

Redeemer Baptist Church Confession of Faith

THIS WE CONFESS

I. The Scriptures

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, therefore they are inerrant and infallible, and are the only sufficient, certain, and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and practice (Ps. 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

II. God

We believe there is but one God, the Maker, Preserver, and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself, all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience (Deut. 6:4; Ps. 145:3; John 1:3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1 Tim. 1:17).

III. The Trinity

We believe God, through the Scriptures, is revealed to us as one God eternally existing in three distinct persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, yet without division of nature, essence, or being (Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

IV. Providence

We believe God from eternity, foreordains all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and all events; yet even in doing so, is in no way the author or approver of sin, nor the violator of the free agency and responsibility of intelligent creatures (Isa. 46:9-11; Prov. 16:33; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Jas. 1:13-15).

V. Election

We believe election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life — not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ — in consequence of which choice they are called, justified, and glorified (Rom. 8:28-30; 1 Cor. 1:27-31; Eph. 1:4, 11).

VI. Humanity

We believe God created humanity in His own image, as the pinnacle of His creation. Therefore, every person, regardless of age, sex, race, ability, or any other factor, from the moment of conception, has inviolable dignity and worth. God created humanity male and female. These two genders are distinct, unchangeable gifts that align with one's biological sex that God wrote into their chromosomes at conception (Gen. 1:26-27, 3:1-19; Lev. 18:21; Ps. 139:13-16).

VII. The Fall of Man

We believe God originally created Man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, Adam transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law. As a result, they are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors (Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-7; 6:5; Hos. 6:7; Rom. 3:9-18; 5:12-19; 8:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Eph. 2:1-3).

VIII. The Mediator

We believe Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, being fully God and fully man, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, Prophet, Priest, and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the universe (Isa. 53:10-12; John 1:1, 14; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Gal. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:1-3; 7:25).

IX. The Holy Spirit

We believe God, the Holy Spirit, brings glory to the Father and the Son. He applies the work of Christ to believers and distributes spiritual gifts to every believer according to His sovereign good pleasure for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. He is the Comforter, the Spirit of Adoption, the Seal of our Salvation, and the Guarantor of our inheritance in Christ (John 14:16-17; 16:14; Acts 5:3; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:13-14, 1 Cor. 12:1-11).

X. Regeneration

We believe regeneration is a change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, who imparts life to those dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God's free and special grace alone (John 3:3-8; Eph. 2:1-6; Tit. 3:5; 1 John 5:1).

XI. Repentance

We believe repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person, by the Holy Spirit, is made sensible of the manifold evil of their sin, humbles themselves for it, with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-abhorrence, and turns from it with a purpose and endeavor to walk before God to please Him in all things (Ps. 32:1-5; Isa. 6:5; 55:7; Luke 5:8; 18:9-14; Acts 2:37-38; 11:15-18; 2 Cor. 7:10-11; 2 Tim. 2:25).

XII. Faith

We believe saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness (Rom. 3:27-28; 4:1-5; 4:17-25; 10:14, 17; Phil. 1:29; Eph. 2:8; Jas. 2:14-26).

XIII. Justification

We believe justification is God's gracious and full pardon of sinners, wherein He removes their guilt and declares them righteous; not because of any works of righteousness found in them or done by them, but solely on account of Christ's substitutionary death, resurrection, and perfect righteousness, which God freely imputes to them, and they receive by faith alone. (Rom. 3:21-26; 4:4-9, 23-25; 5:1-2, 9, 17-21; 8:28-34; 10:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:7-9; Titus 3:5-7).

XIV. Sanctification

We believe those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's Word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in cordial obedience to all Christ's commands (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:27; Rom. 8:1-17; Gal. 5:13-25; Eph. 3:14-21; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 3:1-17; 2 Pet. 1:3-11).

XV. Perseverance of the Saints

We believe those whom God has regenerated will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall through neglect and temptation into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (John 6:37-40; 10:28-29; Rom. 8:28-39; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; Phil. 1:6; 1 Thess. 5:23-24).

XVI. The Church

We believe the Lord Jesus is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested all power for its government supremely. Christians are called to associate themselves into particular local churches; and to each of these churches He has given needful authority for administering that order, discipline, and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a Church are Elders (Pastors) and Deacons (Matt. 28:18-20; John 10:16; Acts 20:17, 28; Eph. 1:22; 5:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-18; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 10:25).

XVII. Baptism

We believe baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein they are immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of their union with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of them giving themselves up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is a prerequisite to church fellowship (membership), and to participation in the Lord's Supper (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:13).

XVIII. The Lord's Supper

We believe the Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate and proclaim Christ's death, confirm the faith, renew their mutual bond in Him, and anticipate the marriage supper of the Lamb (Matt. 26:26-29; Luke 22:18, 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-34).

XIX. The Lord's Day

We believe the Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should primarily be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, resting from worldly employment (Mark 16:1-7; Luke 24:1-3, 33-36; John 4:21-24; 20:1, 19-28; Acts 20:7; Rom. 14:5-10; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Col. 2:16; 3:16; Heb. 10:23-25; Rev. 1:10).

XX. Liberty of Conscience

We believe God alone is Lord of the conscience and has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men that are in anything contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Nevertheless, God has ordained authoritative structures. For example, civil government, being ordained of God, is to be followed and yielded to by us in the Lord, as long as they do not call for disobedience to God; should any do so, with a clear conscience, we must obey God rather than man (Matt. 15:9; Rom. 13:1-7; 14:4; Acts 5:29; Col. 2:20-23).

XXI. Family and Marriage

We believe God ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society constituted by marriage. Marriage is the lifelong, exclusive, covenantal union of one biological male and one biological female that portrays the union between Christ and his bride, the church. Marriage is the only legitimate, God-ordained context for sexual union and procreation (Gen. 1:26-28, 2:15-25; Exod. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127-128; Prov. 5:15-21, 12:4, 14:1, 18:22, 22:6, 31:10-31; Eccles. 9:9; Matt. 5:31-32, 19:3-9; Rom. 1:18-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-11, 7:1-40; Eph. 5:22-33, 6:1-4; Col. 3:18-21; Titus 2:3-5; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7).

XXII. The Resurrection

We believe the bodies of people, after death, return to dust, but their souls neither die nor sleep — those counted righteous in Christ go to be with the Lord, to rest with Him; the wicked go to be reserved under darkness and torment until the judgment. On the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised (Gen. 3:19; Luke 16:22-26; 23:43; John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:12-28; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Phil. 1:23).

XXIII. The Judgment

We believe God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when everyone shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life (Matt. 25:46; John 5:22, 27-29; Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Thess. 1:7-10).