



# **What We Believe**

*Fellowship Bible Church  
Shenandoah*

*Statement of Faith*



## **Doctrinal Statement of Faith**

### **(a) THE BIBLE**

We believe the Bible consists of the Old and New Testaments; every word is God's verbally inspired Word. The Bible is without error in the original manuscripts and is the only and final authority for faith and practice in all matters it addresses. As God's only written revelation to mankind, the Bible is complete, and God will preserve its message and authority until the end of time. The Bible is to be interpreted normally and literally regarding its contents. (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21; Mathew 5:18; Isaiah 40:8; Ps 119:89; Is. 40:8; Matt 24:35; 1 Peter 1:25; 1 Timothy 5:18)

### **(b) GOD**

1. We believe in one eternal and immutable God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (John 6:27; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3,4; Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19; Isaiah 48:16; Mathew 3:16-17; Hebrews 13:8; Malachi 3:6; Psalm 90:2)
2. We believe Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the promised Messiah, God the Son in human flesh. He is totally without sin, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, and is both fully God and man. (John 1:14; Hebrews 2:14; Hebrews 4:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; John 10:30; John 11:33; John 8:40; Hebrews 1:8, 2:14)
3. We believe the Holy Spirit is a Person possessing all divine attributes. He is God. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates, seals, and sets apart the believer to a holy life. At regeneration, He immerses the believer into the body of Christ, indwells him permanently, and bestows spiritual gifts on each one for the common good of the church. He also fills each one yielded to Him. (John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; Isaiah 40:13-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13; Titus 3:5; 1 Corinthians 12:11, 13; Ephesians 4:30; Ephesians 5:18; John 14:16-17)

### **(c) THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE WORK OF CHRIST**

1. We believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of all humanity as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood. (2 Corinthians 5:14; Mark 10:45; Romans 5:8-9; 1 John 2:2; Romans 3:24-26; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:12; Isaiah 53; John 3:16; Acts 13:38-39)
2. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us. Jesus now serves as High Priest, Intercessor, and Advocate on our behalf with the Father. (Romans 1:4; Luke 24:39; Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; 1 John 2:1; Hebrews 7:27; 1 Timothy 2:5)
3. We believe in Jesus Christ's personal, bodily return in the glory of His Father to set up on earth a kingdom in which He shall reign in righteousness and peace. (Acts 1:11; Mathew



24:30; Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 11:4-5)

(d) MAN

1. We believe that the first man and woman were created in the image of God, and thus, man has great value in God's sight. But man sinned and consequently experienced not only physical death but also spiritual death (which is separation from God). The consequences of this sin affect the entire human race. All human beings descended from Adam and are born separated from God and with a sinful nature. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:17, 3:6; Romans 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Mark 7:20-23)
2. We believe that all believers struggle with the flesh in this life but that God has made full provision for believers to resist this flesh and to live for God through identification with Christ, a knowledge of the Bible, and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 4:22-23; Romans 6-8; 2 Peter 1:3; Philippians 2:12-13; Acts 20:32; Psalm 119:11)
3. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men. Believers are resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God. Unbelievers are resurrected to experience judgment, eternal torment, and separation from God. (I Corinthians 15:52; I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:4-6, 12-15; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2; Revelations 21:1-8)

(e) SATAN

1. We believe that Satan is a created, angelic, personal being, the author of sin who provoked the fall of man. We believe that he is the great adversary of God's person, program, and people but is a defeated foe who is destined to eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; I Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10; Genesis 3:1-5; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14)
2. We believe that Satan, as the father of lies, continues to operate in the world by deceiving mankind, seeking to thwart God's purposes through division, destruction, and distortion of truth. He actively opposes the work of God by sowing discord among believers, promoting falsehood, and blinding the minds of the unbelieving. Although his power is substantial, it is limited by God's sovereign control, and he operates within the bounds of God's ultimate plan for redemption. As the great deceiver, he seeks to lead astray the nations and tempt individuals to rebel against God, yet he cannot overcome the truth and victory found in Jesus Christ. (John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 12:9)

(f) SALVATION

1. The sole condition for receiving eternal salvation from hell is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died a substitutionary death on the cross for man's sin, rose from the dead victorious, and promises to give eternal life to all who believe in Him. (John 3:16-18; 6:47; Acts 16:31).



2. Since we are saved by grace through faith, no act of obedience, preceding or following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, may be added to, or considered as a part of, faith as a condition for receiving or keeping eternal salvation. This saving transaction between God and the sinner is the giving and receiving of a gracious gift (Rom 4:5; Gal 2:16; Titus 3:5; John 4:10; Eph 2:8-9; Rev 22:17).
3. We believe that any person who has believed in Jesus Christ has received eternal life, which, as the word eternal suggests, can never be lost. Every child of God possesses this eternal (or everlasting) life and, being regenerated, justified, and sealed by the Holy Spirit, is safe and secure for all eternity. The believer can be sure of this since Jesus Christ guarantees it, and His finished work has secured it. (John 3:36, 6:35-40; 11:25-27).

