

# BETHEL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

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Bethel Christian School is a ministry of Bethel Baptist Church, and the school's Statement of Faith is identical to that of the church. The following is Article II, "Articles of Faith," of the Constitution of Bethel Baptist Church.

**Section 1. The Scriptures.** We believe the Bible to be inerrant in the original writings and that it was verbally inspired and produced by the Holy Spirit through holy men of old. It is the only complete and final revelation of God's will to man and the only rule of faith and practice. (II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21).

**Section 2. God.** We believe there is one and only one living and true God, and infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; eternally existent, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, essence and power. (Gen. 1:1; Ex. 3:14; 20:2,3; I Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 28:19; I John 5:7).

**Section 3. The Person and Work of Jesus Christ.** We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; that He was the Creator of all things, that He was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is both the Son of God and God, the Son. We believe that He was tempted, yet without sin in His life; in His substitutionary death on the cross for our sin; His bodily resurrection; His ascension to the right hand of the Majesty on high, uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathy with Divine perfection, thus He is in every way qualified to be a suitable and compassionate Intercessor for believers; His pre-millennial, personal, visible return for His own. (John 1:1; Heb. 1:1-3; Gen 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; I Cor. 15:3-8; Heb. 4:14, 15; Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:13-18).

**Section 4. The Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, the Administrator of the things of God through believers in the world. He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment; is the Agent of the new birth; seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer; restrains the evil one until He is taken away at the time of the Rapture. (John 14:16,17,26; 16:8-11; 3:5,6; Matt; 28:19; Gen. 1:1-3; Eph. 1:13,14; 4:30; Luke 24:49; Rom. 8:14,16,26,27; II Thess. 2:7)

**Section 5. Creation and Man.** We believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, each after its own kind by direct act and not by a process of evolution. We believe that God created man in innocence of His own image as a separate and distinct act; but by voluntary transgression, man fell from his sinless estate in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by nature, but by choice; therefore, they are under just condemnation without defense or excuse. (Gen. 1,2; 3:1-6; Rom. 5:10-19; 1:18,32; Col. 1:16,17; John 1:3)

**Section 6. Salvation.** We believe salvation to be by grace through faith, wholly apart from human works and merit, and that each individual must exercise personal faith in the redeeming work of Christ in order to be saved. He must be born again; the new birth is instantaneous and not a process; that by the new birth an individual becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus. We believe that all who are truly born again

are eternally kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. (Eph. 2:8,9; Tit. 3:5; Acts 16:31; Rom. 6:23; 10:9,10; John 3:3,7; II Cor. 5:17; Phil. 1:6; John 10:28,29; Rom. 8:35-39; I Peter 1:5)

**Section 7. Satan.** We believe in the reality and personality of Satan; that through pride he fell from his exalted place as “the anointed cherub that covereth”; that he is the unholy god of this age, the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal place in the lake of fire. (Ezek. 28:12-19; Isa. 14:12-15; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2, 6:12; Rev. 20:10).

**Section 8. Heaven and Hell.** We believe in a heaven of everlasting blessedness for all who, through faith in Jesus Christ, have been saved, and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost (those who have not believed in the only begotten Son of God) in the lake of fire. (Rev. 21:1-8; John 3:36).

**Section 9. Future Things.** We believe in the imminent, pre-tribulation rapture of the saints, which is followed in heaven by the judgment of believers’ work and the marriage supper of the Lamb. Simultaneously on earth seven years of tribulation ensue, to be climaxed with the visible and glorious return of Christ with His saints, Who judges the nations and establishes a literal kingdom on earth for one thousand years. Thereafter, the unbelieving dead are raised to be judged at the great white throne for eternal punishment in the lake of fire. After the judgment of the heaven and earth by fire, God makes a new heaven and a new earth and reveals a new Jerusalem for the eternal abode of the redeemed. (I Thess. 4:13-16; I Cor. 3:11-15; II Cor. 5:10; Rev. 19:7-10; Matt. 24:4-28; Rev. 19:11-21; I Thess. 3:13; Matt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15; II Peter 3:10-12; Rev. 21:1-4).

**Section 10. The Universal Church.** We believe that the church universal is a New Testament institution unknown to the Old Testament prophets; that it was established by Jesus Christ, Who is its sole Head. It is revealed through the apostles; empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit. It is composed of all born again believers, and is His body for service and His bride for glory. It began on the day of Pentecost and will be completed at the coming of Christ in the Rapture. (Matt. 16:15-18; Eph. 3:1-7; 5:23, 24; 1:22-23; I Cor. 12:4-28).

**Section 11. The Local Church.** We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, and independent of any external, ecclesiastical control whatsoever. They are gathered together for fellowship in the Gospel, for the observance of the ordinances, and for the furtherance of the Gospel. We believe that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that in all matters of polity, government, discipline and benevolence, the will of the local church is final. (Matt. 18:15-17; I Cor. 1:2; 6:4-5; 7:17; 11:16; I Tim. 3:1-15; Acts 2:41-42; 20:17-28; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 4:11; Acts 15:13-18).

## **Section 12. Ordinances.**

**1. Baptism.** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of believer (and only 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 a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relationship. (Acts 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt 3:16; Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:20, 21).

**2. The Lord’s Supper.** We believe that the Lord’s Supper is the commemoration of His death until He come, should always be preceded by a solemn self-examination, and that it has no sacramental value. (I Cor. 11:23-33).

**Section 13. The 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 conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth. We believe in separation of church and state; that each in its own realm is sovereign. (Rom. 13:1-7; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21, 22; Acts 23:5; Matt 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19,20; Dan. 3:17,18).

**Section 14. Evangelization.** We believe it is the obligation and responsibility, as well as privilege, of every believer to be a personal soul winner and to do his utmost to carry out the Savior's command to give the Gospel to the whole world. (Mark 16:15; Matt 28:18-20).

### **Section 15. Human Sexuality and Marriage**

1. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one 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. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

(Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1: 26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:42).

2. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; 1 Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

### **Section 16. Family Relationships**

1. 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 the 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 licensure and ordination by the church. (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

2. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction. (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mk. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Eph. 5:21-33; 6:1-4, Col. 3:18-21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Pet. 3:1-7)