



## Statement of Belief

### ***Essential beliefs as a Christian:***

**God** - one God revealing himself as three separate and distinct persons - God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The persons are co-equal in all respects and form the doctrine of the Trinity. God is the only true and living God, the creator of the universe, and our Lord.

*Deuteronomy 6:4, Genesis 1:1, Ephesians 4:6, Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28:19*

**Jesus Christ** - became man without ceasing to be God. Jesus is co-equal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit and has existed eternally. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, and offered Himself as a payment for the penalty of the sin of mankind by dying on the cross. Jesus was buried and rose from the grave, appeared to many witnesses, and ascended to Heaven where He intercedes on behalf of those placing their faith and trust in Him. He will return to earth in all majesty and glory at the end of time.

*John 1:14, Hebrews 1:8, Matthew 1:20-25, Matthew 3:17, 1 Peter 2:22, Romans 5:8, Mark 16:6-7, Romans 8:34, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, John 14:2-6*

**Holy Spirit** - is the third person of God, co-equal with God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. The Holy Spirit indwells believers, convicts of sin, comforts believers, equips us for service, and always exalts the Son.

*Genesis 1:2, 2 Peter 1:21, John 14:16, John 16:7-8, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 4:12*

**The Bible** - is the inspired word of God, written by man under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Bible is truth without error and is God's revelation of Himself to mankind.

*Psalm 19:7-11, 2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21*

**Man** - is the supreme object of God's creation and is created in His image. The first man chose to disobey God; thus sin entered the world, and the sin nature has been passed throughout all mankind. Sin created the need for Salvation. Man was created to have fellowship with and to bring glory to God, but sin has separated man from God.

*Genesis 1:27, Genesis 3:1-19, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23*

**Salvation** - is a free gift of God. Only through salvation may a person enter Heaven. Salvation is accomplished by acceptance of God's freely offered gift, which was Christ's atoning death as payment for the penalty of sin. Salvation is not accomplished through any good works on our part, but only through recognizing our need for salvation, turning from our sin and putting our faith in Jesus Christ alone.

*Romans 6:23, John 3:16, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8-9, 1 Timothy 2:5-6*

**Eternity** - man was created for eternity and will exist either eternally with God in Heaven or eternally separated from God in hell. Our acceptance or rejection of the free gift of salvation through Jesus Christ determines our eternal destiny.

*Romans 8:10-11, Hebrews 9:27-28, John 3:16-18, Acts 24:15, Revelation 20:15, Revelation. 22:3-5, Romans 1:20*

## ***Distinctive Baptist doctrine we believe:***

**Baptism** - is a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Savior. In the life of the believer, it is a picture of death to sin, burial of the old life, and resurrection to a new life through Jesus Christ. Baptism is not necessary for salvation but is an act of obedience to our Lord. Scriptural baptism by immersion follows salvation. Baptism, along with salvation, is a prerequisite to church membership. Baptism is one of the two ordinances of the church.

***Romans 6:1-7, Colossians 2:9-12***

**Lord's Supper** - is one of two ordinances of the church instituted by Christ. The Lord's Supper is symbolic of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ for our sins and the assurance of His second coming. The bread is symbolic of His body, and the juice is symbolic of His shed blood. The Supper has no saving power and is done as Christ commanded, "in remembrance" of Him.

***1 Corinthians 11:23-26***

**Priesthood of the believer** - Through Christ all believers have direct access to God. While we are individually responsible before God, as believers we also are the church, the body of Christ. Through this voluntary association of believer priests in a local church, we seek to do the will of God.

***Hebrews 10:19-25, 1 Peter 2:9***

**Soul Competency** - God created man with the ability to make independent choices with all of the responsibility and consequences those choices entail. Through this freedom we can know God and His will for our lives. With the aid of the Holy Spirit, we can read, interpret, discern, and apply scripture to our lives. Our freedom of conscience to worship God cannot be altered or coerced by government.

***Hebrews 4:14-16, Romans 2:14-15***

**Eternal security of the believer** - Once a person is genuinely saved, that salvation cannot be lost; however, sin may create a lack of fellowship with God, and consequences of sin may be evident in the believer's life.

*John 10:27-28*

**Autonomy of the local church** - Christ is the head of the church, and there is no central authority through which the local church conducts its affairs. We, as a local body of believers, voluntarily cooperate with other entities to further the kingdom through ministries and missions.

*Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 5:23, Acts 13:1-3, Matthew 18:15-17, Acts 6:3-6*

FBC, Paris additional articles of faith we believe:

**The church** - is a local body of baptized believers with the mission of extending the gospel to the ends of the earth. Christ is the head. Scriptural officers of the local church are the pastor and deacons. The church should worship, fellowship, disciple, minister to needs, and be active in mission opportunities.

*Ephesians 1:22-23, 1 Timothy 2, 1 Timothy 3:1-12*

**Evangelism and missions** - Believers should actively seek to win the lost through personal evangelism and support of missions.

*Acts 1:8, Matthew 28:19-20*

**Marriage** - is only between one man and one woman in a covenant relationship for life and mirrors the relationship between Christ and the church.

*Genesis 2:18-24, Ephesians 5:22-33, Romans 1:26-27*

**Tithing** - is ordained by God for the support of the local church through giving of at least ten percent of our gross income.

*Deuteronomy 14:22-28, Malachi 3:8-10, Matthew 23:23-28, 23:23-28, 23:23-28, 23:23-28*

**Christian unity** - We should live in harmony with our fellow believers, and when conflict arises, we should follow the biblical principles of conflict resolution as described in *Matthew 18*.