

**ARTICLES OF FAITH  
AND  
POSITIONAL STATEMENT  
OF BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
OF HENRY COUNTY, INC.**

**ARTICLE I**

NAME

The name of this fellowship shall be the Bible Baptist Church of Henry County, Inc., hereafter referred to as Bible Baptist Church.

**ARTICLE II**

OBJECT

The object of this church shall be to glorify God in the salvation of souls, to edify Christians through the teaching of God's Word, to proclaim throughout the world God's saving grace in the shed blood and finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, to promote godly worship, to defend the faith, and to cooperate with Christian activities functioning in harmony with God's Word.

**ARTICLE III**

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **THE BIBLE:** We believe in the Holy Scripture: accepting fully the writing of the Old and New Testaments as the very Word of God, verbally inspired in all parts and therefore wholly without error as originally given by God, altogether sufficient in themselves as our only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice. Supporting Scripture: II Timothy 3:16,17; II Peter 1:20,21, as well as many others. We recommend the usage of the King James Version as the most reliable translation.
2. **JESUS CHRIST:** We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ: Who is the Second Person of the Triune God, the eternal Word and Only Begotten Son; that without any change in His divine Person He became man by miracle of the Virgin Birth, thus to continue forever as both true God and true Man, one person with two natures; that as Man He was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin; that as the Perfect Lamb of God, He gave Himself in death on the cross, becoming there the sin of the world, and suffering the full penalty of divine wrath in our stead; then He arose bodily from the grave and was glorified; that as our Great High Priest He ascended into Heaven too, there to appear before the face of God as our Advocate and Intercessor. Supporting Scripture: Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:31-33; 2:7; I Corinthians 15:14; Revelation 21:6.
3. **MAN:** We believe all men are by nature and choice sinful and lost: that man was the direct creation of God made in His image and likeness; that by personal disobedience to the revealed will of God (Adam and Eve's sin of eating of the forbidden tree in the Garden of Eden) man became a sinful creature, the father of the fallen race which is universally sinful in both nature and practice; thus alienated from the life and family of God, under the righteous judgment and wrath of God, and has within himself no possible means of salvation. Supporting Scripture: Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23; 5:12.

4. SALVATION: We believe in salvation by grace through faith: that salvation is a free gift of God, neither merited nor secured in part or in whole by any virtues of work of man, but received only by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, in Whom all true believers have as a present possession the gift of eternal life, a perfect righteousness, sonship in the family of God, deliverance and security from all condemnation, every spiritual resource needed for life and godliness, and the divine guarantee that they shall never perish; that this salvation affects the whole man; that apart from Christ there is no possible salvation. Supporting Scripture: John 1:12; 3:36; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; I John 5:13.
5. HOLY SPIRIT: We believe in the Holy Spirit: Who is the Third Person of the Trinity and the divine agent in nature, revelation and redemption; that He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals, and anoints a believer who becomes a child of God through Christ; that He further empowers, guides, teaches, sanctifies, and fills all believers who daily surrender to Him. Supporting Scripture: John 3:5,6; 14:17; Acts 1:8; Hebrews 10:15; I John 5:4.
6. SATAN: We believe in the existence of Satan: who originally was created a holy and perfect being but through pride and wicked ambition rebelled against God, thus becoming utterly depraved in character, the great adversary of God and His people, leader of all other evil angels and spirits, the deceiver and god of this present world; that his powers are vast, but strictly limited by the permissive will of God Who overrules all his wicked devices for good; that he was defeated and judged at the cross, and therefore his final doom is certain; that we are able to resist and overcome him only in the armor of God, by the blood of the Lamb, and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Supporting Scripture: Matthew 13:19; Luke 10:18; 22:31; John 14:30; Ephesians 2:2; 6:11; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6; Revelation 20:10.
7. GODLY LIFE: We believe in righteous living and godly works: not as a means of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence and fruit; and therefore as Christians, we should obey the Word of our Lord, seek the things which are above, walk as He walked, accept as our solemn responsibility the duty and privileges of bearing the Gospel to a lost world; remembering that a victorious and fruitful life is possible only for those who in gratitude for the infinite and undeserved mercies of God have presented themselves wholly to Christ. Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 2:10.
8. FUTURE HAPPENINGS TO BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS: We believe in future life, bodily resurrection, and eternal judgment: that the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven, that their works shall be brought before the Judgment Seat of Christ, for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for His own; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hades where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, that they shall be judged and cast into Hell, the place of final and everlasting punishment. Supporting Scripture: Luke 16:19-31; Romans 14:10-12; I Corinthians 15:5-57; II Corinthians 5:8,10; Philippians 1:23; Revelation 20.
9. SECOND COMING OF CHRIST: We believe in the second coming of Christ: that His return from Heaven will be personal, visible, and glorious, a blessed hope for which we should constantly watch and pray, the time being unrevealed but always imminent; that when He comes He will first by resurrection of the dead and translation of the living remove from the earth His waiting church (the rapture), then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world (the tribulation), afterwards descend with His church (the revelation), and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years (the millennium). Supporting Scripture: Matthew 24:3,6-42; Acts 1:6,8,11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; II Peter 3:10-14; Revelation 21:1-27.

