

## STATEMENT OF FAITH



# CARPINTERIA VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH

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## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### THE SCRIPTURES

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Holy Bible. Verbal in that it extends to the writer's choice of words (David, II Sam. 23:2; Paul, I Cor. 2:3-4) and plenary in that it extends to all Scriptures (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet 1:19-20). It is a perfect treasure of heavenly instructions; and it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried. (II Sam. 23:2; Ps. 119:1-8; Pr. 30:5-6; Lk. 16:29-31; Jn. 10:35, 12:47-48, 17:17; Acts 1:16, 3:21; Rom. 2:12, 3:1-2,3:4; I Thess. 2:13; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pt 1:21; Rev. 22:18-19)

### THE TRUE GOD

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, 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 God-head there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every Divine Perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices. (Ex. 15:11; Ps. 83:18, 147:5; Isa. 6:3; Jer. 10:10; Matt. 28:19; Mk. 12:30; Jn. 4:24; Rom. 1:20; Heb. 1:20; Heb. 3:4; I Pt. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8, 4:11)

### CREATION

We believe that God, according to His sovereign will and for His own glory, in the beginning brought forth the whole material and spiritual universe, without the use of pre-existent material, and thus gave it an existence, distinct from His own, and yet always dependent on Him. (Gen. 1:1-2; Acts 17:24-25; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3)

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### THE FALL OF MAN

We believe the Scriptures teach that man was created in innocence, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that innocent and happy estate, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint, but by choice; being by nature utterly devoid of that Holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

(Gen. 1:27,31, 2:16-17, 3:6-24; Ecc. 7:29; Isa. 53:6; Ezek. 18:19-20; Acts 17:26; Rom. 1:18,20,32,2:1-16,3:9-18, 5:12,15-19; Gal. 3:10,22; Eph. 2:3)

### THE VIRGIN BIRTH

We believe the Scriptures teach that Jesus was conceived of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born; or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God the Son.

(Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18,25; Lk 1:35; Jn. 1:14)

### GOD'S PURPOSE OF GRACE

We believe the Scriptures teach that the purpose of Grace is that God may freely elect to regenerate, justify, sanctify, and save sinners; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable, that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost discipline.

(Jn. 6:37-40; Rom. 8:28-30,9:9-23, 11:29; I Thess. 1:4; II Thess. 2:13-14; II Tim 1:8-9, 2:10; I Pt. 1:2, 2:9-10; 11 Pt. 1:10)

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the shed blood and mediatorial office of the Son of God; Who, according to the will of the Father, assumed our nature, yet without sin; honored the Divine Law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; 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, compassionate, and all sufficient Savior. (Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 18:11; Jn. 1:1-14, 3:16; Acts 15:11; I Cor. 3:5-7; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 2:4-5; Phil. 2:6-7; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:9,14,18, 4:14, 7:25-26, 12:24; I Jn. 4:10)

### REGENERATION

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 It 1st a miraculous result of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God.

(Jn. 3:3,6-8; Acts 16:30-33; Rm. 6:23, 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 5:17, 19; Col. 2:13; II Ptr. 1:4)

### REPENTANCE

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance is a personal act prompted by the Holy Spirit, and consists of a change of mind and heart which grows out of godly sorrow. Repentance is a prerequisite to salvation.

(Lk. 13:3; II Cor. 7:9-10)

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### FAITH

We believe the Scriptures teach that faith is the medium through which Christ is received by the soul as its sacrifice and Savior. It is an assent of the mind and a consent of the heart, consisting mainly of belief and trust. The Testimony of God is implicitly accepted and behaved as true, while Christ is unreservedly trusted for salvation.

(Ps. 34:22, 125:1; Jer. 17:7; Acts 16:31; Rom. 1:17, 3:22,5:1, 10:4,10; II Cor. 5:7; Heb. 1:1,6; Jms. 2:23)

### JUSTIFICATION

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness we have done but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which faith, His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; \_that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures us every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

(Matt. 9:6; Jn. 1:16; Acts 10:43, 13:39; Rom. 4:25, 5:1-2,9,11, 8:1; I Cor. 1:30-31)

### ADOPTION

We believe the Scriptures teach that adoption is a gracious act by which the Father, for the sake of Christ, accepts believers to the estate and condition of sons, by a new and spiritual birth; sending the Spirit of adoption into their hearts. As children, they become members of the family of God, entitled to all the rights, privileges and promises of children; and, if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ, to the heritage of the saints on earth, and an inheritance reserved in heaven for them.

(Rom. 8:14-16; Gal. 3:26, 4:5-7; Eph. 1:5; Heb. 12:7; I Pt 2:9-10; I Jn. 3:1)

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### SANCTIFICATION

We believe sanctification as taught in the Scriptures is a setting apart of the believer by the Holy Spirit and is threefold:

A. The believer receives the imputed holiness of Christ at the moment he trusts in Christ as Savior and is therefore counted as righteous and perfect in Christ.

