

Lebanon Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

Adopted March 25, 2018

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Bible is God's coherent and complete revelation of Himself to mankind, it's very words of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek bearing the mark of divine inspiration, being our all-sufficient rule of faith and practice, authoritative for "doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness," Christ focused, inerrant in the original manuscripts, and correctly interpreted through a consistent literal-historical-grammatical methodology (Matt. 5:17-18; John 16:12-15; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

2. The Godhead

We believe that there is one and only one, living and triune God, eternally existing in three coequal and coeternal Persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), sharing the exact same attributes, power, glory, and essence. We believe that God as Father exercises sovereign rule over all creation as part of and consistent with the essence and attributes of Deity (Deut. 6:4; Ps. 24:1; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Cor.13:14; Heb. 1:1-3).

3. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that Adam (the first man) and Eve (the first woman) were created perfect in body, soul, and spirit according to the image and likeness of God, and that through one act of personal sin, they died spiritually acquiring a sin nature, which is seminally transmitted through Adam to every member of the human race causing them to be born physically alive yet spiritually dead (the soul being in a state of total depravity), leaving them helpless to produce an eternal relationship with God apart from the saving work of Christ on the cross and God's policy of grace (Gen. 1:26-27; Isa. 64:6; Rom. 3:10-17, 22-23; 5:12; Eph. 2:8-9).

4. The Person and Work of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ (the eternal Son of God) became fully man without ceasing to be fully God, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man, and that arriving at the cross in a state of impeccability, having never sinned, He accomplished our redemption through His godforsaken death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. We believe that our redemption is made sure to us by His literal physical resurrection from the dead and that the Lord Jesus Christ is now seated in heaven, exalted at the right hand of God, where He is currently the Head of the church (which is His body) and intercedes for those who believe, functioning as their

High Priest and Advocate (Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; Rom. 3:24-25, 4:25, 8:34; Heb. 7:25, 9:24; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; 1 John 2:1-2).

5. The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead who began an unprecedented ministry during this age which began on the day of Pentecost; that this special ministry encompasses convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; restraining evil to some degree; baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ; permanently indwelling and sealing believers unto the day of redemption; empowering believers to execute the spiritual life through filling and teaching. We believe that the Holy Spirit's unique ministry during this age will terminate at the resurrection of the Church. (John 14:26; Acts 2:1-4; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14, 5:18; 2 Thess. 2:7).

We believe that spiritual gifts are given to believers in order for the Church to properly function. God the Holy Spirit sovereignly distributes these gifts to the Church Age believer at the moment of salvation. The spiritual gifts include, but are not limited to: pastor-teacher, evangelist, administration, giving, helps, mercy, and prayer. We believe that certain spiritual gifts, namely healing, working of miracles, tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy, and apostleship, were terminated at the completion of the canon of scripture and are no longer legitimately functioning today (1 Cor. 12:1-31; 13:10).

6. Salvation

We believe that salvation comes to the sinner only by faith alone in Christ alone. Salvation (which is the same in every age) is based solely on the substitutionary death of Christ on the Cross and can only be received through personal faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that the power of the preached Word of God coupled with the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit frees man's will from its depraved state, so that he can believe in Christ. When man believes, God regenerates (creates for the believer a human spirit), imputing eternal life and divine righteousness.

Salvation is both a completed and an ongoing activity. Regeneration (new birth) and justification (forgiveness and imputation of divine righteousness) are completed at the moment of faith alone in Christ alone. Sanctification (growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ) is the responsibility of the believer and continues throughout the believer's life on earth, terminating in glorification at the resurrection of the Church (John 1:12; Acts 4:12, 16:31; Eph. 1:7, 2:8-10; 1 Pet. 3:18).

7. Spirituality

We believe that spirituality is an absolute condition in the life of a believer in this age wherein he is filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is the sole

means by which the spiritual life is executed. We believe that spirituality is distinct from maturity, that a believer becomes carnal through any act of mental, verbal, or overt sin, and that spirituality (fellowship with Christ) is restored solely by personal confession of that sin to God the Father (John 15:7-8; Rom. 6:11-13; 1 Cor. 11:30-31; Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5:18; 1 John 1:9).

8. The Eternal Security of Believers

We believe that there is no sin that a believer can commit or creature powerful enough to cancel the salvation that God has accomplished, so that all believers are eternally secure in their salvation. All true believers of this age will be glorified at the resurrection of the Church, having been kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation (John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 John 5:13; 1 Pet. 1:5).

9. Marriage

We believe that marriage is a divine institution that unites in covenant commitment one man and one woman for a lifetime. The Christian marriage is a spiritual institution that unites for life a man and a woman who have each expressed personal faith in Jesus Christ for salvation and eternal life. United as one, they become a corporate testimony to the world of the Church's eternal relationship with Christ: The Church's reciprocal love and enduring respect for Christ expressed through the testimony of the wife, and Christ's unconditional love and enduring devotion to the Church expressed through the testimony of the husband. (Gen. 1:27-28, 2:20-24; Eccl. 9:9; Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 7:1-4; 2 Cor. 6:14-16; Eph. 5:22-33).