10. **PRIESTHOOD:** We believe in the priesthood of all believers: that Christ is our Great High Priest and through Him every born again person has direct access into God's presence without the need of a human priest; that the believer has the right and responsibility to personally study and interpret the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit. Supporting Scripture: I Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:6.
11. **BODY OF CHRIST:** We believe in the Lordship of Jesus Christ: that He alone is Head of the Body of Christ, into which all true believers are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit; that all members of this one spiritual body should assemble and identify themselves in local churches. Supporting Scripture: Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 2:19.
12. **LOCAL CHURCH:** We believe in the importance of the local church: that a New Testament church is a local assembly of born again, baptized believers united in organization to practice New Testament ordinances, to meet together for worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, and united testimony, and to actively engage in carrying out the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19,20. Supporting Scripture: Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:41-42,47; I Corinthians 1:2.
13. **INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY:** We believe in the independence and autonomy of the local church: that each New Testament church is free to govern itself without ecclesiastical interference and should cooperate with other New Testament churches as the Holy Spirit leads; that it is responsible to follow the pattern of the New Testament church and is directly accountable to God. Supporting Scripture: Acts 6:3; I Corinthians 6:1.
14. **CHURCH AND STATE:** We believe in the separation of church and state: that the church is to neither rule over nor monetarily support the state; that the state is neither to rule over nor monetarily support the church; that government should recognize and depend upon God; that government was established by God and is dependent upon Him for its very existence; that individual Christians are to support government by their prayers and taxes. Supporting Scripture: Romans 13.
15. **CHURCH ORDINANCES:** 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 resurrection of Christ and the death of the believer to the old life of sin and resurrection to a new life in Christ: that partaking of the bread and cup by the believer is a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ. Supporting Scripture: Matthew 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42; I Corinthians 11: 20-34.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### POSITIONAL STATEMENT

Because there are a number of theological statements in our day, which we believe are not biblical, we desire to clarify our standard as a church regarding these theological movements and current social issues, in the light of our stated doctrinal position.

1. We believe in the fellowship of all believers in Jesus Christ who have been born again by faith in His blood. However, this fellowship of believers has the following limitations:
  - a. Those whose doctrines are contrary to New Testament teaching are to be marked and avoided (Romans 16:17-19; II Thessalonians 3:14; I John 4:1-6; Jude 3-4; II John 7-11).
  - b. Christians are to withdraw from those whose manner of life is in willful rebellion to New Testament teachings (II Thessalonians 3:6; I Corinthians 5:11).

These scriptural limitations of fellowship preclude any cooperation with unbelievers in any type of ecumenical movement or evangelism. We believe that the scriptural unity of believers is spiritual and based upon the Word of God and the Lordship of Jesus Christ and not a unity of organization.

2. Bible Baptist Church is an independent church and can have no organic union with any other organization of any nature. This does not preclude cooperation (in light of the above statements) in efforts concerning the spread of the Gospel and the advancement of God's work.
3. The Charismatic Movement with its emphasis on subjective experiences (i.e. speaking in tongues, healings, direct revelations, etc.) is non-Biblical and open to all manner of Satanic confusion. It is ecumenical in nature and is being used of Satan to break down distinctions between light and darkness and truth and error. Bible Baptist Church is non-charismatic. We believe that both the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (i.e. the Holy Spirit's placing the believer into the family of God and under the authority of Christ) occur at the moment of salvation.
4. Ecumenism is a popular religious movement designed to catch the unwary. Its philosophy of Christian unity has been largely promulgated by the World and National Councils of Churches, the Roman Catholic hierarchy in the world at large, and tragically by some elements of New Evangelicalism. The ecumenical movement seeks the eventual union of all religions into one super church. This means that every church, religion, or religious body participating in the merger must compromise its beliefs in areas of faith and practice to conform to the will of the whole body. We unalterably oppose any dialogue or overture whatsoever, which has as its ultimate purpose the breaking down of the determination of Christians to stand true to their God and to the traditional Christian faith as outlined in the New Testament (II Corinthians 6:11-18; Revelation 2:9,15).
5. Neo-orthodoxy is a reaction to liberalism using words, phrases, and language familiar to Christians everywhere and in this manner projecting an evangelical image. The adherents of this movement claim to accept the Bible yet reject its verbal plenary inspiration. We repudiate neo-orthodox teaching.

6. New Evangelicalism is a more subtle movement, paradoxically promoted by professed Christians who consider the fundamentalist view of Christian theology as being too negative, and by “good words and fair speeches” seek to diffuse the fine line of demarcation between fundamentalism and liberalism. We maintain that those truths considered fundamental Christian theology and the vagaries of Christ-denying liberalism cannot be made to walk together. To attempt this unscriptural union is to compromise pure Christian doctrine by subjecting it to an unscriptural and therefore unequal yoke. Bible Baptist Church adheres to firm fundamentalism as opposed to the New Evangelical movement (II Corinthians 6:11-18; Colossians 2:8).
7. We believe that homosexual acts are sinful, unnatural, and a perversion of God’s creative design. These acts emanate from man’s sinful and unregenerate nature. Therefore, we take our stand, based upon the infallible Word of God, against any and all forms of sexual perversion. If any member of Bible Baptist Church is guilty of advocating or practicing homosexuality, that person shall be disciplined by the church according to Article VIII of the church By-Laws. In essence, we believe that God loves the sinner, but hates the sin. (I Corinthians 5:14. 6:9; Genesis 19:1-11; Leviticus 18:22, 20:13; Judges 19:22-25; Romans 1:26-27; I Timothy 1:9-10).
8. All organizations or individuals receiving monetary support from Bible Baptist Church must agree with these Articles of Faith and Positional Statement.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **COVENANT**

As a bond of unity among us this church accepts for its member the following covenant:

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

We promise that we will watch over and counsel one another in the spirit of brotherly love, that we will remember one another in our prayers, and that we will aid each other in sickness and distress.

We further agree, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, love, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to give it a sacred pre-eminence over an institutions of human origin; and 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 further covenant to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to live carefully in this present world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, back-biting, and excessive anger; to abstain from everything that will cause our brother to stumble or that will bring reproach upon the cause of Christ; and to strive to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, that amidst evil and good report we will humbly and earnestly seek to live to the honor and glory of Him who loved us and gave Himself for us.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God’s Word.