

FirstNSB - A Family Church

Statement of Faith

DOCTRINES

These beliefs must be affirmed by members of FirstNSB

The Word of God

The Bible, consisting of 39 Old Testament books and 27 New Testament books, is the inspired, inerrant, infallible and authoritative Word of God.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21.

God

There is only one true God and he is three Persons—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

God is the Creator of the heavens and the earth and all that exists. He is also holy, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, immutable, eternal, faithful, sovereign, just and loving.

Genesis 1:1; Leviticus 19:2; Numbers 23:19; Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 90:2; 139:1-18; Lamentations 3:23; Malachi 3:6; Matthew 28:19; John 3:16; Romans 3:26; Revelation 4:8.

God the Father

The Father is God. He sent his Son Jesus to be the Savior of the world. Jesus taught his disciples to pray to the Father. Believers pray for the Father's name to be hallowed, for his kingdom to come, for his will to be done, for his daily provision, for his forgiveness and for his protection from evil. God the Father created all people and is Father to those who have been saved through faith in Jesus.

Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4; John 1:12; 3:16-17; Ephesians 1:5; James 1:17.

Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ is God the Son. He was with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit in the beginning, prior to creation. He has always been God. He became human when he was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary through the working of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus became human he continued to be God and will be both God and human forever.

Jesus lived a sinless life on earth and obeyed his Father's will. He willingly died a sacrificial death on behalf of sinners, paying the penalty for sin.

Jesus was buried and was raised back to life on the third day. Jesus ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father making intercession for believers. Jesus will return at God's appointed time.

Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1, 14, 29; 14:3; 17:5; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, 54-57; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; Hebrews 4:15; Revelation 1:7.

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, indwells believers, equips believers with spiritual gifts and is the guarantee of future, final salvation for believers.

John 14:16-17, 26; 16:7-11, 13; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 5:1-5; 13:14; Ephesians 1:13-14.

Man

God created man—male and female—in his own image, after his likeness.

God created people for his glory; therefore, people exist to glorify God.

God created people with value and worth. Human life is valuable and should be respected and protected from the moment of conception until death.

God created one human race and all people are equally valuable before God.

God created two genders—male and female. Gender is given by God and cannot be changed. Both male and female are equally valuable before God.

Marriage is a gift from God and is the union of a man and a woman in a committed, covenant relationship before God. Marriage is the proper context for sexual activity.

All people have sinned and are condemned before God because of sin. The ultimate consequence of sin is the second death, also referred to as the lake of fire.

People are sinful and are incapable of saving or redeeming themselves.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:24; 5:1-2; 9:6; Exodus 21:22-25; Psalm 14:2-3; 53:2-3; 139:13; Isaiah 53:6; Matthew 19:4-6; Acts 17:26; Romans 3:23; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Galatians 2:16; James 3:9; 1 John 1:8, 10; Revelation 20:14-15.

Salvation

God chooses those he will save and all those he chooses will be saved.

God loves sinners and sent his Son Jesus to be their Savior.

Jesus died a substitutionary death on a cross on behalf of sinners, paying the penalty for sin. Following his death, Jesus was resurrected on the third day.

Salvation is a gift from God. People are saved by the grace of God, not as a result of their own merit.

No one can be saved apart from repentance and faith in Jesus.

The genuineness of a person's salvation will be seen in their obedience to Jesus. A child of God will live a life characterized by repentance, faith and obedience.

Genesis 15:6; Matthew 7:21; Luke 24:47; John 3:16-17; 6:35-40; 14:15; Acts 2:38; 13:48; Romans 4:1-5; 5:1; 6:23; 8:29-30; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; Ephesians 1:4; 2:8-9; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 3:4-7; James 2:20-26; 1 Peter 2:24.

The Church

The church is the family of believers in Jesus Christ.

The mission of the church is to make and mature disciples of Jesus.

The church is the body of Christ and the individual members of the body are gifted by God to serve and build up the body.

Believers in Jesus are baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Believers in Jesus take the Lord's Supper regularly to proclaim his death until he comes.

A believer's commitment to Jesus is largely demonstrated through commitment to a local church, where the family of believers worship, serve, give and grow as disciples of Jesus.

Matthew 28:19; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; 12:4-31; 2 Corinthians 1:1-2; 13:11; Ephesians 4:11-12; Colossians 1:2; Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:10.

The Future

All people will face the judgment of God.

The hope of believers is the future, imminent, bodily return of Jesus. Believers in Jesus will receive resurrected bodies and will live with the Lord forever.

Unbelievers will be resurrected to face judgment and will be thrown into the lake of fire forever.

John 5:25-29; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:13; 9:27; 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:3-4.

DISTINCTIVES

These beliefs must be affirmed by the leadership of FirstNSB and all teaching at FirstNSB must affirm these beliefs

Pastors or Elders in the Church

God has limited the role of pastor or elder to men who satisfy the biblical qualifications.

Limiting the role of pastor or elder to men in no way denies or diminishes the fact that women are valuable and are gifted by God for service in the church in all other areas except for pastors and elders.

1 Timothy 2:11-15; 3:1-7, 14-15; Titus 1:5-9.

Eternal Salvation

All people who are truly saved will persevere in repentance, faith and obedience and will remain truly saved forever.

John 10:27-29; Romans 8:29-30; Philippians 1:6; 1 Peter 1:3-5.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The gifts of speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues and healing are not a normative part of the life of the church, though God may choose to manifest these gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-31; 13:8-12.