

Doctrinal Statement

Article III from
Constitution & Doctrinal Statement
(dated January 17, 2010)
for Blair Ridge Baptist Church



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Article III. Doctrine

Section 1. Of The Scriptures:

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore, has truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions, shall be tried. 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21

Section 2. Of The True God:

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, the infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; 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. Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11; 1 John 5:7; Deut. 6:4

Section 3. Of Christ the Mediator:

We believe God chose His only begotten Son to be the mediator between God and man; the prophet, priest, king and the head and Savior of His church; the heir of all things, and judge of the world. He being very and eternal God, the express image of His person, of one substance and equal with Him: who also made the world and upholds and governs all things, took upon Him man's nature, with all the essential and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin. 1 Peter 1:19-20; 1 Tim. 2:5; Acts 3:22; Psalm 2:6; Luke 1:33; Col. 1:16-18; John 1:14; 5:22, 27; Rom. 8:3; Heb. 1:3; 2:14-16; 4:15; 5:5-6

We believe He was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman; so the two whole perfect and yet distinct natures, human and divine, were inseparably joined together in one person, and therefore, He is both the Son of God and God the Son. Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; Gal. 4:4; John 10:30

We believe in His bodily resurrection. Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:2-6; 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:4; Mark 16:6

We believe In His ascension into heaven. Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 12:2

We believe in His present high priestly ministry. Eph. 1:20-23; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; 4:14-16; 5:9-10; 8:6

Section 4. Of The Holy Spirit:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent of the new birth, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ; that He indwells, seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the

believer. We believe it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. John 1:33; 3:5-6; 14:16-17, 26; 16:8-11; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; Luke 1:35; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Rom. 8:14, 16, 26-27; Gen. 1:1-2; Eph. 1:13; 5:18; Mark 1:8; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 12:12-14

Section 5. Of The Devil, or Satan:

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10; 2 Cor. 4:4

Section 6. Of Creation:

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. Gen. 1 & 2; Col. 1:16-17; John 1:3

Section 7. Of The Fall And Total Depravity Of Man:

We believe that man, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from his high and holy estate by eating the forbidden fruit, and as the consequence of his disobedience, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that his moral nature was not only grievously injured by the fall, but he totally lost all spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins and subject to the power of the devil. Gen. 1:26; 2:17; 3:1-6; 3:24; Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Timothy 5:6; 1 John 3:8

We believe that this spiritual death, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of man, the man Christ Jesus only excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine life, but is essentially and unchangeably bad, being at enmity against God, and incapable by any educational process whatever of subjection to His law. Gen. 6:5; Psalms 14:1-3; 51:5; Jer. 17:9; John 3:16; Rom. 1:18, 32; 5:12-19; 8:6-7

Section 8. Of The Atonement For Sin:

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, and compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior. Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:24-25; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; Heb. 10:12; 9:26-28

Section 9. Of Grace In Salvation:

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our

voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. 2 Cor. 5:17, 19; John 3:6-8; Acts 16:30-33; Rom. 5:8; 6:23; Eph. 2:1, 8-9; Col. 2:13; Titus 3:5-7

Section 10. Of Justification:

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; a) That Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness; b) That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed to us. Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11; Romans 5:1, 9; 8:1

Section 11. Of the Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true Mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41-42; 15:13-18; 20:17-28; 1 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:11; 5:23-24; Col. 1:18

Section 12. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper:

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water 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, that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by a solemn self-examination. Acts 8:26-39; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 11:23-28

Section 13. Of the Security of the Saints:

We believe that all who are truly born again are eternally kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6; Jude 1; John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:35-39

Section 14. Of the Righteous and the Wicked:

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in unrepentance and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting conscious bliss of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18, 23; 7:6; Prov. 24:32; Luke 6:25; Matt. 25:31-46; John 3:36; 8:21

Section 15. Of Civil Government:

