

CONSTITUTION OF HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH OF Walla Walla, Washington

ARTICLE II ***Statement of Faith and Covenant***

Section 1 - Statement of Faith:

(A) - The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any mixture of error for its matter; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried. It is the final authority for all matters of faith and practice.

1. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of 66 books, from Genesis to Revelation, contained within the King James Bible, or Authorized Version.
2. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been or ever will be (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Psalm 12:6-7; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

(B) - Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal Divinely determined dispensations or rules of life which define man's responsibilities in successive ages. 2Tim. 2:15

(C) - The Godhead

We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24, 1John 5:7).

(D) - The Person and Work of God the Father

We believe that the Father is infinite and perfect, not of material or bodily nature. Since He is not a material being, He cannot be apprehended by physical means. God is that "I am that I am" and as such is clearly distinguished from things that have no life. He is a living Person. The Father is omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, immutable, and eternal. He is holy, righteous, all-inclusive in mercy, truth, and lovingkindness. from sin and death all who come (Gen 1:1; Exod 3:14; Jer 10:10-16, 23:23-24,; Mal 3:6; 1 Thes 1:9; 1Tim. 2:5; Titus 1:2; Heb, 12:28-29; James 1:17).

(E) - The Person and Work of the Lord Jesus 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 (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal 4:4-5; Phil. 2:5-8).

(F) - The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of 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; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 3:6; Eph. 1:13-14).

2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand the Scriptures. (Eph 1:17-18; 5:18; 1 John 2:20, 27).
3. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary, and that the present day Charismatic movement is a counterfeit of the real ministry of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22).

(G) - The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but in Adam's deliberate, willful, conscious sin the human 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 (Gen. 1:26-27, 5:3; Luke 1:46-48; Rom. 3:10, 22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19).

(H) - Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, Whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of every man's sins. This free gift is obtained completely by God's unmerited grace, through faith in the finished work of the cross. There is no works that a man can do to achieve salvation, nor to be worthy of God's magnificent free gift. It is wholly and completely by grace through faith that we may be saved (John 1:12, 3:16; Rom. 5:8-9, 6:23, 10:9-13; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10, 3:8-9; 1 John 5:11-13; 1 Peter 1:18-19).

(I) - The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 3:16, 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet 1:4-5).

(J) - The Church

1. We believe that the church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of believing, saved regenerated persons (1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-27).
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Rom. 16:1, 4; 1 Cor. 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).

(K) - 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 unbiblical religious associations and apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (Rom. 12:1-2; 14:13; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 1 Thess 5:22; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11).

(L) - The Rapture and Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "blessed hope" the personal, imminent return of Christ who will translate and gather His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally, visibly and physically return to earth with His saints, to establish His promised earthly Messianic Kingdom (Psa 89:34; Dan 2:31-45; Zech 14:4-11; 1 Thess 1:10, 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Rev 3:10, 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

(M) - The Eternal Condition of Men

1. We believe that in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matt 25:46; John 5:28, 29, 11:25-26; Eph 4:8-10; Rev 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 the spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:42; 2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23,3:21; 1 Thess 4:16-17; Rev 20:4-6).
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers enter immediately after death into the conscious punishment of hell and are tormented in it's flame until the second resurrection, when the body and soul shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment in literal flame (Matt 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess 1:7-9; Jude 6,7; Rev 20:11-15).

(P) - Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Eph. 5:22-24; Titus 3:1; Heb. 13:17; 1 Peter 2:13-14).

(R) - Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, pornography, and sexually impure thoughts are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Gen. 2:24, 19:5, 13; Lev. 18:1-30; Matt 5:27-32; Rom 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9-10, 15-18; 1 Thes. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

(T) - Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that an unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of human life. It is the shedding of innocent blood and God hates it. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well being of the mother are acceptable (Exod 20:13; Job 3:16; Psa 51:5, 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24, 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

(U) - Domestic and Foreign Outreach (Missions)

All Believers are commanded to carry out the "ministry of reconciliation", which the Scriptures teach is the personal responsibility of every Christian. We are to give financially to support missions financially, and are commanded to personally be active in reaching the lost through all available means and techniques (Matt 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor 5:17-21, 11:8-9; Phil 4:15-19;)

(V) - Giving

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support the local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as the basis for giving, but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the church, the relief of those in need, and the spreading of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been given (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal 6:6; Eph 4:28; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17).

(W) - Authority of the Statement of Faith

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The King James Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe and practice. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.