

Gillett Baptist Church

(An Independent Baptist Church in Gillett, WI)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

- 1. THE SCRIPTURES:** We believe that the scriptures, consisting of the Old and New Testaments, are verbally and plenary inspired by God and are inerrant in the original writings; that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and conduct, written by holy men of God as they were directed by the Holy Spirit. Is. 40:8; 11 Tim. 3:16-17; 11 Pet. 1:19-21.
- 2. GOD:** We believe there is one true and living God, an infinite Spirit, the Creator, Sustainer and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressively glorious in holiness, and worthy of all honor, trust and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the work of redemption. 1 John 5:7; John 4:24; 1 Cor. 8:6; 11 Cor. 13:14; Ex. 20:2-3; Deut. 6:4.
- 3. JESUS CHRIST:** We believe that Jesus Christ is the Eternal and the Only Begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin maid. That He was sinless in life, perfect in holiness and that He made complete atonement for the sins of the world by His suffering and His marvelous death. We believe that He is declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, and that He ascended into Heaven in the presence of His disciples; that He is now seated on the right hand of the Majesty on High, as our great High Priest, and that He personally and bodily will return in the air for His bride, the Church, and He will visibly, bodily and pre-millennially return with the Church to the earth to establish His Kingdom and to reign on David's Throne over the whole earth for a thousand years, and that all judgment has been committed unto Him by the Father. John 1:1, 2, 14; Matt. 1:18; 1 Pet. 2:22, 24; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Acts 1:11; 1 John 2:1; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; Jude 24; Rev. 19:11-16; Rev. 20:4; Jo. 5:22.
- 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature, and that He came to earth in fulfillment of the promise of our Lord and Savior to be our companion, our guide and our counselor; that He came to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and that He regenerates, sanctifies and comforts all those who confess that Jesus Christ is both Savior and Sovereign Lord. Jo. 16:7-11; 11 Cor. 3:6; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14; Jo. 16:13; 1 Jo. 2:20-27; Eph. 5:18.
- 5. SATAN:** We believe in the reality and personality of Satan; that he is a created being, once known as "the anointed cherub that covereth", that through pride and selfish ambition he fell from his holy estate; that he is the author of sin and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; that he is the unholy god of this age and the author of all the powers of darkness; that he is the spiritual father of all who are lost in sin; that he was judged by the death and resurrection of Christ; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire which is hell. Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:1-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10; Ezek. 28-12-19.
- 6. MAN:** We believe that God made man in His own image by direct creation and not by any evolutionary process. We believe the Scripture record of the Fall of Man through disobedience to God's Commandment, and thereby insured not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners in word, thought and deed; and are totally depraved in the sight of God and of himself; utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-15; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; @Eph. 2:1-3, 12.
- 7. SALVATION:** We believe that salvation is the gift of God and that all who receive Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior are born again by the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, and thereby become the Children of God Upon personal faith in the redeeming work of Christ on the cross, the sinner is justified on the ground of Christ's shed blood and is eternally saved by grace through faith in Christ, wholly apart from human merit and work. John 1:12; Acts 16:31; Rom. 4:5; 5:9; Eph. 2:9; 1 Pet. 1:18-19.
- 8. GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION:** We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sin is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in

connection with Divine Truth, so as to secure our voluntary fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life. Jo. 3:3; II Cor. 5:17; I Jo. 5:1; Jo. 3:6-7; Acts 16:30-33; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13.

9. THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS: We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever, and that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. Jo. 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; 1 Cor. 1:4-8; 1 Pet. 1:3-5; Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15.
10. THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER: We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. Rom. 6:13; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; 1 Pet. 1:14-16; 1 Jo. 3:5
11. SEPARATION: We believe that the Word of God clearly demands that the believer walk in the path of separation: FROM all religious apostasy, carnal worldly pleasures and questionable practices and associations which are harmful to a progressive Christian life and which are stumbling blocks unto others; UNTO a life of abiding in Christ, walking in the Spirit, and enjoying victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; Col. 3:1-17. Rom, 6:1-14; Gal. 5:11-25.
12. EVANGELISM: We believe that it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to be a personal soul-winner and to do his utmost to witness for Jesus Christ at all times. Acts 1:8; 11 Cor. 5:20.
13. THE CHURCH:
 - A. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born again persons of this present age. Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25, 27; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 11 Cor. 11:2.
 - B. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. Acts 14:27; Acts 20:17,, 28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9.
 - C. We believe (1) that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers voluntarily associated by confession of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; (2) that the qualifications, claims and duties of its officers are clearly defined in the Scriptures; (3) that the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity; (4) that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free, from the inference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; (5) that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; (6) that it is scriptural for true churches to co-operate with each other in "contending for the faith" and for the furtherance of the Gospel; (7) that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its co-operation; (8) that on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23; Acts 15:13-18.
14. THE MINISTRY: SPIRITUAL GIFTS:
 - A. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts and that the gift of evangelists, pastors and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles (as by the apostles) gradually decreased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established. 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 11 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:11-12.
 - B. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted. Jo. 15:7; 1 Jo. 5:14-15; James 5:14-15.
15. MISSIONS: We believe it is the whole duty of the whole Church to proclaim the whole gospel to the whole world; that every Christian should be personally involved in the program of world-wide missions, by taking an active part in promoting missionary activities. We believe that every believer should be praying for missions, should be giving of his time and money to the cause of missions, and should be going to some one with the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8.
16. THE ORDINANCES: BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER:
 - A. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Though Baptism has no saving merit, it does show forth in a solemn and beautiful symbol our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of church membership. Acts 8:36-39; Jo. 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12.

- B. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. We believe that there is no saving grace in the elements and that they are not changed either physically or spiritually, but are symbols used to remind us of the broken body and the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, We believe that spiritual value is received only as we allow the Holy Spirit to remind us of the person and sacrifice of Christ. I Cor. 11:23-28.

17. THE ETERNAL STATE OF HEAVEN AND HELL:

- A. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5,6,12,13.
- B. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are at death absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord in heaven. Luke 23:43; Rev. 20-4-6; 11 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16-17.
- C. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment Luke 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; 11 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude vs. 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15.

18. CIVIL GOVERNMENT: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ Who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. Rom. 13:7; 11 Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21-22; Matt. 22:21; Acts 23:5; Acts 4:19-20; 5:17-20; Dan. 3:17-18.

19. DISPENSATIONALISM: We believe in the dispensational view of Bible inspiration; but reject the extreme teaching known as Hyperdispensationalism, such as that teaching which opposed water baptism or the Lord's table as a Scriptural means of testifying for the church in this age. Therefore in subscribing to these Statements of Faith, we by no means set aside or under-value any of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, but we deem the knowledge, belief, and acceptance of the Truth as herein set forth to be essential to sound faith and faithful practice, and therefore the basis for Christian fellowship and service in our church. Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:23-26.

20. HUMAN SEXUALITY:

- A. We believe that marriage was ordained by God at creation as the 20. HUMAN SEXUALITY: We believe that marriage was ordained by God at creation as the sacred union of one man and one woman as a representation of Christ's relationship to His church. Therefore, we believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. We believe that God has created each of us; therefore, to attempt to change our gender or participate in any activities associated with transvestite behavior, is a perversion of God's desire for us (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23).
- B. We believe that all sexual relations must be reserved for the marriage relationship. As such, we believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5, 13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).
- C. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women within both the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be leaders of the local church (Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18; I Tim. 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12).

21. ABORTION: We also believe that children are a blessing from the Lord. Thus all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception. We believe that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. We reject the idea that it is acceptable to abort a pregnancy due to birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, sexual molestation or rape, or the mental well-being of the mother (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24; 49:1,5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).