

# Doctrinal Statement (8/05)

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## **Doctrinal Statement of Medinah Baptist Church**

### **1. The Scriptures**

- A. We believe that every word in every part of the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments is given by inspiration of God and is without error (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5.)
- B. We believe them to be the complete revelation of God to man, thus making them the final authority in all matters of Christian faith and life (Proverbs 30:5-6; John 10:35; Romans 15:4; II Timothy 3:15-17.)

### **2. The Godhead**

- A. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17; II Corinthians 13:14.)
- B. We believe these three persons to be co-identical in nature, co-existent, co-equal in power and glory, and to have the same attributes and perfections (Matthew 28:19; John 5:18; Acts 5:3-4.)

### **3. Jesus Christ**

- A. We believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became true man without ceasing to be divine, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (John 1:1-2, 14; Matthew 1:18-25; Hebrews 1:1-14.)
- B. We believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross as a sinless, complete, representative, vicarious, and substitutionary sacrifice for sin (Hebrews 10:12; Isaiah 53:4-6; Romans 3:21-26, 5:19, I Peter 2:21-24.)

- C. We believe that Jesus Christ arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God, where He serves as our High Priest and Advocate (I Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 1:3; 7:24-27; I John 2:1-2.)

#### **4. The Holy Spirit**

- A. We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:14.)
- B. We believe that during this age the Holy Spirit convicts men of sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8-11.)
- C. We believe that when a sinner believes (trusts) in Jesus Christ as personal savior, the Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner, baptizes him into the body of Christ, and places him in the position of adult sonship and heir in God's family (Titus 3:5; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 8:15-17; Galatians 4:4-5.)
- D. We believe that at the time of regeneration the Holy Spirit also indwells the believer and seals him to insure his ultimate redemption (Ephesians 1:13-14; I Corinthians 3:16.)
- E. We believe that the Holy Spirit guides, instructs and intercedes for the believer, comforts and encourages him, and empowers him for godly living and service (John 14:16-17; 14:26; 16:13; Romans 8:26-27; 8:9-14.)

#### **5. Angels**

- A. We believe in the existence of sinless angels, and suprahuman beings created by God to carry out His perfect will (Hebrews 1:14; 12:22; Daniel 10:13; Revelation 5:11-12.)
- B. We believe in the existence of fallen angels who followed in the rebellion of Satan, who now carry out his deeds, and who will be judged by God and cast into the lake of fire (Isaiah 14:12-14; Jude 6; Luke 4:33-35; I Timothy 4:1.)

## **6. Satan**

- A. We believe that Satan is an actual personality, and the author of sin, who tempted man to rebel against God (Job 1:6; Genesis 3:14-15; Revelation 12:9.)
- B. We believe that Satan, as the declared enemy of God and man, seeks to blind men's eyes so they can not receive spiritual truth (Matthew 4:2-11; II Corinthians 4:4; I Corinthians 2:13-14.)
- C. We believe that Satan is the ruler of this present age, and seeks to tempt, deceive, accuse, and destroy the Christian (John 12:31; I Thessalonians 3:5; John 8:44; Revelation 12:10; Zechariah 3:1-3; I Peter 5:8.)
- D. We believe that Satan has already been judged and condemned, and will one day be sentenced with his fallen angels to eternal death in the lake of fire (John 12:31; 16:11; Revelation 20:7-10.)

## **7. The Depravity of Man**

- A. We believe that man was originally created by a direct act of God and in God's own image (Genesis 1:26-27.)
- B. We believe that all mankind sinned in Adam and so incurred both physical death and spiritual death, which is separation from God (Romans 5:12, 19; I Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:12-13.)
- C. We believe that because mankind sinned in Adam, all human beings are born with a depraved, sinful nature (Romans 3:10; Ephesians 2:3.)
- D. We believe that since the entire human race is totally depraved through Adam's sin, man is totally unable to make himself righteous before God (Romans 5:12-19; 3:23; John 3:3.)