10. The Church

We believe that the universal Church, which is now the Body and will be the Bride of Christ, is only composed of Church Age (from Pentecost until the Resurrection) believers, who are united to the Body through the baptism of the Holy Spirit regardless of gender, race, national origin, or denominational membership (1 Cor. 12:12-14; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:25-27).

We believe the local visible New Testament church is an autonomous assembly of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the two ordinances of Christ, and whose officers are Elders and Deacons (Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Tit. 1:5-9).

11. The Church Ordinances of Believer's Baptism and Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ symbolizing his identification with the death (payment for sins), burial (rejection of self-righteous works), and resurrection (acceptance of divine works) of Christ and to declare his commitment to Christ and to His church. Every believer is mandated to be baptized. As a

church ordinance baptism is prerequisite to local church membership and observance of the Lord's Supper (Matt. 28:19-20).

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper; the unleavened bread symbolizing the sacrifice of His sinless life and the fruit of the vine symbolizing the atoning work of His substitutionary spiritual death on the cross. Every believer is mandated to observe the Lord's Supper until His return (1 Cor. 11:23-26).

12. The Person of Satan and His Fallen Angels

We believe that the first beings God created were supernatural beings called angels, that Lucifer was the highest ranking of these beings and through his pride committed the first sin, that one third of the angelic beings chose to follow him. We believe that God rendered a judgment of eternal condemnation in the Lake of Fire on these beings in eternity past, and that upon this judgment, though under appeal, Lucifer inherited the name of Satan and his followers became classified as demons. We believe that Satan is the author of sin, enemy of both God and man, that he has access to God for accusing the saints, and is currently ruler of the world. We believe that Satan will be barred from God's throne room and cast down to earth, that he will be bound in the Abyss for 1000 years during the millennial reign of Christ, released for a short period of time, then thrown forever into the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7, 38:4-6; Isa. 14:12-14; Matt. 4:1-11; 7:22, 25:41; John 12:31; 1 Pet. 5:8; Rev. 12:7-9, 20:1-3, 10).

13. The Blessed Hope

We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the coming of the Lord Jesus in the air to receive to Himself the dead in Christ (who are resurrected) and believers who are alive at His coming, otherwise known as the Rapture of the Church, and that this blessed hope is just as imminent now as it was during the Apostolic Era (1 Cor. 15:51-57; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Tit. 2:11-14).

14. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the physical, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth, where He will personally and visibly reign over the nations in His millennial kingdom. He will lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation, restore Israel to her own land, and fulfill the unconditional biblical covenants promised to her.

No one can know with certainty the timing of the Lord's return. Until He returns, the Church will endure general tribulation, but by means of the Holy Spirit will have great power and victory in praying for and working toward an abundant harvest of souls (Deut. 30:1-10; Isa. 11:9; Ezek. 37:21-28; Zech. 14:4-11; Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; Rev. 20:1-6).

15. The Eternal State

We believe that the soul and human spirit of each person who has believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul, human spirit, and body reunited will be associated with Him forever in glory. We believe the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the Great White Throne at the close of the Millennium, when soul and body reunited will be judged on the basis of their deeds (self-righteous good works) and cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (Luke 16:19-26; 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6, 7; Rev. 20:11-15).

Lebanon Baptist Church (LBC) Statement of Faith Overview Chart

Our statement of faith states that LBC is a Christian, Evangelical, Congregational, Baptist, and Premillennial church. Our statement of faith is divided into 15 articles which demonstrate that we can be called by these names.

- The Christian articles show what Christians have always believed, in other words, issues that there has traditionally been little dispute over in Christendom.
- The Evangelical category highlights the critical issues related to the gospel that were recovered during the Reformation.
- The Congregational, Baptist, and Premillennial categories highlight the distinctive features of LBC.

Notice that on the essentials of the gospel we stand undeniably with the rest of Christendom. We are distinctive in our adherence to believer's baptism, a symbolic Lord's Supper, congregational polity, and premillennial eschatology.

Article	Historically Christian	Evangelical	Congregational	Baptist	Premillennial
1. Holy Scriptures		*			
2. Godhead	*				
3. Total Depravity of Man	*				
4. Person & Work of Christ	*				
5. Person & Work of the Holy Spirit	*				
6. Salvation		*			
7. Spirituality		*			
8. Eternal Security of Believers		*			
9. Marriage	*				
10. Church			*		
11a. Baptism				*	
11b. Lord's Supper				*	
12. Person of Satan & Fallen Angels					*
13. Blessed Hope					*
14. Second Coming of Christ					*
15. Eternal State	*				