

BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

Trinity Baptist Church is a Southern Baptist congregation and participates in the national, state and local levels of Baptist life. While Southern Baptist churches are autonomous and participation in these various levels of Baptist life is voluntary, it is important to note that Baptists have come together to write a "statement of faith" for participating churches that has been updated through the years. This statement of faith is called the Baptist Faith and Message and it is NOT a creed or a confession of faith that is binding on any particular Baptist individual or church. As one noted Baptist historian has written, "(These confessions of faith) express consensus and, thus, rarely satisfy extreme partisans on either side". This statement is found in "The Baptist Heritage: Four Centuries of Baptist Witness" by Leon McBeth.

Southern Baptists came together and wrote a statement of faith in 1925 and updated it in 1963 and 2000. Together, they are a good picture of what Baptists believe and what we hold dear. Because they are not creedal and every Baptist church is autonomous, every Baptist church has the freedom to interpret scripture for themselves, but these statements are wonderful statements written by very capable Baptist theologians. While scripture is held in the highest regard, Trinity Baptist Church uses these statements as a guide for church doctrine and church life.

CORE VALUES

- We believe Trinity Baptist Church is a divinely ordained body of baptized believers who have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We are a New Testament church associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel.
- We believe that Trinity Baptist Church is an autonomous body, operating under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. As members of this church, we are equally responsible to collectively and individually seek, initiate and participate in being witnesses for Christ by proclaiming the gospel and endeavoring to make disciples of all people.
- We believe the Holy Bible is the divinely inspired record of God's revelation to all people.
- We believe that God is the one and only living and true God. He is the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver and Ruler of the universe.
- We believe God pursues a Love Relationship with all people.
- We believe that the eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.
- We believe Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was born of a the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died on the cross for the redemption of all people from sin, was raised from the dead and will return to earth in power and glory to judge the world and gather believers from all generations to live eternally with Him in heaven.
- We believe that all people have sinned and have broken fellowship with God.
- We believe that only the grace of God can bring us into His holy fellowship and enable all people to fulfill the creative purpose of God. Through God's grace, Salvation (regeneration, sanctification and glorification) is freely offered to all who accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

- We believe that prayer is a foundational discipline in communicating with God to seek His direction for the decisions and actions of this church.
- We believe the worship of God is biblically grounded in the life of the Christian church. We worship God because He is God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and in response to His mighty and gracious acts of creation, redemption and regeneration.
- We believe each member of this church is responsible to:
 - Reach out to all people who have not experienced the grace of God with a credible witness of the good news of repentance and faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ.
 - Develop their spiritual gifts in order to lead all who attend here to become mature followers of Jesus Christ through Bible study and training in living a Christian Life.
 - Demonstrate spiritual maturity through service to others.
 - Adapt the ministries of this church to meet the needs of people living in our community.
 - Be good stewards of God's financial blessings through personal and corporate stewardship.
 - Make this church a place where all people can find the comfort of God at all times.
 - Care for and minister to one another through the difficulties of life.
 - Participate in planting New Testament churches in mission locations throughout our community, nation and the world.