

Statement of Faith



First Baptist Church of Waterford

105 Rope Ferry Road

Waterford, CT 06385

(860) 443-1126

www.waterfordbaptist.com

Purpose of Our Statement of Faith

To provide a common ground of doctrinal truth from which we can worship, fellowship, and serve Christ. Our Statement of Faith provides a framework for teaching, discipleship, and growth at FBCW.

The Bible

We believe that the entire Bible (Old and New Testament) is the complete, inspired Word of God and the authors were led by the Holy Spirit to write it. The Bible is therefore without error (inerrant) in its original manuscripts. God has supernaturally preserved the Bible throughout history and it is the Christian's sole and final authority for life and faith. It is trustworthy in all it affirms as witnessed by the author's themselves (2 Pet. 3:15; 1 Thess. 2:13). The Bible provides encouragement, guidance, comfort, and instruction for training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

God - The Trinity

God: We believe in one God, Creator of all things. He exists eternally in three persons (the Trinity) - Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. The three persons are co-equal (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:18-19; 1 Cor. 8:6; 2 Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 1:4-6).

Jesus Christ: We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, led a sinless life, and made atonement for the sins of the world through His death on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension to heaven, and His imminent, promised return (Zech. 14:4-11; Matt. 24:15-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-4, 14; Acts 1:11; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 Cor. 15:20-28; Phil. 2:6-11; Col. 1:13-22; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Heb. 4:15; Rev. 20:6).

Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit, though existing from all eternity, entered into this world in a special way on the day of Pentecost. He is in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation to cleanse, empower, seal, and guide them. The Holy Spirit imparts His gifts to individual believers for the edification of the body and for the work of the ministry (John 14:16-17; 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 2:2; Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 2:12; 3:16; 6:19; chs. 12-14; Gal. 5:16-26; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30-5:1; 1 Thess. 5:19).

People, Sin, and Salvation

People: We believe that human-beings were created directly by God and in His own image and likeness (Gen 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-6).

Sin: Everyone disobeys God in attitude and action, this disobedience is called sin. Because of sin we are separated from God (Gen. 2:17; Psalm 14:1-3; Isa. 53:6; 59:1-2; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 John 3:8).

Salvation: We believe that people cannot makeup for sin with good works or self-improvement. Salvation is the free gift from God given through His grace and received by trusting in Jesus Christ - that his death on the cross and resurrection three days later was God's means of reconciling us to Himself. There is no salvation outside of a personal faith relationship with Jesus as Lord and Savior. We believe that each believer's salvation is kept eternally secure (Eccl. 3:14; John 1:12; Rom. 5:1-2, 8-11; 8:1-2, 29-39; Eph. 2:4-10; 1 Pet. 1:3-9, 18-19).

Baptism, Communion, and the Christian Life

Baptism: We believe baptism is a public declaration that someone has placed their trust in Jesus Christ and decided to commit their life to him. The act of baptism does not save someone; it says to the world that person has already been saved. We are baptized in obedience to Christ. We hold to believers' baptism by a confession of faith and immersion in water (Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41; Rom. 6:1-5; Eph. 2:8-9; Col. 2:12).

Communion: We believe communion is an ordinance given to all baptized believers by Jesus Christ. Also called the Lord's Supper or the Eucharist, Communion symbolizes our new covenant with God. The bread and the cup symbolize Christ's broken body on the cross and the blood he shed so that we could receive God's free gift of salvation. Communion does not impart salvation, but is a remembrance of his sacrifice for us (Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-29).

The Christian Life: We believe all followers of Christ are called to live a holy life. Believers are called to love God and love others. Believers are obliged to share the love and message of Jesus to those who do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior, through the way we live our lives and the words we speak. We also believe we are to live in peace and forgiveness with others, both those who follow Christ and those who do not (Matt. 22:36-40; Acts 1:8; Rom. 12:1-2, 18; 2 Cor. 5:19-20; 7:1; Titus 2:12; 1 John 2:15-17).

The Church and Eternal Life

The Church: We believe in the Church universal composed of all believers in Christ who have been baptized into one Body. We believe in the importance of the local church body for discipleship and growth in the life of every believer. *See above for view on Baptism and Communion (Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:42-47; 8:36-38; 1 Cor. 12:13, 27; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:19-22; Heb. 10:24-25).

Eternal Life: We believe in eternal glory in the New Heaven and New Earth for all believers and eternal separation from God for all nonbelievers, a literal heaven and hell (Isa. 65:17-19; 66:22; Matt. 7:13-14; John 3:16-21, 36; 11:25-26; 17:3; Rom. 6:22-23; 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:16-18; Gal. 6:7-8; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Heb. 12:28; 1 Pet. 5:10; 1 John 5:11-13; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:1-22:5).