

Garden View Baptist Church - Doctrinal Statement

PREAMBLE

Having placed our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for personal salvation, and believing the Bible to be the basis for principles of doctrine and practice; we, therefore, band ourselves together as a body of immersed believers in Jesus Christ and adopt for our government, plan of worship and service, the following . . .

PURPOSE

The purpose for which this church shall exist shall be the public worship of God and the growth of His Church, through the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavor and Christian education, training and fellowship.

CHURCH COVENANT

As responsible members of this local church, we joyfully covenant together to:

- 1.) Honor and serve Jesus Christ in the work of His church.
(Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:11-13)
- 2.) Exhibit and promote Christian love, unity and forgiveness within the church.
(John 13:34-35; Philippians 2:2; Colossians 3:13)
- 3.) Respect our spiritual leaders and submit to their God given authority.
(1 Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17)
- 4.) Practice sound doctrine and separation from theological liberalism.
(1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:14-19)
- 5.) Support the church through faithful prayer, attendance, service and regular giving.
(Philippians 4:6; Hebrews 10:24-25; Malachi 3:10; 2 Corinthians 9:7)
- 6.) Practice spiritual integrity and pursue spiritual growth, personally and within our families. (Colossians 3:15-17; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 2 Peter 1:5-8)
- 7.) Practice personal evangelism and participate in world wide missionary outreach.
(Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 5:20; 2 Timothy 2:2)

CHURCH DOCTRINE

WE BELIEVE that the Bible, God's infallible Word (Psalm 19:7), was given by verbal (the very words - Jeremiah 1:9; Ezekiel 3:4) and plenary (extending to all parts - 2 Timothy 3:16) inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16) as the sole and final authority in all matters of faith and conduct (Romans 15:4; 16:26). We believe that the canon (those writings considered Divinely inspired and authoritative by the early church) consists of sixty-six books which are inerrant (Psalm 12:6; 18:3; Proverbs 30:5; Isaiah 45:19; John 10:35) in ALL matters on which they speak, as given in the original autographs and accurately preserved in manuscript and copies.

We believe that the purpose of the Bible is to reveal God's redemptive plan (Romans 16:26) for man, and to thoroughly equip the child of God for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16). Whereas there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is but one true interpretation and it is to be found as one diligently applies the grammatical - historical method of interpretation under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:10-14).

WE BELIEVE that there is one, and only one, living and true God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10), Infinite (Ephesians 1:9, 11), Perfect Spirit (John 4:24) and Personal Being (Exodus 3:14), the Creator (Genesis 1-2), Preserver (Matthew 10:29-30), and Supreme Ruler of the universe (Daniel 4:34-35), inexpressibly glorious in Holiness (Exodus 15:11); and all other perfections, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love (Mark 12:30); that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19); equal in every Divine perfection (John 10:30; 2 Corinthians 3:18); and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Ephesians 2:18).

WE BELIEVE in Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity (Matthew 28:19), the eternal and only begotten Son of God (John 1:1, 18), conceived of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20), virgin-born (Luke 1:34-35), sinless (1 Peter 2:22), and unchanging (Hebrews 13:8). We believe that Jesus Christ is truly God (Romans 9:5; Titus 2:13) and truly Perfect Man (Hebrews 2:14-15; 4:15), perpetually possessing (Hebrews 13:8) two whole, perfect and distinct natures, inseparably united in one person, without composition, confusion, or division.

We believe that the death of Jesus Christ was voluntary (by free choice, not forced; John 10:17-18), vicarious (on behalf of others; 1 Peter 3:18), propitiatory (covering and turning aside God's wrath; 1 John 2:2; 4:10), redemptive (ransoming by payment; Galatians 4:4-5), substitutionary (in the place of others; 1 Peter 2:24) and sacrificial (an offering for sin; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 9:28).

We believe that Jesus Christ was crucified, buried, and raised again on the third day according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). The resurrection of Jesus Christ was a bodily resurrection

(John 20:26-28; Luke 24:39), followed by an ascension to the right hand of the Father (Acts 1:9; 2:33; Hebrews 1:3) in a glorified state (Philippians 3:21), appearing for believers as Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:25-26) and Advocate (1 John 2:1), sovereignly ruling all things (Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 2:7-8).

We believe in "The Blessed Hope", the personal, pre-tribulational and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to Rapture His redeemed ones (Titus 2:13); and His subsequent return to the earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom (Revelation 19:11-16).

WE BELIEVE in the Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:8-11), and that He is the agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-14), indwelling (Romans 8:9), empowering (Acts 1:8), instructing (John 14:26), sanctifying (Titus 3:5), comforting (John 14:16), and sealing them unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14).

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of all His gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-11), and that the gifts of evangelists, pastors and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today (Ephesians 4:7-12), and that apostleship, prophecy, healings, speaking in tongues, and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established. We believe that God does heal and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own Will for the sick and afflicted (James 5:14-15).

