; Hebrews 9:22).

## **ARTICLE VII -- SALVATION**

### *Section 1 - The Atonement*

We believe in the single substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for sinners, One for all, and once for all; that salvation is wholly of divine grace apart from any works of merit of the sinner; that it is provided in the atonement of Jesus Christ, wrought by God, and is received by trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior; that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by personal faith as Savior are thereby born again and have eternal life through the indwelling Christ; that unbelievers will suffer eternally for their sins (Psalm 49:7; Jonah 2:9; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 13:3; 24:46-47; John 1:11-13; 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 8:24; Acts 16:31; 17:30-31; 20:20-21; Romans 4:2-5; 5:8; 10:9-10; II Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:8-9; I Timothy 4:10; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 10:10; I John 5:11-12; Revelation 21:8).

### *Section 2 - The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers*

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1; 8:38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5).

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

### *Section 3 - The Two Natures of the Believer*

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provisions made for victory of the spiritual nature over the carnal, fleshly nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9).

### *Section 4 - Sanctification*

We believe in the positional sanctification of each believer in Christ at the time of salvation, and a practical sanctification which is progressive, depending upon the believer's appropriation of divine means; and all without a second work of grace (John 17:17; I Corinthians 1:2, 30).

## **ARTICLE VIII -- THE CHURCH**

### *Section 1 - The Body of Christ*

We believe that the Church, the body of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again believers of this present age; that it was constituted and empowered by the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost; that it was purchased with the blood of Christ; that it was founded upon Christ; that its mission is to bear to the ends of the earth a Spirit-filled testimony to the judgment of God against sin and the salvation of sinners who repent towards God and exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:17-18; 28:18-20; Acts 2; I Corinthians 3:11; 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 5:25-27; Colossians 1:18).

### *Section 2 - The Local Church*

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament as a body of believers in Christ that have followed the Lord through the waters of baptism, associated together under the direction and government of the Holy Spirit for worship, instruction, fellowship, service, and the spread of the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth; that it is absolutely sovereign, under the administration of the Holy Spirit in the handling of its own affairs and in determining its own relationship; that its relationship with other ecclesiastical bodies is one of fellowship only (Matthew 16:17-18; 28:18-20; Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-37; I Corinthians 3:9-17; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 5:25, 27; Colossians 1:18; I Timothy 3:13; Titus 1:5-11).

### *Section 3 - Spiritual Gifts*

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the edification and perfecting of the saints today. Prophecy and the giving of knowledge beyond that revealed in Scripture ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established; therefore, we will not allow the exercising of any so-called gift of speaking in tongues, extra-Biblical prophecy, or healing (Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:7-12; Hebrews 2:2-4).

We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted, but that healing is not in the atonement (reconciliation) (John 15:7; I John 5:14-15; James 5:13-18).

### *Section 4 - The Blessed Hope*

We believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of the living church saints and resurrection of dead church saints--at which time both companies will meet the Lord in the air to be with Him forever (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

We believe that all the Old Testament saints and the martyred Tribulation saints will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation at the Second Advent (Daniel 12).

### *Section 5 - Dispensationalism*

We accept the dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as "Hyper Dispensationalism" such as the teaching which opposes either the Lord's Table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

### *Section 6 - Prayer*

We believe that prayer is a privilege in that we are permitted to bring our petitions and burdens to the throne of grace and a responsibility in that we are required to intercede for one another (Matthew 6:5-12; Ephesians 6:18-19; Philippians 4:6; I Thessalonians 5:17-18; Hebrews 4:16; James 5:16).

## **ARTICLE IX -- ORDINANCES**

We believe that there are two Christian ordinances and that they are symbolic, not sacramental: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

### *Section 1 - Baptism*

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; that it sets forth in picture the essential facts in redemption--the death and resurrection of Christ; the essential facts in the experience of the believer--death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life; and the essential facts in the hope of the believer--that should he experience physical death he will be raised from the dead to participate in the eternal glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:4).

### *Section 2 - The Lord's Supper*

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death to be observed till He comes; that the elements - the bread and the fruit of the vine - are only symbols of His broken body and shed blood, and that our observance of it is a pictorial testimony of the believer's fellowship with the Crucified Savior and should be preceded by solemn heart-searching and self-judgment (Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 10:16-21; 11:17-34).

## **ARTICLE X -- 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 ardent to obey its every ordinance for the Lord's sake, recognizing God's law as preeminent and that we are to faithfully pray for those who occupy positions of civil authority. We believe, however, in the 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 nor are they to form an organic union whatsoever (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7; I Timothy 2:1-6; Acts 5:29).

## **ARTICLE XI -- WORLD EVANGELIZATION**

We believe that it is the heart's desire of God to save sinners, that He has committed Himself to the faithful witness of His redeemed children to teach them with the gospel, and that He commissioned His people to be diligent and zealous in publishing the saving message of Jesus Christ throughout all the world so that sinners may be persuaded to repent of their sins, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; I Timothy 2:3-6; II Peter 3:9).

## **ARTICLE XII -- THE SEPARATED LIFE**

We believe in the separation of believers unto Christ and from the world so as to have no fellowship with the evil works of sin but rather to reprove them; that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon our Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded by God. We therefore urge upon every member of Community Baptist Church to abstain from every questionable thing, keeping himself/herself from "every appearance of evil" according to the teachings of God's Holy Word (Romans 12:1, 2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:6; 17:23; Ephesians 2:8-10; 4:1-32; Philippians 2:12-16; II Thessalonians 3:11-12; II Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 3:1-11; James 4:4; I Peter 4:12-19; I John 2:15-16).

We believe that marriage is an inseparable union until death parts, in spite of divorces allowed by society; our Lord Himself teaches that at the beginning, God made them male and female for which cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife, and they being two shall become one flesh. We believe, further, that whosoever shall put away his wife, save for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced commits adultery. Believers should not marry unbelievers, thus creating an unequal yoke (Matthew 5:32; 19:4; Mark 10:2-12; Romans 7:2-3; I Corinthians 17:15, 39; II Corinthians 6:14-15).

## **ARTICLE XIII -- APOSTASY**

We believe that men and conditions will become worse and worse until this age ends in a widespread apostasy from the "faith once delivered to the saints"; that when man's rebellion against God reaches its awful climax in worship of Satan, the Lord Jesus Christ shall come to earth, bring to naught every wicked work of man, chain Satan, and take His Messianic throne to reign in righteousness over the earth for one thousand years (Matthew 24:37-38; II Timothy 3:1-7; 4:3-4; Revelation 19:11-20:6).

## **ARTICLE XIV -- THE RESURRECTION**

We believe that there will be two resurrections and that all the dead will be raised: that the righteous dead will have part in the first resurrection which will issue in be raised to eternal life, and that the wicked dead will have part in the second resurrection which will issue in eternal damnation (Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15:20-26; Revelation 23:4-6, 11-15).

## **ARTICLE XV -- ETERNITY**

We believe that Heaven and Hell are eternal: that Heaven is a place of eternal blessedness and that Hell is a place of eternal suffering (Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31). We believe that everyone who trusts Jesus Christ will be fully redeemed from sin's penalty, power, and presence, will be glorified with the Lord when He comes, and will enjoy the blessing of unbroken fellowship with God in Heaven forever (2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 3:20). We believe that all unrepentant sinners will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ according to their deeds, without respect of persons, by the glorious Gospel of God, and will be cast out from God's presence to suffer the torments of the lake of fire in Hell forever (Romans 2:1-16; Revelation 20:1-15; 21:22).

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5, 6, 12, 13).

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when the soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Judge 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).