(g) THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

1. We believe that Christians have been transformed from being "in Adam" and condemned - to being children of God "in Christ." As His children, we are called to grow in our relationship with Christ and walk in faith, which is essential for experiencing fellowship with the Father (2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:1; Colossians 2:6-7; Hebrews 11:6, 2 Peter 3:18).
2. We believe that the struggles of the Christian life stem from believing lies instead of truth. Christians should strive to grow in faith, know God more fully, and embrace the truth in scripture by renewing their minds and abandoning old ways of thinking (Romans 1:25; John 8:31-32; John 17:3; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24, Colossians 2:8, Philippians 4:8).
3. We believe that godly living is motivated by love, gratitude for grace, joy in fellowship with God, reverence for God's discipline, a desire to please Him, and an anticipation of the Judgment Seat of Christ. Fear of hell should not motivate obedience, as God's perfect love casts out fear (2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 12:5-11; 1 John 4:18; 2 Peter 1:4; Psalm 16:11; John 15:11).
4. Sin can lead to a believer losing fellowship, joy, testimony, and rewards. God's children may also face discipline, which can be severe, even to physical death, to bring the believer to repentance and restore fellowship (1 Corinthians 3:11-15, Isaiah 59:2; Hebrews 12:6-11; 1 Corinthians 11:30-32; Romans 2:4; 1 John 1:9).
5. Obedience is crucial and made possible by the resources God has given, especially the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit transforms believers as they grow in faith, grace, and knowledge of Christ, leading to spiritual maturity. Confession and repentance maintain fellowship with God. Christians should strive for perseverance, remaining steadfast to avoid falling doctrinally or morally (2 Peter 1:3; Galatians 5:22-25, Romans 6:22; 1 John 1:9; 2 Chronicles 7:14; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 10:12, 15:10, 2 Peter 3:17,18).



(h) THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST

1. The universal Church is the true body and bride of Christ, consisting of all believers from the day of Pentecost until the Church is caught up to heaven. We also believe that the local gathered church should be a priority of every believer, where the Christian life can be lived out, embodying the spiritual truths of the universal church. (Eph 1:22-23, 1 Cor 12:12-13, Eph 5:25-27, Heb 10:24-25, Acts 2:42, 1 Cor 1:2, 1 Tim 3:15)
2. The Word of God commands believers to gather together in local congregations to devote themselves to worship, prayer, the teaching of the Bible, observance of the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's Supper, the edification of the body, and an active witness to the unsaved world. A local expression of the church is found wherever Christians meet regularly in obedience to these commands. (Heb 10:24-25, Acts 2:46-47, Col 3:16, 2 Tim 3:16-17, Math 28:19, 1 Cor 11:23-26, Eph 4:11-13, Acts 1:8)
3. We believe that the spiritual oversight of each local church is given to a multiplicity of leaders known as elders. Elders are selected according to standards expressed by the New Testament. (Acts 14:23, 20:28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-4)
4. We believe Christ ordained the observance of water baptism and the Lord's Supper until He returns. Baptism is an outward testimony of a person's belief in Christ and should be administered upon confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, the elements being symbols of His body and blood. Participation in this Communion should be accompanied by solemn self-examination as a celebration and remembrance of the work of Jesus. (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:4-6; Acts 1:5, 8:12 11:15-16; 1 Corinthians 11:24-29, 28, Luke 22:19-20)
5. Church discipline should be a vital part of church life with the goal of restoring fellowship with the body and God. Steps of church discipline may include confrontation by one or more people, by church leadership, and, finally, if the person refuses all efforts to bring repentance, exclusion of the individual from gathering with the local body of believers. The church seeks to forgive, comfort, and restore a repentant believer. (Math 18:15-17, Gal 6:1, 1 Tim 5:19-20, 1 Cor 5:1-13, 2 Thess 3:14-15, 2 Cor 2:5-8)

(i) Marriage and Sexuality

1. We believe marriage is a sacred covenant ordained by God, uniting one man and one woman as described in Scripture. This covenant reflects the relationship between Christ and His Church and is to be held in honor. Marriage is the only appropriate context for sexual intimacy, intended for both procreation and pleasure. (Genesis 1:27-28; Ephesians 5:31-32; Hebrews 13:4)



2. God created humanity as male and female in His image and ordained marriage between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6)
3. Marriage is designed to be a lifelong, exclusive union that fosters companionship, mutual support, and God's ideal context for raising children, ultimately pointing to the relationship between Christ and His Bride, the Church. (Genesis 1:27-28; Ephesians 5:22-33)
4. Sexual activity is a gift from God to be enjoyed solely within the bounds of marriage. All sexual relations outside of this union, including adultery, fornication, homosexuality, and other forms of sexual immorality opposed to God's design, are sinful. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20; Romans 1:26-27; Galatians 5:19-21)
5. We believe in the power of God's grace to redeem and restore all who place their faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of their past sexual behavior. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
6. We affirm the value and significance of singleness as a special gift from God. The single life provides unique opportunities for undivided devotion to the Lord and His work. Singleness, like marriage, is a high calling and a valuable state of life in the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 7:32-35)