WE BELIEVE that man was created by the special act of God, as recorded in Genesis 1:27 and Genesis 2:7. We believe that man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker (Genesis 1:27); but through the temptation of Satan he voluntarily transgressed and fell from his holy state (Genesis 3:6-24); consequently all mankind are now sinners (Romans 5:19); not by constraint, but choice (Isaiah 53:6); being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil (Romans 8:7-8), and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin (Ephesians 2:13); without defense or excuse (Ezekiel 18:19-20).

WE BELIEVE that salvation is experienced as man responds to God's invitation and to the convincing and convicting work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8-9; 1 Corinthians 12:3). This response involves turning to God in repentance and placing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21). This conversion is made possible alone (Acts 4:12), by the atoning work of Jesus Christ (Romans 3:25; 1 John 2:2). The results of Christ's atonement for believers are: reconciliation with God (Romans 5:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:19), eternal redemption (Galatians 3:13; 4:4-5; Hebrews 9:12), the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:13; Colossians 1:14), justification (a standing of righteousness before God; Romans 3:24; 5:9; 8:1) and adoption (full sonship into the family of God; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5-6).

WE BELIEVE the church is a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of immersed believers (1 Corinthians 1:1-13); associated by covenant in the faith, worship, work, and fellowship of the Gospel (Acts 2:41-42); observing the ordinances of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:2); governed by His laws (Matthew 28:20); and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word (Ephesians 4:7); seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28:20); that its only Scriptural officers are Bishop or Pastor and Deacons (Philippians 1:1); whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

We believe that the local visible church of Christ is a voluntary and independent autonomous group of immersed believers (Matthew 18:15-18); that is a pure democracy, which organically can join nothing (Acts 13:1-3; 15:22); and that it has the power and right within itself to confess its own faith in accordance with the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:15); and that each congregation recognizes its own democratic self-containing government as its highest authority for carrying out the will of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 1:23-26).

WE BELIEVE that both Christian baptism and the Lord's Supper are each a memorial, a symbol and a prophecy (Romans 6:3; 1 Corinthians 11:25-26). We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water (Acts 8:36-39); into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19); 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 (Romans 6:4); that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of church membership. We believe that the memorial use of the bread and fruit of the vine are to commemorate together the dying life of Christ (1 Corinthians 11:26); preceded always by solemn self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28).

WE BELIEVE in the personality of Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12 - Devil or Satan, Revelation 20:2), an angel ordained as a guardian cherub (Ezekiel 28:14) who fell into sin through pride and rebellion (Isaiah 14:13-15; Ezekiel 28:15-16). The devil and a multitude of rebellious angels were cast out from God's presence and were doomed to future condemnation in everlasting fire (Matthew 25:4; Revelation 20:10).

Satan is ever active blinding the minds of the unbelievers from the light of the Gospel (2 Corinthians 4:4). He is also roaming the world seeking those whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8) within the limits of God's sovereign control (Job 1:12; 2:6). Of the angels that followed Satan, some are actively at work against the work of the Lord (Luke 8:30-31); Ephesians 6:12) and some are cast into Hell where they are being held for the final judgment (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6).

WE BELIEVE that civil government is of Divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society (Romans 13:1-7); and that civil authorities are to be prayed for conscientiously

honored and obeyed (Matthew 22:21); except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 5:29); who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth (Matthew 23:10); and that church and state should be separated, the state owing the church protection and full freedom (1 Timothy 2:1); no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be preferred above another by the state (James 4:12); the state should not impose taxes for the support of any form of religion; a free church in a free state is the Christian ideal (1 Corinthians 3:5).

WE BELIEVE that at death the redeemed pass immediately into presence of Christ and there remain in joyful fellowship until the first resurrection, that is, their bodily resurrection unto life. The unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the second resurrection, that is, their bodily resurrection unto damnation (Daniel 12:2; Luke 16:22-23; 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21-26; 3:10-11, 21; Revelation 20:11-15).

We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy concerning the church is the personal, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to remove (Rapture) from the earth His waiting church and to reward them according to their works (John 14:2-3; Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 15:51-53; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; Titus 2:11-13; Revelation 3:10).

We believe that after this removal from the earth the righteous judgments of God will be poured out during the seven year period of tribulation, known as the seventieth week of Daniel. These judgments will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory with His saints to the earth to destroy His enemies and to restore Israel to her land. (Daniel 9:27; 12:1; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 24:15-31; 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 16:1-19, 21; 19:1-21).

We believe that after the judgment Christ will establish His Messianic kingdom in which the resurrection saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the earth for a period of one thousand years. (Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:1-16; 65:17-25; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Revelation 19:11, 14; 20:1-6).

We believe that at the close of the millennial reign the unsaved dead will be raised and committed to eternal punishment and the saved will enter the eternal state of glory with God. Having fulfilled His redemptive and kingdom missions as the son of Abraham and the son of David, Christ will deliver up the kingdom to God the Father that the Triune God may reign forever in all spheres. (Mark 9:43-48; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:1-4; 22:5, 11).