



## Statement of Faith

### What We Believe

#### I. The Scriptures

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treatise of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture, in the original autographs, is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union. The scriptures are the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

The method of interpreting the scriptures, hermeneutics, used for the teaching ministry of Oak City Baptist Church is that of a literal, historic and grammatical approach. The Scriptures, as given, were meant to be understood by the recipients in their own language. While we believe in the preservation of the Word of God, there are no perfectly inspired English translations of the Hebrew/Christian Scriptures.

*Deuteronomy 17:19; Psalms 119:105; Isaiah 34:16; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 2 Peter 1:16-21*

#### II. God

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and timeless personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other attributes and character traits. God is all powerful and all knowing, and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

- *God the Father*

God the Father is a spirit being who reigns with providential care over the universe He created, His living creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His desires. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. His attributes are infinite. He does all things for His own Glory.

God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through trust in the atonement of Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all. This attitude includes corrective and disciplinary measures.

***Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 6:3; 43:15; Jeremiah 10:10; John 4:24; Romans 8:14-15***

- ***God the Son***

Jesus is the eternal Son of God and the Word of God. He enacted the creation of the physical universe. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself a human nature with its physical demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin or compromise to His nature. He honored His Father by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He satisfied His Father's legal punishment for all sin thus making possible the redemption of all people from their sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and presented Himself to His disciples as the same person who was with them before His crucifixion. He subsequently ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God in His glorified body. He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord as affected by the Holy Spirit.

***Isaiah 7:14; 53; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-18; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 8:1; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 1 John 1:7-9; Revelation 19:16***

- ***God the Holy Spirit***

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. He enables people to comprehend the Word of truth. He exalts the Son, Jesus Christ. He convicts people of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls people to the Savior and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service. Since He possesses personal characteristics, He can be grieved or offended.

***Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 61:1-2; Matthew 1:18; John 4:24; 14:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; 2 Peter 1:21***

### **III. Mankind**

Humans are the unique creation of God made in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. The gift of gender is thus part of the purpose of God's creation. In the beginning man was innocent of sin and was endowed by his Creator with freedom of choice. By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Through the temptation of Satan man disobeyed the command of God and fell from his original innocence whereby his posterity inherited a sinful nature and a natural propensity to sin. Only the grace of God can bring people into His holy fellowship and enable them to fulfill the creative purpose of God. The sacredness of humans is evident in that God created them in His own image and that Jesus Christ died for mankind. Therefore, every person is worthy of respect and Christian love.

*Genesis 1:26-30; 2:18-22; 3; Romans 3: 23; 5:6,12 Ephesians 2:1-22;*

### **IV. Salvation**

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person and is offered freely to all who trust only in the atoning work of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. By His own blood He provides eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior. All human efforts to achieve this salvation are excluded.

Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart, mind and purpose wrought by the Holy Spirit resulting in repentance, accepting the moral will of God as a personal standard, and an understanding of the salvation process.

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal from the conviction and penalty for sin, of all sinners who personally trust in the complete atonement provided through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Justification brings the believer into a familial relationship with God.

Sanctification is the process, beginning with regeneration, by which the believer is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity, as defined in the Hebrew/Christian Scriptures, through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit Who, subsequent to regeneration, is permanently dwelling in him. The process of sanctification is expected to continue throughout the justified/regenerate person's life. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final, blessed and eternal abiding state of the redeemed in the presence of God.

*Matthew 1:21; John 1:11-14; 3:3-21; Romans 1:16-17; 3:21-26; 10:9-13; Galatians 2:19-21; 1 Peter 2:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11*

## **V. God's Purpose of Grace**

The gracious purpose of God is that, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners so they may enjoy fellowship with Him forever. It comprehends all the means in connection with that purpose. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and He is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. All true believers remain so to the end of the present age. Those whom God has accepted in Christ and sanctified by His Spirit will never fall away from their state of grace. Believers may succumb to various sins through neglect and/or temptation, whereby they grieve the Holy Spirit and bring reproach on the cause of Christ. Nevertheless God's promise of eternal salvation for them remains valid and secure.

*Genesis 12:1-3; Matthew 21:28-45; Luke 1:68-79; John 1:12-14; 6:44-45; Acts 20:32; Romans 8:28-39; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Ephesians 2:1-10; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5*

## **VI. The Church**

Oak City Baptist Church is a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ and is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, baptism and communion, governed by Scriptural principles; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. This congregation operates under the Lordship of Christ through proper Biblical processes. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. God alone is Lord of the conscience of the believer, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained therein.

