

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Crowfoot Baptist Church

The Bible

We believe that the Bible, consisting of 66 books (Luke 24:44; 2 Peter 3:16; Rev. 22:18-19), is the inspired Word of God and thus without error in concept or detail (John 10:35; 2 Tim. 3:16). It was written by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). The Bible is about the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 24:26-27; John 5:39-40) and is designed to bring people to faith in Him (Acts 10:43; 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Peter 1:10-12) and to provide practical instruction (1 Cor. 10:11; 2 Tim. 3:17). The Bible is rightly embraced by those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit in the community of the church (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:12-14) using a natural, contextual, grammatical-historical principle of interpretation (Ezra 7:10; Neh. 8:8; 2 Peter 3:14-16). The Bible is our final and sufficient authority in all matters of faith and practice (1 Thess. 2:13).

God

We believe that the LORD God is the one and only Creator and Ruler of the universe (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4). While there is only one God, there exists three distinct but interrelated Persons – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:16-17; 28:18-19; 2 Corinthians 13:14) – who share the same divine nature and attributes and who are worthy of the same worship, confidence and obedience (John 1:14; Acts 5:3-4). God is eternal (Ps. 90:2), infinite (Job 11:7-9) and unchangeable (James 1:17). God is all-powerful (Ps. 115:3), all-knowing¹ (Ps. 139:1-4) and present everywhere (Ps. 139:7-12). God is holy (Rev. 15:4), righteous (Gen. 18:25) and faithful (Deut. 7:9). God is gracious (Ex. 34:6-7), patient (2 Pet. 3:9) and loving (1 John 4:8).

¹ Including the actual, future choices of His creatures.

God the Father

We believe that God the Father is one in essence with the Son and the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14). He has revealed Himself as Father, both in His designation within the Trinity (John 14:28; Luke 3:22) and His relationship with the redeemed (Eph. 4:6; Rom. 8:15). He created all things out of nothing (Gen. 1:1; Heb. 11:3) by His own decree (Gen. 1:3; Ps. 33:6) in six days (Gen. 2:2; Ex. 20:11) for His own glory (Is. 43:7). All creation exists and is supported by His continual and caring intervention (Is. 42:5; Acts 17:28) through the Son (Col. 1:17). God the Father eternally decreed all that will come to pass, including the election of His people, for the purpose of His own glory (Eph. 1:3-12) and His people's good (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28). He accomplishes this without being in any way the author or approver of sin or abridging the accountability of morally responsible creatures (Gen. 50:20; Acts 4:27, 28).

God the Son

We believe that as purposed by God the Father and announced in the Scriptures, the eternal Son of God (John 1:1-2; 17:5) came into this world to reveal God to mankind (Mark 1:38, John 6:38; 17:6), to fulfill prophecy (Luke 24:44) and to save his people from their sins (Matt. 1:21; Gal. 4:5, Luke 19:10). To this end He was born of a virgin (Luke 1:30-35) and received a human body and a sinless human nature (Luke 2:40; Phil. 2:5-8). We believe that Jesus Christ became and remained a man yet lived a sinless life (Heb. 4:15) and that He retained His absolute deity, being, at the same time, truly God and truly man (John 1:18; John 20:28).

We believe that Jesus Christ offered Himself (John 10:17-18) to die on a cross (Mark 15:24; 1 Cor. 15:3). He was buried and arose from the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15:4, 12-19; 1 Peter 1:3). He ascended to Heaven's glory (Acts 1:9; Heb. 9:11) and is now at the right hand of God the Father making defense and intercession on behalf of His people as High Priest (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 1 John 2:1). He will return to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Acts 1:11; Rev. 19:11-16; Titus 2:11).

God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is personal (1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 4:30; Acts 5:3) and co-equal with God the Father and God the Son (Mat. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14). He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ by convicting of sin (John 16:8) and by glorifying Jesus Christ (John 14:26; 16:14). He works salvation in those God has elected by regenerating (Titus 3:5-6), indwelling (John 14:16-17; Gal. 4:6; 1 Cor. 3:16), sealing (Eph. 1:13) and assuring them (Rom. 8:16) at the moment of saving faith. He provides the believer with power for living to God's glory (Acts 1:8; Rom. 8:3-8), acceptance of spiritual truth (John 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:12-14), guidance in doing what is right (Gal. 5:22-23) and gives them spiritual gifts to be used for the good of the church (1 Cor. 12:7). We daily seek to live under His leading and control (Gal. 5:16, 25; Eph. 5:18).

Humanity

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, uniquely in His image and likeness (Gen. 1:27; 2:7). As image-bearers God intended all people to rightly and lovingly relate to Him (Deut. 6:5) and each other (Matt. 22:36-40) and to rule the earth (Gen. 1:26; Ps. 8:4-8). We believe that all people are made in God's image from the moment of conception (Ps. 139:13-16; Jer. 1:5). We believe that God instituted marriage (Gen. 2:18, 22-24) as a union between a man and a woman (Mat. 19:4; Rom. 1:27) for life (Mal. 2:15; Mat. 19:6).

Sin

We believe that sin is any action (Mat. 27:4), inaction (Mat. 25:45; James 4:17) or attitude (Mat. 9:4; Heb. 4:12) that is contrary to the nature or Word of God (Rom. 1:21; 3:23; 1 John 3:4). As a result of Adam's sin (Gen. 3:6; Rom. 6:12-21) all people have become sinners by nature (Rom. 5:19) and action (Rom. 3:23; 1 John 1:10). While all human beings retain the image of God (Gen. 9:6; James 3:9) all are separated in their relationship to God (Gen. 3:23; Rom. 3:9-18), experience physical (Gen. 5:5; Rom. 5:12; 6:23) and spiritual death (Eph. 2:1-3), and are under God's just wrath (Rom. 1:18, Eph. 2:3) apart from divine grace.

