

Statement of Faith
Foundation Baptist Church
4500 N. Main St. Findlay, OH 45840

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men through divine inspiration (Acts 1:16; 28:25; 2Pet 1:19-21), and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction: that it has God for its author salvation for its end, and truth (Jn 17:17) without any mixture of error (Ps 12:6-7, Pro 30:5-6), for its matter; that it reveals the principles and precepts by which God will judge us (Jn 12:48); and therefore is, and shall remain perfect without error unto the end of the age (Ps 119:89). Scripture alone is the true center of Christian union, and supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried (Rom 3:4, Eph 6:17). The scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning.

- A. By "The Holy Bible" we mean the sixty-six books that comprise the Old and New Testament. Just as they were originally inspired, we believe that the Bible does not simply contain the words of God but IS the very Word of God (Mat 5:18).
- B. By "Inspiration" we mean verbal plenary inspiration. The Holy Spirit supernaturally moved holy men of old to pen the scriptures in such a way that their writings were free from error.
- C. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only English translation used by the church.

Ps 19:7-11; 119:105,130,160, Lk 24:25-27,44-45; Jn 5:39,45-47; 2Tim 3:16-17; Rev 22:19

OF THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God (Ex 20:2-3), an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love (Rev 4:11); that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (1Jn 5:7).

- A. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is fully God and fully man (Isa 7:14, 9:6; Mat 1:18-25; Jn 1:1, 14; Phil 2:6-8). We believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified by His shed blood (Jn 3:16; Rom 5:1, 6-9; 1Tim 2:6; 1Jn 2:2). We believe that the crucified body of our Lord was resurrected from the dead; He ascended into Heaven and is our intercessor (Eph 2:18 Mat 28:6; 1Cor 15:4; Acts 1:9-11; Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25; 1Tim 2:5).
- B. We believe that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment (Jn 16:7-11; 2Cor 2:10). He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling, and sealing them unto the day of redemption. He is the promised comforter for the believer. He is the divine teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the scriptures. It is the privilege and duty

of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit (1Cor 6:19-20, 12:1-27; Titus 2:11-15; Eph 2:10).

Gen 17:1; Ex15:11; Ps 83:18; 90:2; 147:5; Jer 10:10; Mat 28:19; Mk 12:30; Jn 4:24; 10:30; 15:26; 17:5; Acts 5:3-4; 1Cor 8:6; 2Cor 13:14; Phil 2:5-6; 1Tim 1:17

OF THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

Gen 1:26-27,31; 3:1-6,24; Eze 18:19-20; Rom 1:18,20,28,32; 3:10-19; 5:12,19; Gal 3:22; Eph 2:1,3

OF THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (Eph 2:4-9); through the mediatory offices of the Son of God (Eph 2:18); who by the appointment of the Father (1Pet 1:18-21), freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin (Heb 4:15); honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death upon the cross made a full atonement for our sins (Eph 1:7); having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in heaven. He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior (Jn 1:12,29; 6:37-40).

- A. Salvation is Jesus Christ plus nothing. We reject all theories, philosophies, and teachings inconsistent with scripture, such as: Baptismal Regeneration, Calvinism, Arminianism, and Lordship Salvation (Gal 1:6-9).
- B. We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all-sufficient Savior (Ps 51:1-4; Isa 55:6-7; Mk 1:15; Lk 12:8; 18:13; Acts 2:37-38;20:21; Rom 10:9-11,13).
- C. It is the immediate duty of fallen man to accept this free gift of salvation (Rev 22:17) through faith and repentance toward God (Acts 3:19, Rom 10:13). Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner save his own voluntary rejection of the Gospel (1Tim 1:15, Jn 3:36).
- D. We believe it is the privilege of the believer to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word (Jn 10:27-30, 1Pet 1:5), while abstaining from the use of their Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Gal 5:13, Jn 13:13-14, Rom 6).

Mat 11:28; Jn 3:15-18,36; 6:37; Rom 8:1,29-30,38-39; 1Cor 15: 3-4,10; 1Thes 1:4-6; Tit 1:1, 2:11; 1Pet 1:2

OF THE ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that a believer's persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors. We believe that God's special providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation. We believe that a truly born-again believer cannot lose their salvation, and those who abandon Christ, reveal that they were unregenerate and unbelieving from the beginning.

Ps 121:3; Mat 6:20; 13:19–21; Jn 8:31–32; 10:28–29; Rom 8:28,35–39; Phil 1:6; Col 1:21–23; Heb 1:14; 1Pet 1:5; 1Jn 2:19

OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

We believe the church of the New Testament to be a visible, local church; that it is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel (Acts 2:41-42); observing the two ordinances of Christ (Acts 8:36-38, 1Cor 11:23-26); governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its two scriptural officers are pastors (elders), and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the New Testament (Acts 6:1-5; Eph 4:11; 1Tim 3:1-13; Tit 1:6-11; 1Pet 5:1-4).

