

Springfield Baptist Church General Statement of Faith - Abstracted in part from the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith

As members we agree to the following:

Creation

We believe that in the beginning of time, God created the universe and all that it contains, both visible and invisible. He did this to manifest His own glory, power, wisdom, and goodness.

Colossians 1:16 - For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

We believe that God created man and woman in His own image with rational and immortal souls. They had the character and law of God written on their hearts with the power to fulfill it, and the power to transgress it. God also gave a law for life, that humanity in Adam and Eve might experience the fullness of satisfaction by obeying God.

Genesis 1:26 - Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 2:15-17 - The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. 16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

Ecclesiastes 7:29 - See, this alone I found, that God made man upright, but they have sought out many schemes.

The fall of man into sin

Although mankind was created perfect and upright, he was deceived by Satan, and deliberately violated God's commandment. God did not author evil, but in a mystery, allowed this evil to manifest, because He had planned to direct it for His own glory.

Genesis 3:6 - So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

This sin cast our first parents, and thereby all humanity from their original righteousness and the perfect communion with God for which they were designed, down into defilement and death. All became dead in sin as a result of Adam's transgression.

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:10-19 - as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; 11 no one understands; no one seeks for God. 12 All have turned aside; together they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one." 13 "Their throat is an open grave; they use their tongues to deceive." "The venom of asps is under their lips." 14 "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 in their paths are ruin and misery, 17 and the way of peace they have not known." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." 19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God.

The corruption and sin which flows from the fall is so thorough and pernicious, though it is pardoned and put to death in Christ, it persists in the nature of those who have been saved. Sin is never fully eradicated until we pass from this life into the life yet to come.

Romans 7:18, 23 - For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. 23 - but I see in my members another law waging war against the law of my mind and making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

Galatians 5:17 - For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

The Covenant of Grace

While it was humanity which chose to sin, and by doing so brought itself under the curse of the law, God was pleased to demonstrate kindness toward His enemies, and made a covenant of grace. In this covenant, He freely offers salvation by grace rather than works, and promises to punish the evil of sin in a substitute, rather than in the perpetrators of sin.

Galatians 3:10 - For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, "Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them."

Romans 3:20 - For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

Romans 8:3 - For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh,

Christ

This substitute was provided by God condescending to take on human flesh, live a human life, and deny all temptation to sin, which no man could ever do. This mortality was necessary because God, being without sin and incapable of sin, could not be a sufficient substitute for sinners. Yet God, inhabiting a human nature and in that nature providing perfect obedience to the law could supply the demands of the law.

So God sent His beloved Son to fulfill the terms of the covenant of grace, and redeem sinners from the curse of sin.

The Lord Jesus willingly undertook this office, and was born under the law and perfectly fulfilled it. He also experienced the punishment that we deserved, by enduring temptation, extremely painful sorrows and sufferings, and ultimately death. On the third day, He rose from the dead with the same body with which He had suffered, and ultimately ascended to the right hand of God, where He lives to make intercession for all of His people.

Christ calls sinners out of sin and self, and into fellowship with Him. We believe that this is the unspeakably kind act of our Sovereign God granting faith, which is then exercised, and not the result of our works.

John 1:14 - And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Hebrews 2:14 - Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil...

2 Cor 5:21 - For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Romans 14:9 - For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Scripture

We believe in the inerrancy of Scripture, and that Scripture alone is the basis Christian faith and practice. We believe that the Scripture consists of the 66 books (39 Old Testament, 27 New Testament) and that the canon of Scripture is closed.

(2 Tim 3:16-17) All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 17 so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

(Rev 22:18-19) I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

Salvation

We believe in salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone according to Scripture alone.

(Eph 2:8-9) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

(2 Pet 1:1) - Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ

(John 14:6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

We believe that Jesus Christ has saved our souls, and the souls of all Christians from sin, continues to do so, and will ultimately save us into permanent fellowship with Himself when we die or He returns.

(John 10:27-30) "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; 28 and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. 30 I and the Father are one."

We believe that God calls us out of sin into light for two reasons. First, to conform us to the image of His own Son, and second, that we might share the Gospel with other lost sinners.

(Eph 2:10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

(1 John 3:3) And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

(1 Pet 2:9-10) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 10 for you once were NOT A PEOPLE, but now you are THE PEOPLE OF GOD; you had NOT RECEIVED MERCY, but now you have RECEIVED MERCY.

Trinity

We believe in the Trinity, which consists of three real persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. All three are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being. Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations.

(Matt 28:19) Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,

(2 Cor 13:14) The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

Baptism

We believe Baptism is the first step of public obedience to Jesus Christ for the Christian. We are Baptist by conviction. We do not believe in infant baptism, because we do not find a scriptural support for this practice. Those who are to be baptized are those who have first become disciples. However, we do not exclude those who believe in infant baptism from our fellowship, nor do we have a primary preoccupation with changing their minds.

(Matt 28:19-20) "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."