

## **Statement of Faith**

The membership of Calvary Bible Church is composed of sinners who have been saved by the grace of God through repentant faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. That may sound "churchy" to some, but it is the best and truest way to describe the church. And, in all honesty, we know the "sinner" part of that description all too well. However, thanks to forgiveness from and through Jesus, we believe that we are among those who are "*washed...sanctified... justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*" [First Corinthians 6:11]

Even though some may be put off a bit by the use of so many "church words," we rejoice that Holy Scripture says the church is made up of those who are "*sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours.*" [First Corinthians 1:2] This is who we are!

Our statement of faith adds to this by declaring what we believe. It serves as a foundational document for Calvary Bible Church as it expresses our commonly held core religious beliefs as derived from the Bible, and also serves as a clear expression of those beliefs to which every member of the church is held accountable.

### ***The Holy Scriptures***

We believe the Bible, that is, the Holy Scriptures as found in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, and infallible as it is God-breathed (2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12,13).

### ***The Godhead***

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and each having the same characteristics and perfections. This God, who is the creator of the universe and all that is therein, is the one and only God, who alone is worthy of all honor and praise (Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27; Deuteronomy 6:4, 28:14; John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

### ***God the Father***

We believe in God, the Father, a personal, infinite spirit who has always been thus from eternity past through eternity future. He has never been a man or any other being who transitioned into God. He is and has always been perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. He foreknows infallibly all that shall come to pass, concerning Himself mercifully in the affairs of men. He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ (John 4:24; 1 John 1:5; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 John 4:8; Psalm 116:5-6; Isaiah 40:25-26, 44:6, 58:9 and Psalm 37:39).

### ***The Person and Work of Christ***

- 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 (John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35).

- We believe that He died on the cross for all who would believe as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice, and that this atoning sacrifice is sufficient for its purpose and does accomplish the redemption and justification of all who trust in Him. All of this was assured by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24,25; 4:25; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 2:9; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24; and 2 Peter 2:1).
- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as the High Priest of every genuine believer, He fulfills the ministries of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9,10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1,2).

### ***The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit***

- We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead 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; 2 Corinthians 3:6; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13,14).
- We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit as they yield to Him (John 16:13; 1 John 2:20,27; Ephesians 5:18).

### ***The Total Depravity of Man***

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the entire race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and being dead in sin are alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his alienated condition (Genesis 1:26,27; Romans 3:22,23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).

### ***Salvation***

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by repentant and personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins for everyone who believes (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 1 Peter 1:18,19).

### ***The Security and Assurance of Believers***

- We believe that all the genuinely redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1,38,39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5).
- We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which Word also clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as a reason to pursue or excuse sin (Romans 13:13,14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

### ***The Two Natures of the Believer***

We believe that every person possesses two natures, that is, the flesh and the spirit. Those who are born again become new creations in Christ, and thus, are given provision for victory of their new nature (spirit) over the old nature (flesh) through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims

to the destruction of the old nature's desire for sin in this life are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 8:12,13; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:5-9).

### ***Separation***

- We believe that all who are genuinely redeemed should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all sinful practices and associations is commanded of God (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 14:13; John 2:15-17; 2 John 1:9-11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1).
- We believe that sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed between one man and one woman (as genetically defined at birth), within the love and bonds of marriage (Genesis 2:24-25; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 7:3-5; Hebrews 13:4). Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift (Leviticus 18:1-30; Proverbs 6:32; 1 Corinthians 6:18; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8).

### ***Proclaiming the Gospel***

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by deeds and by words to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the good news (that is, the Gospel) to all mankind (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:19,20).

### ***The Ministry and Spiritual Gifts***

- We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are provided by God and sufficient for the perfecting of His saints today as they exposit and model the Holy Scriptures. The sign gifts, such as speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established (1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12).
- We believe that the biblical office of pastor/elder in the church, or their equivalents, are restricted to biblically qualified men (1 Timothy 2:12; 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9). We believe the other biblical office is that of deacon, which is also restricted to biblically qualified men (1 Timothy 3:8-13).

### ***The Church***

- We believe that the Church, which is the body and the promised bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Ephesians 1:22,23; 5:25-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 11:2).
- 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 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
- 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; Romans 16:1-4; 1 Corinthians 3:9,16; 5:4-7; 13; 1 Peter 5:1-4).
- We believe in the ordinances of believer's water baptism and the Lord's supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church age, that is, outward means by which the inward faith of the believing may be expressed (Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; 18:8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

### *The Personality of Satan*

We believe that Satan is a literal personality; 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; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11:25:41; Revelation 20:10).

### *The Second Coming of Christ*

We believe in that "Blessed Hope," that is, the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His literal 1,000 year kingdom (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

### *The Eternal State*

- We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Revelation 20:5,6,12,13).
- 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 resurrection, when soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:16,17).
- We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude vv. 6,7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

## **Addendum to the Statement of Faith**

The Statement of Faith of Calvary Bible Church is intended to cover a broad range of our commonly held convictions. However, as a written document the statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs nor our understanding of their application. Indeed, for clarification and with reference to the prevailing cultural climate, certain topics deserve additional mention as to the impact of our beliefs. Currently, these addendum include the following:

- ◆ Statement Regarding Final Authority for Matters of Faith and Conduct
- ◆ Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality
- ◆ Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life

### ***Statement Regarding Final Authority for Matters of Faith and Conduct***

The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Calvary Bible Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our church board [consisting of the pastors and elders, with input from the deacons] is Calvary Bible Church's interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

It is impossible to anticipate every doctrinal need of clarification that a church ministry might encounter. New disputes have arisen regularly throughout the course of Church history, and it is important that a local church be able and allowed to respond to these issues according to Scripture.

Therefore, Calvary Bible Church identifies the Holy Scriptures as found in the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments to be her sole and final religious authority for matters of faith and conduct, and she follows the church board as defined above as interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. It is the intention of Calvary Bible Church to follow said authority in matters of faith and conduct as we come to the unforeseeable issues that might arise in the future.

### ***Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality***

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen 1:26-27.) Therefore, rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as set forth in Scripture (Gen 2:18-25) and by the Lord Jesus

Christ (Matthew 19:4-6). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe God created and sanctioned marriage to bring together men and women, the complementary halves of humanity, by joining them in “one-flesh” unions. (Gen 2:18-25.)

We believe marriage between one man and one woman for life uniquely reflects Christ’s relationship with His Church. (Eph 5:21-33) Marriage also serves as the foundational unit of a stable society, and provides the best chance that children will grow up in the same home with both their mom and their dad.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Calvary Bible Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Calvary Bible Church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Calvary Bible Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person should be afforded compassion, biblical love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Calvary Bible Church.

### ***Statement on the Sanctity of Human Life***

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to Scripturally value, defend, and protect all human life when it is within our ability. (Psalm 139)