



## Articles of Faith

**GOD** - We believe there is but one true and living God; that He is infinitely holy, eternal, and perfect in all His attributes; that He possesses Omniscience (all knowledge), Omnipotence (all power) and Omnipresence (everywhere present); and exists in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in unity (the state of being one), trinity (the union in one Divine Being of three forms of manifestation) and trinity (three in one) of these three separate personalities. These are One God.

**CHRIST** - We believe in the virgin birth, sinless life, all-sufficient, substitutionary death, victorious bodily resurrection, present intercession, and the personal and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe He is God the Son and the Son of God.

**HOLY SPIRIT** - We believe in the absolute deity and personality of the Holy Spirit; that He is the divine Agent in the sinner's regeneration and the believer's sanctification.

**THE BIBLE** - We believe the Bible to be the Word of God; that the sixty-six books comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired; that the Bible is the final authority and our only and all-sufficient rule of faith and practice.

**SATAN** - We believe in the reality and personality of Satan; that he is the enemy of God and of the children of God; that he is the power behind the world's godless activity; that his destiny in "the lake of fire and brimstone" is settled. As regards the believer, Satan is to be reckoned for what he is - a conquered enemy.

**MAN** - We believe that man came by way of direct divine creation, and not a product of evolution; that through disobedience he became a fallen creature, totally depraved, and is now spiritually dead in trespasses and sins. Thus, he is spiritually destitute and dependent on the mercy of God.

**SALVATION** - We believe salvation is by the sovereign electing grace of God; that it has been provided for all and is obtained by grace through faith in the all-sufficient sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the eternal security of the believer. We believe when the righteousness of God in Christ has been imputed, that all are responsible to Jesus Christ for their lives and service.

**FUTURE THINGS** - We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ and that as Christians, "We must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to what he hath done, whether it be good or bad." We believe in the resurrection of the just to eternal blessedness and the resurrection of the unjust to judgement and eternal punishment.

LOCAL CHURCH - We believe a New Testament local church to be a company of baptized believers, voluntarily associated together for: the ministry of the Word, mutual helpfulness and edification, the observance of the ordinances; and the propagation, to the ends of the earth, of the faith once delivered to the saints. We believe a local church should be sovereign, under God, with no ecclesiastical authority higher than itself. We believe Christians should abstain from carnal indulgences, separate themselves unto God "deny ungodliness and worldly lusts and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world."

ORDINANCES - We believe there are but two church ordinances - baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe baptism to be the immersion in water of a believer in testimony of union by faith with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. We believe the Lord's Supper to be the partaking of bread and the "fruit of the vine" in testimony of the death of Christ and efficacy of His shed blood, and is to be observed "till He come." Since this is the Lord's table, no believer shall be excluded from participation.

## **Lifestyle Statement**

In view of the need for Christian churches to maintain biblical standards in a secular society, we, The Members of Forward Baptist Church, hereby affirm the following statement on Christian Lifestyle.

1. We affirm that the Bible clearly reveals God's will for the lifestyle of His redeemed people.  
  
We deny that biblical standards in such areas as the family and sexuality are outdated in modern times.  
  
Deuteronomy 4:2; Psalm 119:89; Matthew 5:17-19; Mark 13:31; Romans 15:4; I Corinthians 10:6-11.
2. We affirm that human sexuality is a good gift from God to be received with thanksgiving.  
  
We deny that sexual activity outside of marriage is necessary for the full development of human personhood.  
  
Genesis 1:27-28; Genesis 2:18-25; Proverbs 5:18-19; Song of Songs; Hebrews 13:4
3. We affirm that in the Bible God defines marriage as a life-long, exclusive covenant between a man and a woman.  
  
We deny that same-sex relationships constitute marriage in the biblical sense.  
Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:3-9; Romans 7:2-3
4. We affirm that only within marriage as defined in #3 above is sexual activity pleasing to God.  
  
We deny that homosexuality, lesbianism, incest, bestiality, adultery, premarital sex or pornography are pleasing to God.  
  
Exodus 20:14, 17; Leviticus 18; Matthew 5:27-30; Romans 1:26-27; I Corinthians 5:1-2; 9-13; I Cor. 6:9-10; I Cor. 7:3-5, 8-9; Ephesians 5:3-5; I Thessalonians 4:1-8.
5. We affirm that the above four guidelines are clearly based on Scripture and therefore constitute the will of God for the Members and Adherents of Forward Baptist Church and

we further affirm that the above four guidelines shall serve as the basis for pastoral care and church discipline.

We deny that the use of the above four guidelines is motivated by anything other than a reverent fear of Almighty God our Maker, Redeemer and Judge, and our sincere desire to obey His commandments revealed in Scripture.