

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT  
OF  
FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH  
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA**

**THE BIBLE**

We believe the Bible consists of the Old and New Testaments and every word is the verbally inspired Word of God. The Bible is without error in the original manuscripts and is the only and final authority for faith and practice in all matters of which it addresses. The Bible, as God's only written revelation to mankind, is to be interpreted normally and literally in regard to all of its contents. (John 10:35; Matthew 5:18; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21; I Corinthians 2:13; I Timothy 5:18; I Corinthians 2:14-16)

**GOD**

1. We believe in one God who is eternal and immutable, who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (John 6:27; Hebrews 1:8; Acts 5:3,4; Deuteronomy 6:4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19; Isaiah 48:16)
2. We believe that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the promised Messiah, God the Son in human flesh. That he is totally without sin; was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; and is both fully God and fully man. (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18-25; John 11:33; John 8:40; Hebrews 1:8; 2:14)
3. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person, possessing all the distinctively divine attributes. He is God. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He regenerates, seals, and sets apart the believer to a holy life. At regeneration He baptizes the believer into the body of Christ and comes to indwell him permanently, bestows spiritual gifts on each one for the common good of the church and fills each one yielded to Him. (I Corinthians 2:10, 11; 12:11, 13; Isaiah 40:13, 14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 5:18)

**THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE WORK OF CHRIST**

1. We believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of all humanity as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him are declared righteous on the basis of His shed blood. (2 Corinthians 5:14; Mark 10:45; Romans 3:24-26; I Peter 3:18; Romans 5:8,9)
2. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us. Jesus now serves as High Priest, Intercessor, and Advocate in our behalf with the Father. (Romans 1:4; John 20:25-27; I John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25; Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11)
3. We believe in the personal, bodily return of Jesus Christ in the glory of His Father to set up on earth a kingdom in which He shall reign in righteousness and peace. (Acts 1:11; Matthew 24:30; Revelation 20:4-6; Isaiah 9:6,7; Isaiah 11:2-5)

## MAN

1. We believe that the first man and woman were created in the image of God and thus man has great value in God's sight. But man sinned and consequently experienced not only physical death but also spiritual death (which is separation from God). The consequences of this sin affect the entire human race. All human beings are born lost and separated from God and with a sinful nature. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19; Ephesians 2:1-3; Mark 7:20-23; John 2:24, 25)
2. We believe that all believers still possess a sinful nature in this life, but that God has made full provision for believers to resist this sinful nature and to live for God through identification with Christ, a knowledge of the Bible, and by the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. (Romans 5:12-19; 6-8; Ephesians 2:1-3, 10; 2 Peter 1:3; Philippians 2:12-13)
3. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men. Believers are resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God. Unbelievers are resurrected to experience judgment and eternal suffering, and separation from God. (I Corinthians 15:52; I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:4-6, 12-15; John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2; Revelations 21:1-8)

## SATAN

We believe that Satan is a personal being, the author of sin who provoked the fall of man. We believe that he is the great adversary of God's person, program and people, but is a defeated foe who is destined to eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12-15; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; I Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10)

## SALVATION

1. We believe that man's redemption and reconciliation with God occurs as an act of God's grace, not of works, that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in His death and resurrection are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. (Romans 3:21-24; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12-13; Titus 3:5-7; I Peter 1:18-21)
2. We believe that all believers are kept eternally secure by the power of God through the new birth, the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Christ. (John 10:28-30; John 14:16, 17; I Peter 1:23; Ephesians 4:30; I John 2:1; Romans 8:38, 39; I Corinthians 5:5; Colossians 3:3)

## **THE CHURCH, THE BODY OF CHRIST**

1. We believe that the Church in its invisible form is universal, the true body and bride of Christ. All believers from the day of Pentecost until the Church is caught up to heaven are members of the universal Church regardless of organization affiliation.
2. We believe that as the individual Christian has a responsibility to make Christ known, so does every local church have a corporate responsibility for making Christ known.
3. We believe in the imminent return of Christ for the Church. All members of the body of Christ, living or dead, will at that time be caught up to be with the Lord forever. (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:51-53; Titus 2:13)
4. We believe that the spiritual oversight of the local church is given to a multiplicity of leaders known as elders who share equal authority. The elders are assisted by deacons and the pastoral staff to carry out the ministry. Elders and deacons are selected according to standards expressed by the New Testament. (Acts 14:23, 20:28; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4)
5. We believe that Christ ordained the observance of water baptism and the Lord's Supper until He returns. We believe that baptism is an outward testimony of a person's belief in Christ and should be administered upon confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, the elements being symbols of His body and blood. We believe that every Christian in good standing has a right to partake of the elements of the Lord's Supper but that participation should always be preceded by solemn self-examination. (Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 4:4-6; Acts 1:5; 11:15-16; I Corinthians 11:24-26, 28)