## **8. Salvation**

- A. We believe that God in His grace has provided the gift of salvation for mankind through the atoning death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; I Peter 1:18-21; Romans 5:9-11.)
- B. We believe that salvation is not earned by man, but is received as a free gift from God through personal faith and trust in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23; Titus 3:5; John 1:12.)
- C. We believe that all who receive this salvation are justified before God, born anew by the Holy Spirit, become the children of God, receive everlasting life and complete forgiveness of sins, and will abide with God in heaven (Ephesians 1:7-8; John 3:5-8; Romans 8:16; I John 5:13.)
- D. We believe that all who do not accept this salvation will exist in an endless conscious torment along with Satan and his angels (II Thessalonians 1:8-9; Luke 16:22-24; Revelation 20:12-15.)

## **9. The Security and Assurance of Believers**

- A. We believe that all who are born again by the Holy Spirit are kept by the power of God and will persevere to the end, and so are secure forever (John 6:39-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:29-30, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:7-8; I Peter 3:15.)
- B. We believe that those who are born again can and should be assured of their salvation, and should actively rejoice in that assurance (Romans 5:2; 15:13; I Peter 1:3-6.)

## **10. The Church**

- A. We believe that the universal church is the body of Christ, of which He is the Head, is His espoused bride, and is a spiritual organism composed of all born again persons of this present age, which began at Pentecost and will continue until taken out of the world (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27; Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:20-22.)

- B. We believe that a local church is a visible portion of the body of Christ, and its members, irrespective of color, race, or denomination, should only be those who are born again (I Corinthians 12:12-13, 27.)
- C. We believe that since Jesus Christ is Lord and Head of the church, the local church under His authority is autonomous and free of any external ecclesiastical authority or control (Acts 5:27-29; I Corinthians 5:4-7, 12-13; Romans 13:1-5; I Peter 2:13-17.)
- D. We believe that the purpose and mission of the church is to glorify God, to edify and purify itself, to evangelize the world, and to disciple those who believe (Romans 15:6; Ephesians 4:11-16; Matthew 18:15-17; Ephesians 5:3, 7; Matthew 28:19; II Timothy 2:2.)

## **11. The Ordinances**

- A. We believe that although they are not essential to salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's supper, which are to be practiced by all those who are born again (Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 11:23-26.)
- B. We believe that baptism in water by immersion is taught in scripture to be the outward expression to others of union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:3-5.)
- C. We believe that the Lord's supper is to be observed until He returns as a memorial of His death on the cross, which established the New Covenant, and that its elements symbolize His body and shed blood (I Corinthians 11:25-26; Matthew 26:26-28.)

## **12. Christian Living**

- A. We believe that while His salvation is assured forever, a saved person should live in such a manner as to not bring reproach upon his Savior and Lord, and that separation from all religious apostasy, worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (II Corinthians 3:14-17; I Timothy 4:7-10; I John 2:15-17.)
  
- B. We believe that at salvation the believer receives a new spiritual nature, and that the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit makes it possible for the new nature to be victorious in the life-long conflict between it and the flesh (II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 8:2-4; Galatians 5:16-17; I John 1:8-10.)
  
- C. We believe that it is the obligation of every believer to witness by life and word the truths of the scriptures and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind everywhere (Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20.)
  
- D. We believe that it is the responsibility of every believer as guided by the Holy Spirit to remember the work of the Lord in prayer, to be actively involved in it, and to support it with his means as God prospers him (I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8:1-5.)
  
- E. We believe that believers have the privilege and responsibility to encourage, comfort, exhort, admonish, and build up one another, and to stir up one another to love and good deeds (Hebrews 3:13; II Corinthians 1:4; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24-25; I Thessalonians 5:11.)

## **13. Spiritual Gifts**

- A. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all spiritual gifts, which are to be used in the equipping and building up of the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-13; I Corinthians 12:18-20.)

