

Baptists are non-creedal people. No document except the Bible can sum up our beliefs. However, we are people of great conviction. The following statements are offered as examples of the beliefs that Baptists traditionally espouse.

GOD

We believe there is only one true God. He is creator, sustainer and ruler of the universe. He exists eternally in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:1; Psalms 90:2; II Corinthians 13:14; Revelation 4)

Jesus Christ

We Believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, co-equal with the Father. He relinquished His place at the right hand of God, the Father, to become fully human, conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a life of perfect obedience, sinless before God.

We Believe He offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying upon the cross. His sacrifice is made effective to those who repent of their sins and receive Him. He arose from the grave after three days demonstrating His power over sin and death. He ascended into heaven and remains at the right hand of God. He will return to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5, 14; Romans 1:3-4; Philippians 2:5-10; Colossians 1:15-18; John 1:12, I Corinthians 15:3-4; I Timothy 6:14-16; Revelation 5).

Holy Spirit

We Believe in the Holy Spirit, co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for salvation. He is present in each believer, equipping them with the power for holy living, granting them the knowledge of truth, giving them gifts for ministry and guiding them in doing what is right (II Corinthians 3:17; 12:4; John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; Galatians 5:22-25).

The Bible

We Believe the Bible is God's recorded Word to us. It was written by inspired individuals, under the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it is inspired by God, we hold it to be truth without any mixture of error in faith and practice.

We Believe it to be our only authority for Christian faith and practice. It reveals the character of God, His plan of redemption for mankind and principles for holy living (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21; Psalms 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5)

Humanity

We Believe people are created in the image of God. We were designed to be like Him in character above all other creatures. Thus, every individual is loved by God and should be loved by God's people.

We Believe each person willfully chooses to rebel against God by claiming self-determination rather than obedience to God's sovereignty. This behavior is called sin. Sin separates people from God and produces the evil in our world. People are helpless to overcome sin apart from the power of God (Genesis 1:26-30; Psalms 8; Isaiah 53:6; 59:2; Romans 3:23; John 18:22; Matthew 3:7)

Salvation

We Believe that God overcomes the penalty and domination of sin through Jesus Christ. This salvation is a gift of grace received in faith, not of works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ can we be saved from sin's penalty. We Believe salvation begins with the act of Justification whereby God declares us to be righteous because of the atoning death of Jesus on the cross. When we repent of our sins we are forgiven. We stand no longer condemned by God. God continues His work of regeneration by sanctifying believers. Sanctification is the act of the Holy Spirit, who sets apart and transforms believers to accomplish the purposes of God. Glorification is the final blessing of salvation and is received at the resurrection of all believers (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6; Romans 12:1-3; II Corinthians 5:19; Romans 5:1; 8:1; Philippians 1:6).

The Church

We Believe all true believers become members of the body of Christ, His Church. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church.

We Believe the local church is an expression of the body of Christ for a specific community and mission. Believers gather to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of baptism and communion, fellowship, service to the body through the development of gifts and talents and outreach to the world. Every member is a minister. This local church is to work together in love and unity, intent on the purpose of glorifying Christ (Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; John 13:33-34; Acts 2:41-42, 47; Romans 12; I Corinthians 1:2; 14:33; Galatians 4:1-7; Colossians 1:8; I Peter 2:4-10)

Eternal Destiny

We Believe that humanity was created mortal. Death seals the eternal destiny of each person. For all people there will be a resurrection from death, some to everlasting life and some to everlasting shame and contempt. This judgment will affirm God's righteousness and justice. Believers will continue in everlasting communion with God known as eternal life. Unbelievers will be forever separated from God into a condemnation known as Hell (Daniel 12:2; John 3:23; Romans 2:6-8; 4:21-26; I Corinthians 15:53-54; I Timothy 6:16; Revelation 20:15; John 17:3).

Faith and Practice

We Believe that Scripture is the final authority in matters of faith and practice. In the essentials of faith we will stand united and strong (Ephesians 4:4-6). In non-essential elements of faith we will offer liberty (Romans 14:1,4,12,22). In all matters, we will be gracious and loving (I Corinthians. 13:2).

Associations

Trinity is dually aligned with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (www.thefellowship.info) & the Southern Baptist Convention (www.sbc.org). We are also affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of Georgia (www.cbfga.org) the Colquitt County Baptist Association (<http://colquittbaptist.org>) and the Georgia Baptist Convention (www.gabaptist.org).