



# LOVETTSVILLE

BAPTIST CHURCH

## Statement of Faith

*TOGETHER WITH THE CHURCH IN ALL AGES,*

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us humans and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried, and the third day he rose again, according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father, and he shall come again, with glory, to judge the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe in one holy universal and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

*FURTHERMORE,*

### **The Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God, written by men inspired by the Holy Spirit, and reveals without error the only way of salvation, the principles by which God will judge the world, and all truths necessary for us to live for his glory. It will remain, to the end of time, the supreme standard and final authority by which all matters of life and doctrine are to be tested.

### **The True God**

We believe that there is only one true and living God. He is the Creator, Sustainer, and Ruler of heaven and earth. He is perfect in holiness, infinite in all his perfections, and worthy of all possible honor, trust, and love. He exists eternally within one Godhead as three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are equal in every divine perfection yet carry out distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

### **Humanity and the Fall**

We believe that God created human beings, male and female, in his own image to serve as God's agents to care for, manage, and govern creation, living in holy and devoted fellowship with their Maker. However, by choosing to disobey, humanity fell from that holy and happy state. As a result, all human beings are now sinners, not by external compulsion but by choice. They, by nature, entirely lack the holiness that is required by the law of God and are actively inclined to evil. Therefore, they are under just condemnation to a sentence of eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

### **The Way of Salvation**

We believe the salvation of God's people is completely by grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God. By the appointment of the Father, he freely took to himself our nature, but without sin. He honored the divine law by his personal obedience and made a full atonement for our sins by his substitutionary death. He rose from the dead and is now enthroned in heaven. Jesus, the Son, unites in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections and, as such, is qualified in every way to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.

### **Justification**

We believe that justification is the free gift by which those who believe in Christ are declared righteous. It includes the pardon of sin, and the promise of eternal life on the basis of Christ's shed blood and His righteousness imputed to us. It is given freely by God, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the atoning work of Christ. It brings us into peace and favor with God and secures every spiritual blessing for time and eternity.

### **The Freeness of Salvation**

We believe that salvation is offered freely to all in the gospel, and that it is the immediate duty of all to accept the gospel by a humble, penitent, and obedient faith. There is nothing that prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel, which results in his just condemnation.

### **Grace in Regeneration**

We believe sinners must be regenerated, or born again, to be saved. Regeneration consists of God's gift of a holy inclination to the mind. It is accomplished in a way that is beyond our comprehension. It is carried out by the power of the Holy Spirit using divine truth to obtain our voluntary obedience to the gospel. The proper evidence of regeneration appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.

### **Repentance and Faith**

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties brought about in our souls by the Holy Spirit in regeneration, whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with true sorrow, confession and pleas for

mercy. At the same time, we receive and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as the only and all-sufficient Savior and thereafter look to him as our Prophet, Priest, and King.

### **God's Purpose of Grace**

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners. Being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, election includes all the means in connection with the end of salvation. It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable. It utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, gratitude, praise, love, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy, and is the foundation of Christian assurance.

### **Sanctification**

We believe sanctification is the process by which we are made partakers of God's holiness, according to his purpose. Sanctification is a progressive work. It begins in regeneration and continues in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and by God's appointed means. These means include the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, prayer, and the oversight and fellowship of a local church.

### **The Perseverance of the Saints**

We believe all genuine believers endure to the end. Their persevering obedience to Christ and attachment to his people are the primary marks distinguishing them from superficial professors. A special providence watches over their welfare, and they are kept by the power of God through faith to salvation.

### **The Harmony of the Law and the Gospel**

We believe the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of his moral governance. It is holy, just, and good. Fallen human beings are unable to fulfill the precepts of the law, which the Scriptures attribute entirely to their love of sin. A chief purpose of the gospel is to deliver people from this love and to restore them, through a mediator, to a sincere obedience to the holy law. The visible Church's means of grace share this great purpose.

### **The Church**

We believe a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, joined together by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. A visible church observes the ordinances of Christ, submits to his laws, and exercises the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by his word. The only scriptural officers of the church are Elders (also called Overseers or Pastors) and Deacons, whose qualifications and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and to Titus.

### **Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This demonstrates, 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. We likewise believe that the Lord's Supper is an act of obedience whereby Christians eat of the bread and drink of the cup to commemorate Christ's death, to

confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge, and renewal of their communion with him and with the Church.

### **The Lord's Day**

We believe the first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and points to the rest that awaits the people of God. It should include exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Activities on the Lord's Day should be commensurate with the Christian's conscience under the lordship of Jesus Christ.

### **Civil Government**

We believe civil government exists by divine appointment for the benefit and good order of human society. Government officials are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed. The principle exception is for matters contrary to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

### **The World to Come**

We believe in the personal, glorious, and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, who will raise the dead from the grave, and will bring both the living and the dead into final judgment. We believe that a solemn separation will then take place, that the wicked will be judged and sentenced to endless conscious punishment, that the righteous will enter into endless joy, and that this judgment will forever fix the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness. Those belonging to Christ will have eternal life in the new heavens and the new earth, and will dwell forever with God in righteousness, peace, and joy to the glory of God.

### **Marriage & Family**

We believe that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime, and this reflects the union between Christ and his Church. The husband is to gently lead and sacrificially love his wife as Christ loved the Church, and the wife is to graciously submit herself to her husband as the Church willingly submits to Christ. We believe that children bear the image of God from the moment of conception and are a blessing and inheritance from the Lord. Parents are to patiently lead their children in the ways of Christ by intentional instruction, gracious discipline, and consistent example based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents for the glory of God and their ultimate good.