

Statement of Faith

Since it pleased Almighty God, by His Holy Spirit, to call us into this church body, we joyfully confess our common faith together with one mind and one heart:

I. The Scriptures

We believe that the Bible is the written Word of God; that it was written by men divinely inspired and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and that it is the true center of Christian fellowship and the only sufficient and supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

II. God is Triune

We believe in one God eternally existing in three persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who being equal in every divine perfection, execute distinct offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

III. God the Father

We believe in God the Father, maker and ruler of heaven and earth, who in His grace established His purpose of election before the foundation of the world and gave His Son Jesus Christ for our redemption; He hears and answers prayer, and saves all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

IV. Jesus Christ

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God who, being fully God and fully man, fulfilled the law and died on the cross to atone for the sins of all who will trust in Him alone for salvation.

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ who, after his death and burial, rose bodily again the third day that we might be made alive together with him and raised up as He was by the power of God.

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, the only Mediator for man, and the Sovereign of the universe who will return to justly judge the world.

V. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who, in bringing glory to the Father and the Son, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and who regenerates, indwells, sanctifies and empowers every believer in Jesus Christ.

VI. Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, has fallen into sin in Adam, and that now all human beings are born with a sinful nature and are sinners by choice, under condemnation and helpless to merit salvation.

VII. Salvation

We believe that Jesus Christ is the gospel, having through His death provided a substitutionary sacrifice to God for our sins to satisfy the demands of God's perfect justice and to appease His holy wrath.

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God, provided by grace through faith in Christ alone for the glory of God.

We believe that those who turn from sin in repentance and trust in Jesus Christ alone as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and justified by God.

We believe that all whom God has regenerated, though they may fall into sin, shall certainly persevere to the end, being kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

VIII. The Church

We believe that the Lord Jesus is the head of the church, which is composed of all His true disciples.

We believe in the local church, consisting of a fellowship of believers, baptized upon a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship for the glory of God.

We believe that God has laid upon the members of the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

IX. Baptism

We believe in the baptism of believers by immersion in the name of the triune God as a sign of fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving ourselves up to God to live and walk in newness of life.

X. The Lord's Supper

We believe in the Lord's Supper as a commemoration of the death of Jesus Christ by believers until He returns; that it is to be observed by the eating of bread and the drinking of the cup; and that it is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His atoning work, confirm the faith of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge, and renewal of their communion with Him and of their church fellowship.

XI. Church Cooperation

We believe that, while autonomous, our local church can best promote the cause of Jesus Christ by voluntarily cooperating with other churches.

XII. The Judgment

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead at the glorious coming of Jesus Christ, and His just judgment of the wicked into everlasting punishment and of the righteous into eternal life.

XIII. Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality

Amendment Adopted by the Membership on July 15, 2015

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person in His own image as male or female (Job 31:15; Ps. 139:13-14). These two distinct yet complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of

God (Gen. 1:26-27, 5:1-2; Matt. 19:4). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25; Matt. 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; 1 Cor. 7:2; Eph. 5:22-32). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman (Prov. 5; Song 8:4).

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including sexual assault, sexual abuse, adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 5:27-28, 15:18-20; Rom. 1:24-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:5; 1 Thess. 4:3-8; 1 Tim. 1:8-11; Heb. 13:4; Rev. 21:8, 22:15).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38, 3:19-21; Rom. 10:9-10; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Titus 3:3-7).

We believe that every person, as bearers of the image of God, must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 19:19, 22:36-40; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31, 10:27-28; Rom. 13:9-10; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8-9). Unloving, hateful, and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are sinful, to be repudiated, and not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of LifeWay Church of Billings.

We believe that, in order to preserve the function and integrity of LifeWay Church of Billings as the local Body of Christ and to provide a biblical role model to the members of LifeWay Church of Billings and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by LifeWay Church of Billings in any capacity, any who serve as volunteers, and all members of LifeWay Church of Billings agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matt. 5:14-16; Phil. 2:14-16; 1 Thess. 5:22).

(The above statement serves to instruct and unify the members of LifeWay Church in our common faith. We deem this statement to be consistent with the Baptist Faith & Message adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention on June 14, 2000.)