

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

CONSTITUTION

Updated: June 24, 2003

CONSTITUTION

Preamble

We declare and establish that this constitution shall preserve and secure the principles of our faith and govern the body in an orderly manner. This constitution shall preserve the liberties of each individual church member and the freedom of action of this body in relation to other churches.

I. Name

This body shall be known as the First Baptist Church of Gibsonville, Inc. located at 221 Piedmont Avenue, Gibsonville, North Carolina 27249.

II. Objectives

To be a dynamic spiritual organism empowered by the Holy Spirit to share Christ with as many people as possible in our church, community, and throughout the world.

To be a worshipping fellowship, experiencing an awareness of God, recognizing His person, and responding in obedience to His leadership.

To experience an increasingly meaningful fellowship with God and fellow believers.

To help people experience a growing knowledge of God and man.

To be a church that ministers unselfishly to people in the church, community, and the world in Jesus' name.

To be a church whose purpose is to be Christ-like in our daily living by emphasizing total commitment of life, personality, and possessions to the Lordship of Christ.

III. Statement of Basic Beliefs

We affirm the Holy Bible as the inerrant, infallible and inspired Word of God and the basis for our beliefs. This church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention. We voluntarily band ourselves together as a body of baptized believers in Jesus Christ, personally committed to sharing the good news of salvation to lost mankind. The ordinances of the church are believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. (See Article II of the Bylaws.)

THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE:

1. About God

There is One and only One living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator and Ruler of the universe and mankind, infinite in holiness and all other perfections to whom we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God without division of nature, essence or being.

Genesis 1:1,24-27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:19

2. About Jesus

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory, seats at the Father's right hand, intercedes for His children, and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Matthew 1:22, 23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14,15; 1 Corinthians 15:3,4;
Romans 1:3,4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14,15; Titus 2:13

3. About the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His control daily.

2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-13, 14:16,17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16;
Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18

4. About the Bible

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any error. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. It reveals the principles by which God will judge us and is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and religious opinions should be tried. Therefore it is and will remain to the end of the world.

2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5

5. About Human Beginnings

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation in holiness but through the temptation of Satan, man fell from his original holiness and righteousness; all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1, 2; Romans 5

6. About Salvation

Salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. The salvation of sinners is totally dependant on God's grace through His Son Jesus Christ, Who by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary and took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, became obedient to His Father and made atonement for our sins by His death. Being raised from the dead He is now at the right hand of His Father in heaven.

Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life in heaven begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into their life by faith.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10,13

7. About Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to him. We are spiritual debtors to the whole world, trustees of the gospel, and stewards of our possessions. We are therefore under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions and should recognize all these as entrusted to our use for the glory of God and helping others. Christians should cheerfully, regularly, proportionately, and liberally contribute from their means to advance the cause of Christ on earth.

Lev. 27:30; Mal.3:8-10; Matthew 23:23; Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 12:41-48; Acts 2:44-47;
I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 8:1-15

8. About Family

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church, and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel for sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle, example, and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 2:24-25; Malachi 2:14; Ephesians 5:22-33; Ephesians 6:1-4

9 About Eternal Security

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "lose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security.

John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14; 1 Peter 1:3-5

10. About Eternity

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence.

John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Cor. 2:7-9

IV. Church Covenant

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge and holiness; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, doctrines, and discipline; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We pledge to instruct our families at home and church through the teaching of God's Holy Word; to educate our children as Christ leads; to seek the salvation of the lost; to live in our community in a God honoring way; to dedicate our lives in Christ's service; and to faithfully work for the unity of our fellowship so that Christ may be glorified.

We undertake to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember one another in prayer, to aid one another in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We vow that when we depart from this assembly we will, as soon as possible, unite with another church where we can continue in the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

V. Policy and Relationships

The government of this church is vested in the body of believers who compose it. Persons duly received by the members shall constitute the membership. (See Article 1 of the By-laws.)

All internal groups created and empowered by the church shall report to and be accountable only to the church, unless otherwise specified by church action.

This church is subject to the control of no other ecclesiastical (church) body, but it recognizes and sustains the obligations of mutual counsel and cooperation, which are common among Baptist churches. Insofar as is practical, this church will cooperate with and support the association, the state convention, and the Southern Baptist Convention.