Salvation

We believe that God grants deliverance (salvation) from sin and its effects and a loving relationship with Himself (Mat. 1:21, Eph. 2:1-5; Rom. 5:9), by justifying¹ (Rom. 3:21-26; 5:1), progressively sanctifying² (Rom 6:22; 12:2; 2 Cor. 3:18; Phil. 2:12-13) and glorifying³ (Rom. 5:2; 8:23; 1 John 3:2) those whom He has elected (Rom. 8:28-30) from eternity past (Eph. 1:4-6, 11-12; Rev. 13:8) for His own glory (Eph. 1:4-6, 11-12).

We believe that this salvation is based solely on the death and resurrection (Rom. 4:25) of our Lord Jesus Christ who received the full penalty of sin on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice (Is. 53:4-5; Rom. 3:25; 5:6, 8) for all people (1 John 2:2). This salvation is received by God's grace (Rom. 6:23; 2 Tim. 1:9) through personal faith in Jesus Christ and the good news (Gospel) of His work alone (John 14:6; Acts 16:30-31; Eph. 2:8-9; 1 John 5:11-13). We believe that God gives and will not take back this eternal life (John 17:3) for those who believe in Jesus Christ and that no degree of morality, ordinance, culture, church attendance or good behavior can earn (Rom. 3:28; Eph. 2:9; Titus 3:5) or keep it (John 10:29-30; Gal. 3:3).

- 1 God's declaration that a person is "right" with Him; to accept, to reconcile, to acquit from sin's final penalty.
- 2 God's action to remove the absolute power of sin over a person's life and to grant them new desires to please Him. This is a dynamic, life-long process.
- 3 God's future action to resurrect His people to their new, glorious, eternal condition, removed entirely from the presence of sin.

The Church

We believe that the Church (Matt. 16:18) is composed of all people (Gal. 3:26-29) in this age (Acts 2) who, through faith in Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:15-19), have been saved and thus sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14) and united together as a body under Jesus Christ, its Head (Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4-6; 5:23; Col. 1:18).

We believe that the Church is expressed in this world when believers in Jesus Christ voluntarily place themselves in and under a local assembly (Rom. 16:4-5; Gal. 1:1; Phil. 1:1) to engage in public worship (Acts 2:42, 47; Col. 3:16; I Tim. 2), mutual edification (Acts 2:44-46; 1 Cor. 12:7; 1 Cor. 5:3-5; Heb. 10:24-25) and world evangelization (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:47) by the proclamation of the Gospel (1 Tim. 4:13; 2 Tim. 4:2). We believe that Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances as external signs of spiritual realities: the initiatory practice of believer's baptism by immersion (Matt. 28:19; Rom. 6:3-4) and the continuing practice of the Lord's Supper (Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-26). The two offices of servant-leadership in the local church are elders (overseers) and deacons (Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3).

Angels

We believe that God created (Ps. 148:2-5; Col. 1:16) a vast number (Heb. 12:22) of sinless spiritual beings known as angels to worship Him (Is. 6:2-3; Rev. 5:11), to serve His purposes (Matt. 26:53, Luke 1:19) and to serve His people (Luke 22:43; Heb. 1:14).

We believe that one angel sinned through pride, thereby becoming Satan (Is. 14:12-17; Ez. 28:11-19), and was cast out of heaven with other angels, who followed him in rebellion (Matt. 12:24; James 2:19; Rev. 12:9). We believe that Satan as the originator of sin (Gen. 3; John 8:44), tempts others into sin (Gen. 3), persecutes (Job 1:12; Rev. 2:10) and accuses God's people (Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10) and counterfeits the works of God (2 Cor. 11:14) by fostering religious movements and systems of doctrine which are characterized by a denial of the efficacy of the death of Christ and of salvation by grace alone (2 Cor. 4:3-4; I Tim. 4:1-3; I John 4:1-4). Believers are called to resist Satan by submitting to God (James 4:7) and utilizing the benefits of their salvation (Eph. 6:10-20; 1 Pet. 5:8-9). Satan and the fallen angels are destined to judgment (Gen. 3:15; John 16:11; Col. 2:15; 2 Pet. 2:4) and confinement forever to hell, for whom it has been created (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

Last Things

We believe that upon physical death, the final destiny of every person is fixed (Luke 16:26; Heb. 9:27). The believer's spirit immediately enters the conscious and joyful presence of God in paradise (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23). The unbeliever's spirit enters a temporary place of conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:13). All await future resurrection.

We believe in the personal, bodily (Acts 1:11) return of our Lord Jesus Christ from Heaven (1 Thess. 1:10) with power and great glory (Matt. 25:31; Mark 13:26; 2 Thess. 1:7) to establish His millennial kingdom on earth (Acts 1:6; Rev. 20:4-6). This return is near (James 5:8-9) and will be sudden (Matt. 24:42; I Thess. 5:1-11) and, as our blessed hope (Titus 2:11-14), motivates the believer to expectant living and service (Matt. 24:44; 25:13). We believe that Jesus Christ will raise to life (Dan. 12:2; I Thess. 4:16; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15) and judge (Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:11) all people. He will assign unbelievers to eternal, conscious punishment in hell (2 Thess. 1:9-10; Rev. 20:15). He will reward (Luke 19:11; 1 Cor. 4:5; Rev. 22:12) and assign believers to eternal joy with Himself in the New Heavens and New Earth (Phil. 3:20; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21) to worship and serve Him together, forever (1 Thess. 4:17; Rev. 22:3-5).