Our scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the offices of pastors and deacons is limited to men as qualified by the New Testament Scriptures.

The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ, which includes all of the redeemed believers worldwide. The church is not the recipient of God's covenantal promises to Israel, nor the replacement of the nation of Israel in these latter days.

*Matthew 16:13-19; Acts 2:40-47; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; 12; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Revelation 21:1-5*

## **VII. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

Christian baptism is the complete immersion of a believer, if they are physically capable, in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to the believer's assurance in the resurrection of the dead. Oak City Baptist Church requires that all members ascribe to and give evidence of having been so baptized.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of remembrance whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of their Redeemer Jesus Christ and anticipate His second coming. This memorial is not limited to members of Oak City Baptist Church, but is restricted to those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior.

*Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; Acts 8:34-39; Romans 6:3-14; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29*

## **VIII. The Lord's Day**

The first day of the week is considered the Lord's Day. It is the accepted day for our congregational worship. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Personal activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience as prompted by the Holy Spirit.

*John 20:19; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4*

## **IX. The Kingdom**

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the present Kingdom is the spiritual realm into which redeemed men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. There is also a millennial kingdom during which Jesus Christ will physically reign on earth for one thousand years. The full consummation of the Kingdom will be realized in the eternal, heavenly state.

*Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 13:11-52; 25:31-46; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:42-44; 8:1; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; John 3:3-5; 18:36-37; Acts 17:22-31; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 11:15*

## **X. Last Things**

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the current world to its appropriate end. Prior to the promised tribulation of this end time, and according to His promise, Jesus Christ will first return personally and along with the resurrection of deceased members of His church will also take currently living members to heaven. At the conclusion of the tribulation time He, along with His risen church, will visibly return in glory to the earth and reign for one thousand years. At the conclusion of the thousand years the remaining dead will be raised, and Christ will judge them all with regard to their judicial standing with God. The unredeemed will be consigned to Hell, the place of their everlasting punishment. The redeemed, who have trusted in the atonement provided by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, will in their resurrected and glorified bodies receive their rewards and will dwell forever in Heaven with the Lord.

*Matthew 24; Romans 14:10-11; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11; Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:3-4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; 2:1-12; 2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 9:24-28; James 5:7-8; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Jude 14; Revelation 20; 21:1-3*

## **XI. Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every member of Oak City Baptist church to endeavor and/or aid in making disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit should result in the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the scriptural gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to constantly seek to win the lost to Christ through the declaration of God's Word, by personal witness, undergirded by a Christian lifestyle and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

*Matthew 9:37-38; 28:18-20; John 14:11-12; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-17; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 1 Peter 2:9*

## **XII. Education**

Christianity is the embodiment of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound, rational learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth should create a thirst for knowledge. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary for edification of the local church.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always experienced within limits. The freedom of a Christian teacher is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, and by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures.

*Nehemiah 8:8; Proverbs 4; Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:14-15*

## **XIII. Stewardship**

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians are to be good stewards of their material and financial possessions. They should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should, as God enables, generously and cheerfully contribute of their means for the advancement of their Redeemer's cause on earth. This generosity is for the Glory of God not for praise to the contributor.

*Matthew 6:1-4; Luke 12:15-31; Acts 20:35; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; 9:6-8; Philippians 4:10-19*

## **XIV. Cooperation**

Oak City Baptist Church may, as occasion requires, identify with other like-minded organizations and cooperate with them for the great objectives of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations shall have no authority over Oak City Baptist Church. Like-minded New Testament churches may cooperate with one another in carrying forward the missionary,

educational, and benevolent ministries for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Cooperation is possible, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of the Oak City Baptist Church's statement of faith.

