

Open Door Baptist Church Doctrinal Statement

THE BIBLE

We believe that the Bible (consisting of 66 books) is the inspired Word of God, that every part is fully and equally inspired, and that every single word of Scripture was produced under the control of the Holy Spirit (II Peter 1:21; II Timothy 3: 16).

We also accept the Scriptures in their entirety as being inerrant and infallible. For this reason, we are committed to the Bible as being our final authority in all matters of doctrine and practice (John 17:17; Matthew 5:17).

We believe God's word has been preserved in the manuscripts of the Received Text. Therefore, the 1611 King James Version of the Bible will be the only acceptable translation used for the purpose of preaching and teaching in any of our classes or the pulpit ministry of this church.

GOD

We believe that there is only one true, eternal, living God, who is sovereign over all things. God can be known through the many absolute and relative attributes revealed in the Scriptures (Deuteronomy 6:4; Exodus 3:14; Colossians 1:15-17).

THE TRI-UNITY OF GOD

We believe that, although there is only one true God, that God consists of three distinct Persons, each of whom is co-eternal and co-equal.

We believe that the Father is God, that the Son (Jesus, the Christ-Messiah) is God, and that the Holy Spirit is God (Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1:1-3 & 14, 6:27; Acts 5:3-4).

CHRIST

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ to be absolute Deity, the eternal Son of God, who became man without ceasing to be God. In the incarnation, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of Mary, a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25; Hebrews 1:8; Isaiah 9:6-7; John 3:16).

We believe that Jesus Christ was both fully God and fully man at the same time (Philippians 2:5-8).

We believe that He was totally holy by virtue of His miraculous birth and sinless life (Hebrews 4:15; II Corinthians 5:21).

We believe that Jesus Christ voluntarily laid down His life, the just dying for the unjust, making it possible for man to be saved (John 10:17; Hebrews 9:14, 28; I Peter 3:18).

We believe that He rose bodily from the dead on the third day after His death, and that He ascended into Heaven to the right hand of the Father (John 2:19-22; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

We believe that, presently, He is our Intercessor and Advocate, the only true Mediator between God and man (Hebrews 4: 14, 7:25; I John 2:1; I Timothy 2:5).

THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is Deity, and Divine Person of the Godhead. He is not a force, but is truly a Person and is equal with the Father and the Son (Acts 5:3-4).

We believe that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to every believer at the moment he or she is regenerated, and that these gifts are to be used for the edification and perfecting of the believer in the Church. We believe that the miracle and sign gifts were given for a unique purpose to the first-century church, but that they ceased at the end of that century (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12-14; Ephesians 4:7-16; Hebrews 2:3-4).

Therefore, we of Open Door Baptist Church declare our conviction, that the present tongues movement is not in harmony with the teaching of the Word of God for our times, and that we will not receive nor retain in membership any who participate in or promote this movement.

MAN

We believe that God created man directly and instantaneously from the dust of the ground. Man was created in the image of God and was able to have intimate fellowship with God. (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7).

We believe that all of humanity fell away from God when Adam first sinned, and that the fall resulted in both physical and spiritual death for man. In this fallen condition, man was left totally depraved and unable to remedy his own situation (Genesis 3:6-13; Romans 5:12-21; I Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2),

SIN

We believe that sin is anything that does not conform to the character and nature of God (I John 3:4).

We believe that all of mankind sinned in Adam, the head of the human race, and that each human being has a sin nature and also has committed personal sin (Romans 5: 12, 1.18, 3:20; I John 1:8-10).

SALVATION

We believe that salvation is the act of God whereby man is brought into a proper relationship with God. It is that act where spiritually dead man is made spiritually alive (Psalm 3:8; Ephesians 2:1-2)

We believe that this is accomplished by the grace of God through man's faith in the death (shed blood), burial and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8-10; I Corinthians 15:1-4).

We believe that salvation involves three things for the believer: deliverance from the penalty of sin at the moment of regeneration, victory over the power of sin during the Christian life, and deliverance from the presence of sin at the return of Christ.

We believe that salvation positionally sanctifies the believer, but that the believer needs to experience, in his daily life, progressive sanctification (II Corinthians 5:21; Romans 6:14; Philippians 3:20-21),

SATAN AND ANGELS

We believe in the existence of the person of Satan. He was created by God as the greatest of angels, but later rebelled against God. After he fell, he organized his own kingdom which consists of both evil angels and also unregenerate man. He is currently the ruler-god of this age. Satan's ultimate goal is to overthrow God. He seeks to keep the unsaved from becoming saved. He seeks to hinder and destroy the Christian's testimony and ministry of God.