(1 Cor. 1:30; II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 10:14)

B. The believer is commanded to be holy in thought, speech and life, and to grow in likeness to Christ. Such Christian living is brought about by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Rom. 8:13; I Cor. 10:31; Eph. 4:11-16; I Pt 1:15-16; II Ptr. 1:15-16; II Ptr. 3:18)

C. The believer is going to be made perfect in every respect at the return of Christ.

(I Cor, 15:42-49; Phil. 3:20-21; I Jn. 3:2)

### THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe the Scriptures teach that such as are truly regenerate, being born of the Holy Spirit, will not utterly fall away and finally perish; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence of God watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

(Matt. 6:30-33; Jn 6:39,66-69, 8:31, 10:27,29, 13:10,18; Rom. 8:28-29; Phil. 1:6, 2:12-13; Heb. 1:14, 13:5; I Ptr 1:5; I Jn 2:19,27-28, 3:9, 5:18; Jude 24-25)

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that a local Baptist Church is a congregation of immersed believers whose Savior and Head is the Lord Jesus Christ. They are 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 it's officers are Pastor(s), Deacons, and other designated officers, whose qualifications, claims and duties, are dearly 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, and the building up and edifying of the saints. 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 it is Scriptural for Bible believing 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 and final judge of the measure and method of it's cooperation, on all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline and benevolence. (Matt. 18:15-20, 28:20; Jn. 14:15, 15:10; Acts 2:41,47, 5:11, 8:1, 14:23, 15:22; Rom. 16:17-20; I Cor. 4:17, 11:2; Phil. 1:1; I Thess. 4:2; II Thess. 3:7; I Tm. 3; Titus 1; Heb. 10:25; I Jn. 4:21; II Jn. 6)

### BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### Baptism

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of the believer in water, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, with the authority of the local Church, to show forth in solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and our union with Him in death and resurrection, and is prerequisite to the privileges of Church membership. (Matt. 3:6,16, 28:19-20; Jn. 3:23; Acts 2:41-42, 8:27-39; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12)

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER (CONTINUED)

#### The Lord's Supper

We believe the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of the death of Christ until He comes again; to be preceded always by solemn self-examination. The bread signifying the Body of Christ that was broken that we might be made whole, and the fruit of the vine signifying that His blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins.

(Matt. 26:26-30; I Cor. 11:23-28)

### CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of Divine Appointment for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for and conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the sole Lord of the conscience, and coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. Civil rulers have no rights of control over or interference with religious matters.

(Ps. 2, 72:11; Dan.' 3:15-18, 6:7,10; Matt. 10:28, 22:21,23; Acts 4:18-20; 5:29; Rom. 13:1-7; 14:4; I Tim. 2:1-8; Titus 3:1; 1 Ptr. 2:13-17; Rev. 19:16)

### THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

We believe the Scriptures teach 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 are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in this life and after death; in the everlasting bliss of the saved, and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

(Gen. 18:23; Ps. 10:4; Prov. 14:32; !sa. 5:20, 55:6-7, 57:21; fer. 15:19; Matt. 7:13-14; Lk. 11:23-26, 12:4-5, 16:25; Jn 3:36, 8:21-24, 12:25-26; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 1:17, 6:16, 18, 22; I Cor. 11:32; Gal. 3:10; I Jn 2:29, 3:7, 5:19)



## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### SATAN OR THE DEVIL

We believe the Scriptures teach the personality of Satan; that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire.

(Matt. 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10)

### THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND THE RESURRECTION

We believe in the bodily, personal, pre-tribulational return of Jesus Christ to catch away His Church; and the pre-millennial return to earth to judge the living nations and to set up His Kingdom on earth.

(Matt. 25:31-46; I Thess. 4:13-18; Rev. 19:11-21)

We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of the dead; that believers who sleep in Jesus will be raised at the coming of Christ for His Church and caught up with the transformed living saints to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall they ever be with the Lord; and that the wicked dead will be raised at the close of the millennial Kingdom and stand in their bodies at the Great White Throne of Judgment to meet their final doom.

(John 5:21-30; I Thess. 4:16; Rev 7:9-17)

### MISSIONS

The command to give the Gospel to the world is dear and unmistakable and this commission is the responsibility of all believers.

(Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; ]n. 20:21; Acts 1:8; Rom. 10:13-15)

### THE GRACE OF GIVING

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith.

“Therefore ye abound in everything, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us see that you abound in this grace also.. (II Cor 8:7). We believe that since we are not under the law we do not give of our means because of necessity nor according to a prescribed amount, but as God has prospered us. However, we ought to give at least as much as the law required and more. Thus the tithe is a good guide for our minimum giving. (Matt. 23:23; I Cor. 16:1-3)

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

### SEPARATION FROM ALL FORMS OF APOSTASY AND FALSE GOSPELS

We believe modernism, liberalism, the social gospel, and any other gospel, other than the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, are not of God, but are of the antichrist; and that we as believers should have no fellowship with such unfruitful works of darkness, and that we are called upon to separate from all alliances, Churches, lodges, groups and organizations that sanction such doctrines.

(Matt. 7:15-20; Acts 19:8-10; Rom. 16:17-18; II Cor. 6:14-18; Gal. 1:8-10; Eph. 5:11; Phil. 3:17-19; II Thess. 3:6; I Tim. 6:3-6; II Ptr. 2:1-3; I Jn 2:22; II Jn. 7-11; Jude 4; Rev. 18:4-5)