*Acts 2:44-45; 1 Corinthians 3:9-11; 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 8-9; Galatians 1:6-9; Ephesians 4:1-20; Philippians 4:1-3*

## **XV. The Christian and the Social Order**

Members of Oak City Baptist Church should strive to make the moral will of Christ the standard for their own lives and so be a positive influence in all society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among people can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose and not condone any and all social mores or activities that violate the moral absolutes of the Holy God as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to death. Every Christian should seek to bring their personal sphere of influence under the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all like-minded persons, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

In as much as there has arisen conflict between Biblical principles and legal social order in regard to homosexuality and same sex marriage, Oak City Baptist Church affirms the following:

God has uniquely created two and only two varieties of persons. These are male and female. There are no intermediate or amalgamated sexual forms. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image of God and demonstrate His relationship with His created beings. Rejection of this position demeans the image of God and His created purposes. We, therefore, reject any and all forms of sexual behavior that stand contrary to God's original design for sex between husband and wife such as, but not limited to, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest.

We believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman in a lifetime bond. Only within the parameters of this bond, may sexual intimacy occur. Since we recognize marriage as a divine institution, we do not recognize any man-made contradictions to this definition.

Homosexuality is only one of many manifestations of a sin dominated world. With the current social, educational, and media efforts to make homosexual practices acceptable, we unequivocally condemn, on Biblical principles, such behavior and disallow any such practitioner the benefits of membership in Oak City Baptist Church. This does not include attendance, with proper decorum, at Church services. We further do not allow such practitioners to be engaged in any activity, educational endeavor, or leadership of any nature in worship services or the routine duties of any employment instituted by Oak City Baptist Church. Likewise our approved

ministry personnel will not engage in any ceremony, ritual, or other observance that may be construed as condoning, in any way, homosexual or other deviant sexual behavior.

It is the duty of Christians to endeavor to live peaceably with all people based on Biblical principles. The true remedy for a spirit of contention is the gospel of our Lord.

***Gen 2:18-25; Exodus 20:17; Leviticus 18:22-30; 20:13; Deuteronomy 27:20-23; Zechariah 8:16-17; Matthew 5: 43-48; 19:4-6; 25:37-40; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 6:9-11; 10:31; Galatians 6:7-8; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; James 1:27***

## **XVI. The Family**

God ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It was the first institution so engendered, even preceding the Church. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, conception, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in a covenant commitment for their individual lifetime. It is God's unique object lesson that demonstrates the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

Since both are created in God's image, the husband and wife are of equal worth before God. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to sacrificially love his wife as Christ so loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family with all respect. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in all family matters.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord and should be respected as such. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage and the family. Parents should teach their children Christian moral values and lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on Biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

***Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalms 78:1-8; 127:3-5; Proverbs 5:21-23; 22:6,15; 24:3; 29: 15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 19:3-9; 1Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; 1Timothy 5:8; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4***

## **XVII. Creation**

The description of a miraculous creation as given in Genesis chapters 1 and 2 is to be taken as literal, historical truth. We disavow any and all attempts to insert any form of naturalistic processes into the text. The chronological data given through the descendants of Adam indicate a

date of approximately 4000 B.C. for the creation event. We, therefore, also disavow all naturalistic references to ages far in excess of this time frame.

During creation the form and function of all living things (kinds) was determined. We therefore deny any evolutionary development schemes that suppose the gradual change of one form of living creature into another different kind.

We believe there is no contention between revealed Biblical truth and the process of the scientific method of data interpretation. They are exclusionary one to the other.

***Genesis 1, 2; Exodus 20:11; Psalm 8; 33:8-9;148; Isaiah 40:26, 28;42:5; 45:12; John 1:1-3; Col 1:16-17;Mark 10:6; Revelation 4:11***

## **XVIII. Summary Application**

We believe that in order to preserve the spiritual integrity of Oak City Baptist Church as a local body of Christ and to provide a Biblical role model to the members and the surrounding communities it is imperative that all persons employed by Oak City Baptist Church in any capacity, or who serve in any capacity requiring membership such as teachers or leaders, agree to and shall abide by this Statement of Faith. We categorically reject the premise that adherence to this statement of faith or the covenant of Oak City Baptist Church provides any meritorious advantage in a salvific relationship with God.

### Church Covenant

Having been led as we believe, by the spirit of God, to trust the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore by the aid of the indwelling Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of Oak City Baptist Church; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to support, encourage and assist, as possible, the ministerial staff; to contribute materially and cheerfully to the spread of the gospel through this local church.

We also engage to maintain family and personal devotion; to Biblically educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our commitments, to be exemplary in our application of Biblical moral principles, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another as members of the same family; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this statement of faith, covenant, and the principles of God's Word.

**\*Amended October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015**