

**DOCTRINAL POSITIONS**  
**OF**  
**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH**  
**TYLER, TEXAS**

**PREAMBLE**

By the providence and mercy of God our Father, we have assembled together as a group of professing, baptized believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, for the purpose of edifying and building up the family of God, being united, sustained, and preserved by the Holy Spirit for good works. In addition to our general calling to worship and serve God as a body of believers, we feel a specific calling to do this in a manner that strengthens and encourages families, which God has designed to be the primary building blocks both of the church and of society at large. We feel an urgency to turn the hearts of fathers back to their children and of children to their fathers. To this end, we find ourselves wholly inadequate but nonetheless dedicated, depending entirely upon God's wisdom, strength, guidance and grace to accomplish His purpose.

**SECTION 1: THESE THINGS WE BELIEVE**

**A) The Holy Scriptures**

We believe both the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, inspired equally in all parts, infallible and God-breathed; and that the Scriptures are an objective, propositional revelation which is best understood in its grammatical, historical context (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20 -21; Matthew 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Corinthians 2:13).

**B) The Godhead**

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—each with distinct personal attributes, yet coeternal in being, co-identical in nature, coequal in power and glory, without division of essence or being (Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 1:26; 1 Corinthians 8:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1-5; John 10:30; Hebrews 1:1-4).

**C) The Person and Work of God the Father**

We believe that God the Father, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is in Himself eternal, holy, infinite, immutable, good, wise, just, faithful and true. We believe that He created the heavens and the earth by the power of His Word, that He made all things good, that He created man after His own image and likeness, and

that He provided a way for fallen man to be redeemed by sacrificing His only Son. We believe that He works all things after the counsel of His will and remains sovereign over all. (Isaiah 46:9-10; John 4:24; Exodus 3:14-15; Romans 11:33-36; Acts 17:24-28; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Jeremiah 10:10; Genesis 1; Hebrews 11:3; Isaiah 45:12; Ephesians 1:3-11; Romans 8:29-32; 2 Timothy 1:9).

D) The Person and Work of Christ

- 1) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (John 1:1-2,14; Luke 1:35; Philippians 2:5-8).
- 2) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, being holy, sinless, and without fault, died on the cross for all mankind as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, without divesting Himself of His deity; and that the sufficiency of this atoning sacrifice to accomplish the redemption, justification, and sanctification of all who trust in Him is assured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; Romans 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Peter 2:24).
- 3) We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our high priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24; Hebrews 4:15; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2).

E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

- 1) We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14;12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Tim 1:14; 1 John 4:13).
- 2) We believe that He is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth; and that it is the privilege and responsibility of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (John 4:24; 1 John 2:20,27; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19).

F) The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and that man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3; Hebrews 9:22).

G) Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God available to all people by grace and is received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

H) The Perseverance of the Saints and Assurance of Believers

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

- 2) We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; however, we acknowledge that the Scriptures clearly forbid the use of Christian liberty as an opportunity for the flesh (Romans 6:1-2, 15; Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 1:16; Titus 2:11-15; Hebrews 6:4-8; Hebrews 10:26; Matthew 7:22-23).
- I) The Two Natures of the Believer  
We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, but we recognize that the old nature will not be completely eradicated this side of heaven (Romans 6:12-14; Romans 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9; John 15:1-5; 1 John 1:6-10; Romans 7:14-25).
- J) Separation  
We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy and all sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded by God (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 13:14; John 2:15-17; 2 John 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).
- K) Missions  
We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to proclaim the gospel to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20).
- L) The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts
- 1) We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and that the gifts are sufficient for accomplishing the will of God (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Corinthians 14:19; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).
  - 2) We believe that God hears and answers prayer and works miracles in accordance with His will (John 15:7; James 5:14-15; 1 John 5:14-15).
- M) The Church
- 1) We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons (Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; 2 Corinthians 11:2).
  - 2) We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament (Acts 11:20-26; Acts 14:23, 27; Acts 20:28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; Titus 1:5-11).
  - 3) We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control other than the headship of Christ (Acts 13:1-4; Acts 15:19-31; Acts 20:28; Romans 16:1,4; 1 Corinthians 3:9,16; 1 Corinthians 6:1-4; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
  - 4) We believe in the ordinances of believer's water baptism and the Lord's Supper as scriptural means of testimony for the Church age (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
- N) The Personality of Satan  
We believe that Satan is a fallen angel, that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; Matthew 25:41; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10).

O) The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in the “Blessed Hope”—the personal, pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones—and in His subsequent, earthly reign on the throne of David with both the redeemed of Israel and the bride of Christ in the millennial kingdom which precedes the eternal state (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Zephaniah 1; Isaiah 9:7; Isaiah 65:17; Ezekiel 37:24; Ezekiel 46:10-12; Revelation 19:11-16; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11; Matthew 24-25; Revelation 3:10; Revelation 7).

