



*Eden*  
Baptist Church

# statement of faith



# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## OF EDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

### **The Bible**

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Bible are the inspired Word of God in the original autographs (2 Tim 3:16), that the Bible was written by men uniquely borne along in their compositional efforts by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet 1:20-21), and that these Scriptures are without error. The Bible is the final and fully sufficient authority in all matters of faith and practice. By it all human conduct, creeds, laws, and opinions must be tried.

### **The Trinity**

We believe in the triunity of the Godhead. There is one God (Deut 6:4), eternally existing in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Mt 28:18, 19; Jn 15:26; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor 13:14; Heb 1:8).

### **God the Father**

We believe in God the Father who is of none, neither begotten nor proceeding. We rejoice that the Father directs the affairs of mankind (Dan 2:21; 4:17), that He hears and answers prayer (Jn 15:16), and that He saves from sin and eternal damnation all who come to Him by faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Jn 6:44; 3:16, 18).

### **God the Son**

We believe in Jesus Christ who is eternally begotten of the Father as His unique and eternal Son (Jn 1:1-18; 3:16; 1 Jn 1:1-3), conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit (Mt 1:18, 22-23), sinless in life (1 Pet 2:21-22), whose substitutionary death was not only exemplary but constituted a voluntary sacrifice of Himself in the sinner's place—the Just dying for the unjust (Rom 3:25-26; 2 Cor 5:14; 1 Tim 2:6; 1 Pet 2:24). We believe He ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9) and was exalted to the right hand of the Father

(Heb 1:3; 10:12). We believe He intercedes for His people (Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25), will physically return in the air for His church prior to the seven year tribulation (1 Thess 4:13-17; 5:9), and will return to earth at the close of the tribulation to establish His millennial Kingdom (Rev 19:11-16; 20:4-6) which He will hand over to the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority, and power (1 Cor 15:24-28).

### **God the Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who is eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son. He is the third person of the Godhead (Jn 14:26; Acts 5:34) who convicts (Jn 16:8, 11), regenerates (Titus 3:5), baptizes (Acts 10:44-45; 11:15-17; 1 Cor 12:13), indwells (Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19-20), seals (Eph 1:13) and fills (Eph 5:18) the believer. We believe Spirit baptism takes place at the moment of regeneration (Acts 10:44, 47; 11:16) and that miraculous spiritual gifts, having fulfilled their attesting and verifying role, are no longer normative in the church today (Rom 15:19; Heb 2:3-4).

### **Creation**

We believe the early chapters of Genesis constitute an accurate record of actual events and that God thus created the physical universe in six solar days apart from evolutionary means and sustains and rules the created order with which He is never to be confused (Gen 1:1-2:25; Jn 1:3; Col 1:15-17; Heb 1:2-3).

### **Spirit Beings**

We believe God created a great company of sinless spirit beings (Col 1:16; Heb 12:22), that one of these angels rebelled against the Creator thus becoming Satan and led a host of angels in rebellion against the Lord (Ezek 28:12-17; Rev 12:7-9). Satan is now the god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness (2 Cor 4:4). Operating today under God's sovereign rule, He is destined to the judgment of eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Job 1:1-2:10; Lk 10:17-20; Mt 25:41; Rev 20:10).

## **Mankind**

We believe that man was created sinless under the law of His Maker but that by voluntary transgression He fell from this sinless state in consequence of which all mankind is now naturally depraved and under the condemnation of God (Jn 3:18, 36; Eph 2:3; Rom 1:18; 3:9-20; 5:12). The only remedy for this fallen condition is Holy Spirit regeneration by the unmerited favor of God through personal saving faith in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ as full payment for one's sins and in His glorious resurrection in defeat of sin and death (Jn 3:14-18; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Eph 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet 1:18-21). We believe justification is an irrevocable act of the sovereign God by which He, through the work of Jesus Christ, secures the believer for all eternity (Jn 10:27-29; Rom 8:30-39; 9:14-24).

## **Final Destinies**

We believe the spirits of the saved do at death immediately pass into God's presence (2 Cor 5:8; Phil 1:23) and there remain until the resurrection of the body when spirit and body reunited shall stand before Christ for judgment and reward after which the believer will be associated with Christ forever in a state of sinless perfection (2 Cor 5:10; 1 Thess 4:13-17). The spirits of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final resurrection at the end of the millennium when they will be cast into the lake of fire to suffer the agony and punishment of everlasting separation from the presence of the Lord (Lk 16:19-26; 2 Thess 1:6-9; Rev 20:11-15).

## **The Church**

We believe the Church is a spiritual body of which Christ is head and of which all regenerated people are members (Mt 16:18; 1 Cor 12:12,13; Eph 1:22; 4:15; 5:23,30; Col 1:18). We believe that a local church is an assembly of born again believers in the gospel (Acts 2:38-42) who are baptized on an acceptable confession of faith (Acts 10:47-48); associated for worship, service, and fellowship (Acts 2:42; Heb 10:25); and having two offices: pastor/elder/overseer and deacon (Phil 1:1; 1 Tim 3:1-13). To the local church is committed the ordinances of believer's baptism by immersion and the Lord's

Supper (Mt 28:18-20; 1 Cor 11:23-26), the responsibility to proclaim the gospel of Christ (Acts 1:8; Mt 28:18-20), and the discipleship of believers (Mt 28:20; Eph 4:7-16; Jude 3). We believe the local church is to be self governing and free from hierarchical interference from outside ecclesiastical organizations (Acts 6:1-6; 15:1-4; 1 Cor 5:1-5; 6:1-6).

## **Separation**

We believe God's people are to remain holy and loyal unto God alone. This principle includes the following:

- Political separation: We believe the church is to be separate from the state, not organically united with it, or controlled in spiritual matters by it (Lk 20:25; Acts 5:29).
- Personal separation: We believe the saved must separate themselves from worldliness by resisting sinful behavior, the spirit of the age, and false teachers (Josh 24:15; Eph 5:15-18; 1 Jn 2:15 17; 2 Cor 6:14; 7:1; Titus 3:10; 2 Jn 10-11; 1 Jn 4:1).
- Ecclesiastical separation: We believe in the separation of the church from apostasy. We believe we must reprove apostates, not commend them, and reject their fellowship, not unite with them in spiritual endeavor. We believe loyalty to Christ demands separation from religious groups who partner in spiritual endeavor with false teachers and who tolerate religious unbelief in their midst.
- Disciplinary separation: We must expel from our assembly any believer who continues in unrepentant disobedience to the Word of God (Mt 18:15-17; 2 Thess 3:6,14,15, Rom 16:17; 1 Cor 5:1-11).

**Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is established by divine appointment (Gen 9:6; Rom 13:1). Government officials are to be prayed for, honored, and obeyed except in any matter which forces us to personally or corporately violate the will of God (Dan 3:17-18; Acts 4:19; 5:27-29).

**Biblical Manhood and Womanhood**

We believe that both Adam and Eve were created in God's image, equal before God as persons yet distinct in their manhood and womanhood. We believe that marriage is between one man and one woman bound together in a lifelong covenantal relationship. Differences in masculine and feminine roles are ordained by God as part of the created order; thus, Adam's headship in marriage was established by God before the Fall and was not a result of sin. Both Testaments manifest the equally high value and dignity which God attaches to the roles of both men and women. The Bible also affirms the principle of male headship in the family and in the church (1 Cor 11:3; Eph 5:22-33; 1 Tim 2:11-14).