

# ST. LOUIS BAPTIST CHURCH PHILOSOPHY

## **We believe in ONE GOD REVEALED IN THREE PERSONS**

We believe in one God who is Spirit in His essence, eternal in His existence, and Triune in His personage, being revealed to us in Scripture as distinctly Father, Son and Holy Ghost. We believe that He is Sovereign and Absolute in His authority and worthy of all reverence and obedience.

## **GOD THE FATHER**

We believe in the Father who is God Himself, who reigns supreme and sustains His universe. His providential hand has shaped the flow of human history in loving-kindness and mercy according to the purposes of His divine grace.

## **GOD THE SON**

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus was fully God and fully man and He perfectly revealed the will of God to mankind. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the will of the Father and thus fulfilled all the law and He totally identified with mankind yet without sin. He suffered, died, was buried, and rose from the dead for our total salvation. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father where He is the One Mediator between God and man. We believe that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Him.

## **GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who is God indwelling, empowering and regenerating the believer. This Holy Spirit is called the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth; He inspired and authored the Holy Scriptures through holy men who were used as vessels to write what the Holy Spirit divinely inspired. Through illumination, we believe that every true believer is indwelt with the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation and becomes a partaker in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We believe that Christians may be filled daily by yielding to the Holy Spirit, but the evidence of the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence is a changed life and the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit.

## **MAN**

We believe man was created from the dust of the ground by a special act of God. He was created in the image and likeness of God, and is the crowning work of God's creation. Man was given a free will by God, to choose to serve Him willingly. In man's innocence he pleased God and brought glory to God, which is his purpose. By his free choice man sinned against God and thus sinned entered the world and brought condemnation upon all mankind. The state of innocence being lost through sin, man's nature was now prone toward sin and disobedience to the commands of God.

## **SALVATION**

We believe that the blood of Jesus Christ atones for our sins and iniquity. It is through His shed blood that we are saved, healed and set free from bondage and the forces of darkness.

We believe that every believer must have a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ, for apart from Him we can do nothing. We believe in justification by faith. We believe that salvation is free and apart from any work of man is a result of the sovereign grace of God, His gift to humanity.

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

We believe that the Bible is the true infallible Word of God, which cleanses our souls. It holds the words of eternal life and the keys of the Kingdom of God. The Bible shows us God's principles and standards for living; and it is the food that sustains us in all circumstances.

We believe that we are to wash and renew our minds daily by the Word of God.

We must learn His ways and exchange our way of thinking for His. We are to be conformed to the Kingdom of God by the molding and shaping of His Hands.

## **WORSHIP**

We believe in worshipping the Lord in spirit, song, dance, and with the raising of our hands. We believe that we are to praise and worship Him with our whole being.

We believe in Godly living and that the pursuit of a holy life should be the goal of every believer.

## **HOLY ORDINANCES**

We believe that there are two Holy ordinances condoned by the Holy Scriptures, Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion).

We believe that believers should be water baptized by immersion for the circumcision of our hearts. It is through baptism that we publicly identify with the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We believe that all Christians need to partake of the communion elements which represent symbols of the Lord Jesus' body and blood. It is by participating in the Lord's Supper that we proclaim His death until His return.

## **THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS**

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by the power of God and are thus secure in Christ Jesus forever. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word. However, we believe that the Scriptures clearly forbid the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.