P) The Eternal State

- 1) We believe in the bodily resurrection and judgment of all men: the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; John 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6,12-13).
- 2) 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 with body reunited, they will be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; Philippians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- 3) We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with body reunited, they will appear at the Great White Throne Judgment before being cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 1:6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

## **SECTION 2: THESE THINGS WE PRACTICE AND RECOMMEND**

- A) We practice family-style worship where the fathers are an integral part of the instruction. We believe that children are a blessing from the Lord, that they can and should worship alongside their parents, and that they benefit greatly from doing so; therefore, we welcome children of all ages into our worship services. Individuals who are without a family are likewise welcomed into our fellowship and encouraged to pair with another family during any small group discussion or prayer times. Our church does not have a traditional youth group or age-segregated Sunday school classes (Deuteronomy 6:7; Proverbs 20:7; Psalms 127:3-5; Proverbs 13:20; Mark 10:13-16).
- B) We seek to study the Scriptures in depth, both through exegetical teaching at church and through personal Bible study at home. We believe that Christians have a responsibility to examine everything in light of Scripture and to reject anything that contradicts the revealed Word of God (Psalm 11:97-104; 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22; Acts 17:11).
- C) We worship in a style that emphasizes the Word of God and includes the singing of psalms, hymns and spiritual songs which have a good Scriptural basis. We strive to focus on Christ and not to draw attention to ourselves. Speaking in tongues is not practiced as part of our corporate worship (Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 2:39-42; Ephesians 5:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:8; 1 Corinthians 14).

- D) We recognize the pattern God has revealed in Scripture for the Church to be led and fed by a plurality of Biblically-qualified elders who have been raised up by the Holy Spirit from within the local church, who equip the saints to do the work of ministry, and who may or may not be remunerated. We believe that godly men should consider and aspire to the office of elder (Acts 14:23; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Timothy 5:17-18).
- E) We realize God has established differing roles for men and women both in the home and in the church; therefore, we do not allow women to serve as elders, to teach the Bible lesson in our general assembly, or to otherwise exercise authority over men of the church. Women are welcome to sing, pray and read Scripture during our worship services, to share insights or offer encouragement during our group discussions, and to teach and disciple other women and children (1 Timothy 2:11-12; Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 3:16-20; Hebrews 10:24-25; Titus 2:3-5).
- F) We baptize by immersion believers who desire to give testimony to their new life in Christ by thus identifying with His death, burial and resurrection (Matthew 3:13-15; Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27).
- G) We partake of the Lord's Supper regularly as a proclamation of His death and persistent hope of His coming. We believe it is meant only for believers and should be observed in a worthy manner, as a solemn time for self-examination and grateful reflection upon the finished work of Christ (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:24-28).
- H) We believe that while the Bible does not forbid all use of alcohol, it clearly condemns the abuse of alcohol, warns against the dangers of drunkenness, and commands us not to become a stumbling block to those around us. We consider intemperance and love of wine to be disqualifiers for the office of elder (Leviticus 10:9; Proverbs 20:1; Proverbs 31:4-6; 1 Timothy 5:23; Ephesians 5:17-18; Proverbs 23:29-35; Romans 14:15-22; 1 Timothy 3:2-3; Titus 1:7).
- I) We affirm marriage to be between one man and one woman for life. Therefore, we who are married commit to guard and protect our marriage by keeping our hearts and minds pure and by faithfully and cheerfully fulfilling our duties toward our spouse. We recognize divorce as a sad reality in today's culture and seek to show grace to broken families who wish to be a part of our congregation, knowing that God is able to forgive and restore those whose hearts are turned toward Him; nevertheless, our church does not perform or host remarriages for divorcees, and we consider divorce a disqualifier for the office of elder (Genesis 2:24; Ephesians 5:22-31; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:4-9; Mark 10:6-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-13; 1 Timothy 3:2-5; Titus 1:5-9).
- J) We affirm the sanctity of life to the spectrums of human existence. We believe that life begins at conception, that elective abortion is a direct violation of the sixth commandment, and that any means of birth control that might result in an abortion should be avoided. We grieve for the babies whose lives have been ended by abortion, but seek to show grace to their recovering mothers, knowing that God fully forgives all who turn to Him in repentance. We stand firmly against the practice of euthanasia or assisted suicide for anybody, including the young, the old, the disabled, and the terminally ill (Exodus 20:13; Exodus 21:22-23; Leviticus 18:21; Psalm 139:13; Jeremiah 32:25).

K) We commit as a congregation to give preference to one another in love, to support one another in prayer, and to handle any conflicts that require church discipline in accordance with the guidelines set forth in Scripture (Romans 12:3-13; Romans 14:1-3,12-19; Philippians 2:2-5; Matthew 18:15-17).

The above statements are not intended to add anything to the simple conditions of salvation revealed in the New Testament; they are not a complete statement of our faith, nor are they infallible. These convictions, while drawn from Scripture, have no final authority over the conscience of the believer, rather the unchanging Word of God is the absolute rule of life.