- A. We believe the true mission of the church is found in the Great Commission. The church is first, to make individual disciples; second, to build up the church; third, to teach and instruct as God has commanded (Mat 28:19-20).
- B. We believe that the church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals, organizations, or conventions; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:22-23; 5:23-24; Col 1:18).
- C. We believe that it is biblical and appropriate for churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the spread of the Gospel, yet every church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation (Acts 11:27-30; 2Cor 8:18-22, 2Thess 3:1-3).
- D. Christ desires to present the church to Himself: glorious, spotless, and holy. Therefore, we believe that it is imperative to practice church discipline as outlined in Matthew chapter eighteen. The purpose of church discipline is to remove defilement and the leavening influence of sin (1Cor 5:6-13); to produce soundness in faith (Tit 1:13); and to restore the erring brother (Gal 6:1).

Mat 16:18; Acts 6:5-6; 13:1-4; 14:23; 15:22-23; 20:17-28; 6:1-3; 12:4-11; 16:1-2; Heb 13:7

OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that believer's Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost (Mat 28:19-20), with the authority of the local church; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life (Rom 6:3-5); that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation (Acts 2:41-42); and to the Lord's Supper; in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and grape juice are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded by solemn self-examination (1Cor 11:23-28).

Mat 3:6; 3:16; Jn 3:23; Acts 8:36-39; Col 2:12

OF THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe that Satan was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors (Eze 28:14-17); but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels (Isa 14:12-15; Jude 6); that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world. We hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power behind the present apostasy, the lord of the antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness; destined, however, to final defeat at the hand of God's own Son (2Thess 2:8-11), and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell, a place prepared for him and his angels. (Mat 25:41; 2Pet 2:4)

Mat 4:1-3; 13:25; Mk 13:21-22; Lk 22:3-4; Jn 14:30; Eph 2:2; 2Cor 11:13-15; 1Thess 3:5; 1Pet 5:8; 1Jn 2:22; 3:8; 4:3; 2Jn 7; Rev 12:7-10; 13:13-14; 19:11,16,20; 20:1-3,10

CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind."

Gen 1:1,11,24,26-27; 2:21-23; Ex 20:11; Neh 9:6; Jer 10:12; Jn 1:3; Acts 4:24; 17:23-26; Rom 1:20; Col 1:16-17; Heb 11:3; Rev 10:6

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and the magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

Ex 18:21-22; 2Sam 23:3; Ps 72:11; Dan 3:17-18; Mat 10:28; 22:21; 23:10; Acts 4:19-20; 23:5; Phil 2:10-11; Tit 3:1; 1Pet 2:13-14,17

HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.

Gen 2:24;19:5,13; 26:8-9; Lev 18:1-30; Rom 1:26-29; 1Cor 5:1, 6:9; 1Thess 4:1-8; Heb 13:4

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman, as determined by biological sexual gender at birth.

Gen 2:24; Rom 7:2; 1Cor 7:10; Eph 5:22-23

We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman for one lifetime. While we believe that one who has been divorced (or divorced and remarried) may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon.

Mal 2:14-17; Mat 19:3-12; Rom 7:1-3; 1Tim 3:2, 12; Tit 1:6

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for ordination by the church.

Gal 3:28; Col 3:18; 1Tim 2:8-15; 3:4-5,12

OF THE WORLD TO COME

We believe in the “Blessed Hope” which is the personal, premillennial, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, known as the rapture of the New Testament saints. At the rapture, the dead in Christ shall rise first, while those that remain shall be “caught up” and changed in the twinkling of an eye. (1Cor 15:52; 1Thess 4:13-17; 5:9; Tit 2:13)

We believe in the personal, visible, premillennial, and glorious return of Christ to the earth with His saints at the end of the Great Tribulation, known as the revelation of Jesus Christ. We believe that after having bound Satan and his angels, Christ will establish His Millennial Kingdom, and reign for one-thousand years. This literal reign upon the earth is fulfillment of the Old Testament Messianic promises (Isa 11:4-5; Zech 14:4-11; Mat 24:27-30).

We believe that at the end of the millennial reign, Satan will be loosed; he will deceive the nations and be ultimately defeated at the battle of Gog and Magog. Satan then will be cast into the Lake of Fire where he shall remain for ever and ever (Rev 20:1-3,7-10).

We believe that at the end of the millennial reign all the unsaved shall stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgement, and whosoever is not found in the Book of Life shall be cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death (Rev 20:11-15).

Ps 72:8; Dan 2:31-45; Lk 1:32; Jn 14:3; 1Cor 3:10-15; 4:1-4 2Cor 5:10; Rom 14:10; Heb 9:28; 12:2; Rev 19:11-21; 20:4-6; 22:7, 12, 20

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the forgoing Statement of faith accurately represent the teachings of the Bible and therefore is the doctrinal position of the church.