- B. We believe that some gifts are temporary, bestowed at a time when special testimony is needed to authenticate God's message or messenger, even as miracles in the time of Moses or Elijah, and that the gift of apostleship, the gift of miracles, the gift of healing, the gift of tongues, and the gift of interpretation of tongues which were bestowed during the early history of the Church gradually ceased as the New Testament scriptures were completed, and are not expected or required for the life of the church today (Hebrews 2:3-4; II Corinthians 12:12; Acts 10:44-48, 11:15-18; I Corinthians 14:21-22, 13:8.)

#### **14. The Rapture**

- A. We believe that the souls of believers at death immediately enter God's presence and remain there in conscious bliss until the rapture (II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23.)
- B. We believe in the personal, pre-tribulational, pre-millennial, and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ, which has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer (Acts 1:11; Daniel 9:27; I John 3:2-3; I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9; Revelation 22:20.)
- C. We believe that at this appearing, all believers will be taken to heaven together with the resurrected bodies of the dead in Christ to be with Him forever (I Corinthians 15:51-57; I Thessalonians 4:16-18.)

#### **15. The Tribulation**

- A. We believe that the rapture of the church will be followed by a fulfillment of the prophecy of Israel's seventieth week, a seven-year period of preparation for Israel's restoration and outpouring of God's wrath upon the nations (Daniel 9:27; Jeremiah 30:4-11; Isaiah 24:17-21, 26:20-21; Zechariah 14:1-3.)

- B. We believe that during this same period, believers taken to heaven in the rapture will receive rewards for their service on earth at the judgment seat of Christ in preparation for the millennial kingdom (II Corinthians 5:10; Luke 14:14 with I Thessalonians 4:16-17; II Timothy 4:8.)

## **16. The Second Coming and Millennial Kingdom**

- A. We believe that the tribulation period will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth (Daniel 7:25-27; II Thessalonians 1:7-10.)
- B. We believe that at this coming Christ will defeat Satan and his forces, bind him for 1,000 years, and establish an earthly kingdom (Revelation 19:11-20:6.)
- C. We believe that the nations will be judged at this time, and the righteous will be allowed to enter the millennial kingdom, while the unrighteous will be sent to the lake of fire (Matthew 25:31-46.)
- D. We believe that the righteous dead of Israel and those saved during the tribulation will be resurrected to join in the millennial reign (Revelation 20:4-6; Matthew 19:28.)

## **17. The Resurrection of the Unsaved**

- A. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment before the Great White Throne following the millennium (Revelation 20:4-5.)
- B. We believe that at the Great White Throne Judgment the bodies of the unjust will be resurrected and united with their souls to be cast into the Lake of Fire to be punished with everlasting separation from God's presence (John 5:25-29; Revelation 20:11-15.)

## 18. Secular Humanism

- A. We believe that secular humanism, with its basic tenets of atheism, evolution, amorality, the autonomy of man, and socialist one-world view, is in total opposition to the teachings of Scripture, and its influence and propagation should be vigorously resisted and countered by every child of God (I Corinthians 2:12-14; Romans 1:18-32.)
  
- B. We believe, contrary to the theory of evolution, that in six days, God by His word created the heavens, earth, and every living thing from nothing, and created man from the dust of the earth, that the perfection of that creation was marred when man sinned, and that the deterioration which began with the curse brought by sin will continue until the redemption of the creation (Genesis 1:1-2:25; Hebrews 11:3; Genesis 3:1-20; Romans 8:19-23.)
  
- C. We believe that since human life was created in God's image and has the highest position in His creation, its sanctity must be recognized and protected from the point of conception until death (Genesis 1:26-30; Psalm 8:5-9, 51:5; 139:13-16; Isaiah 46:3-4.)

*Accepted by majority vote of the congregation, with included revisions, on January 18, 1984.*