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed; except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth. Rom. 13:1-7; 2 Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Matt. 22:21; Acts 4:19-20; 23:5; Dan. 3:17-18

Section 16. Of the Responsibility of Believers:

We believe that all believers should seek to walk in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Lord and Savior and that separation from worldly pleasures and practices is the command of God. Rom. 6:11-14; 8:2, 4, 12-13; 12:1-2; Gal. 5:16-23; 1 John 1:4-7

We believe that it is the obligation of every believer to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Scripture and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all the world. Acts 1:8

We believe it is the responsibility of all believers to remember the work of the Lord in prayer and to support with their means as the Lord has prospered them, and to faithfully attend the services of the church. 1 Cor. 16:2; Heb. 10:24-25

Section 17. Of the Gifts of the Spirit:

We believe that the gifts of evangelist, pastor, and teacher are sufficient for the perfection of the saints today, and that apostolic sign-gifts, including tongues, gradually disappeared as the canon of Scripture was completed and the authority of the Bible generally recognized. But, God being sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts, does hear and answer the prayer of faith according to His own will. 1 Cor. 12, 13 & 14; Eph. 4:7-12; 2 Cor. 12:12

Section 18. Of the Resurrection, Personal, Visible, Pre-Millennial Return of Christ, and Related Events:

We believe that the following order of events are yet to be enacted in God's plan of Redemption.

- a. The imminent pre-tribulational, pre-seventieth week rapture of all believers.
Matt. 24:42-44; Mark 13:32-33; John 14:3; 1 Thess. 1:9-10; 4:14-17; Heb. 9:28;
James 5:8; Acts 1:11

This event will involve:

1. The bodily resurrection of the righteous dead. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 52; Luke 14:14; John 6:40
2. The change of living believers. 1 Cor 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20-21
3. The judgment seat of Christ. 1 Cor. 3:8-12; 2 Cor. 5:10; John 5:27
4. The marriage of the Lamb. Matt. 22:8-12; Rev 19:6-9

- b. The Great Tribulation and the Battle of Armageddon. Matt. 24:15-21, 29-30; Mark 13:14-23; Luke 21:5-24; Ezek. 14:21; Ezek. 28; Daniel 7-11; Rev. 6:1-8; 14:14-21; Rev. 13 & 16
- c. The Revelation of Jesus Christ. Job 19:25; Dan. 7:13-14; Zech. 14:3-4; Acts 1:11; Phil. 3:20-21; 2 Thess. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:7-13; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 24:33-37; Mark 13:24-27; Luke 21:25-27
- d. The Millennial Reign. 1 Cor. 15:25; Isa. 32:1; 11:4-5; Psalm 72:8; Rev. 20:1-6; Rev. 14
- e. Satan loosed, the nations revolt, Satan doomed forever. Rev. 20:7-10
- f. The Great White Throne Judgment. Dan. 7:9-11; 12:2; Acts 17:31; 24:15; Matt. 13:37-50; John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:10-15
- g. Eternal bliss for believers and eternal punishment for the lost. 2 Cor. 5:1; John 14:1; 1 Thess. 1:7-10; Matt. 25:46; 2 Pet. 3:11-12
- h. Eternity. Psalm 90:2; Isa. 57:15; Jer. 10:10; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 21-22

Section 19. Of the Sanctity and Definition of Marriage:

We believe that marriage is not a human institution but was ordained by God and given to man (Gen. 2:18, 21-24). We believe that marriage is a covenant relationship between one man and one woman (Matt. 19:4-5). We believe that marriage is a life long commitment and is to endure until death parts husband and wife (Matt. 19:6).

We believe that it violates God's will to perform or officiate a wedding or marriage ceremony other than that between one man and one woman. Further, the pastor(s) of Blair Ridge Baptist Church shall have freedom of conscience to refuse to perform any wedding ceremony and shall not be compelled to perform or officiate a wedding under any circumstance.