We believe that both Satan and his evil angels will be consigned to the eternal lake of fire after the Millennium (Matthew 25:41; John 8:44; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; Revelation 20:7-10).

THE CHURCH

We believe that the true Church is a living organism and that it is the "body of Christ", who is Himself the head of this body. The Church is made up of regenerated, redeemed believers only (Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:23; Colossians 1:18; I Corinthians 12:13).

We believe that the Church began on the day of Pentecost; that every believer was indwelt-baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ which is the Church (Acts 2:1-4, 1:4-5; John 14:16-17; I Corinthians 12:13).

We believe that the Scriptures teach that there are to be local churches. These are to be the visible representation of the body of Christ in the local community. Local churches are to observe the ordinances of Christ and to seek to do the will of God (Acts 20:28; I Corinthians 1:2; Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-28).

We believe that the local church should be totally committed to the edifying (developing to maturity) of the believers and also should have an active outreach in evangelism (Ephesians 4:11-16; I Corinthians 14).

We believe the ordinances given to the local church are two, baptism and the Lord's supper: that baptism is by immersion of believers, thus portraying the death, burial, and the resurrection of Jesus Christ; that the Lord's supper is the partaking of the bread and cup by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ (Matthew 29:19-20; Acts 2:41: 8:38-39; Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 11:23-24).

We believe in the premillennial and pretribulational return of Jesus Christ. This means that Christ's return for His "bride" (the Church) is imminent and, therefore, can happen at any moment (I Thessalonians 4:13-17, 5:6.)

We believe that, following the rapture of the Church, the Tribulation Period (Daniel's 70th Week, or the Time of Jacob's Trouble) will take place (Daniel 9:24-27; II Thessalonians 2:3-4).

We believe that, following the Great Tribulation, the Millennium will begin. This will be brought about by the literal, physical, visible, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth to rule and to reign for 1,000 years (Zechariah 14:1-4; Revelation 19-20).

THE CHRISTIAN'S WALK

We believe that we are called with a holy calling, separated unto the Lord and from the world, to walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit, and so to live in the power of the indwelling Spirit that we will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. And the flesh, which is our old sinful nature, which in this life is never eradicated, needs to be constantly reckoned dead, and our new life yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 6:14-17; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 2:1-10, 3:1-17; Peter 1:14-16; I John 2:15-16;; Romans 6:6-13).

ASSURANCE AND SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that because of the eternal purpose of God toward the objects of His love, because of His freedom to exercise grace toward the meritless, on the ground of the propitiatory blood of Christ, because of the prayer of the Son of God in John 17, because of the very nature of the divine gift of everlasting life, because of the present and unending intercession and advocacy of Christ in heaven, because of the unchangeable promises of God, because of the regenerating, permanent indwelling, of the Holy Spirit in the lives of all who are saved, all true believers everywhere, from the moment they are saved shall be kept saved forever. (John 10:27-29, 17:11; Romans 8:29-36; I Corinthians 6:11, 19; Hebrews 7:25; I John 2: 1-2, 5:13).

THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe that at death those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence, but the unbelieving pass immediately into hell until the final judgment of the great white throne at the close of the millennium when they shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be separated from God and punished forever (Luke 16:19-26; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8)

SEPARATION

We believe in the Biblical doctrine of separation which encompasses the following: (1) the separation of the local church from all affiliation, fellowship and cooperation with those who deny the true Christian faith, and (2) the separation of the individual believer from all worldly practices that would dishonor the Savior. We believe that the church should refuse to be drawn into compromising alliances, even with well-meaning evangelical people, whereby our testimony would be impaired and our position confused. Specifically, we reject the concept that our church should cooperate with unbelievers and apostate churches even if by so cooperating beneficial results may seem to be produced (II Corinthians 6:14; II Timothy 3:5; Ephesians 5:11; II John 9:11).

CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the Conscience, and the coming King of Kings (Romans 13:1-7; Acts 23:5, 5:29, 4:19-20; Matthew 22:21; Daniel 3:17-18).

ISRAEL

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be re-gathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ (Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37).

FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

We understand that the above articles do not by any means exhaust the content of our creed which is the whole Word of God, and they are not intended to set a limit beyond which faith cannot go within this Word; but we do believe that in so far as these extend, they are a true presentation of the sound doctrine taught in the Scriptures.