

Brandon Baptist Church

Statement of Faith

Article 13 - Of a Gospel Church

Statement of Faith Topics

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OF A GOSPEL CHURCH

- We believe a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers
- associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel;
- observing the ordinances of Christ;
- governed by His laws;
- and exercising the gifts rights and privileges invested in them by His word;
- that its only proper officers are Elders and Deacons;
- whose qualifications claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

What do we mean by “The Church”

- Universal Church (sometimes Catholic)
 - The universal body of Christ, encompassing all true believers worldwide.
- Visible Church
 - The organized, institutional Church, comprising all who profess faith in Christ and their children.
- Invisible Church
 - The true spiritual body of all the elect, known only to God.

We believe a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers

- 1 Corinthians 1:1-2,13 => Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours:
- Matthew 18:17 => "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.
- Matthew 16:13-18 => Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.
- Acts 5:12-14 => At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's portico. But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number,
- Acts 8:1 => Saul was in hearty agreement with putting him to death. And on that day a great persecution began against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.

associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel;

- Acts 2:41-42 => So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 1 Corinthians 4:17 => For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.
- 3 John 1:9 => I wrote something to the church; but Diotrephes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say.
- 1 Timothy 3:5 => (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?),

observing the ordinances of Christ;

- Acts 2:41-42 So then, those who had received **his word** were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
- 1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received **from the Lord** that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;
- Romans 6:3 Or do you not know that **all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus** have been baptized into His death?
- Philippians 1:14-18 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to **speak the word of God without fear**. Some, to be sure, are **preaching Christ** even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, **Christ is proclaimed**; and in this I rejoice.

governed by His laws;

- 1 Corinthians 4:17 => For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and **he will remind you of my ways** which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church.
- 1 Corinthians 11:2 => Now I praise you because you remember me in everything and **hold firmly to the traditions, just as I delivered them to you.**
- 1 Corinthians 11:23 => **For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you,** that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread;
- Romans 16:17-20 => Now I urge you, brethren, **keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned, and turn away from them.** For such men are slaves, not of our Lord Christ but of their own appetites; and by their smooth and flattering speech they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting. For the report of your obedience has reached to all; therefore I am rejoicing over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil. The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.
- Matthew 18:15-20 => "If your brother sins, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have won your brother. "But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that **BY THE MOUTH OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES EVERY FACT MAY BE CONFIRMED.** "If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. "Truly I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

and exercising the gifts rights and privileges invested in them by His word;

- Ephesians 4:7 => But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.
- 1 Corinthians 12:14-18 => For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.
- 1 Corinthians 14:12 => So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church.
- 1 Corinthians 12:28-31 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? But earnestly desire the greater gifts.

that its only proper officers are Elders and Deacons; whose qualifications claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

- Philippians 1:1 => Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:
- Acts 14:23 => When they had appointed elders for them in every church, having prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
- Acts 15:22 => Then it seemed good to the apostles and the elders, with the whole church, to choose men from among them to send to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas--Judas called Barsabbas, and Silas, leading men among the brethren,
- Titus 1 => Titus 1:5-9 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you, namely, if any man is above reproach, the husband of one wife, having children who believe, not accused of dissipation or rebellion. For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, **not self-willed**, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, **holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching**, so that he will be **able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict**.
- 1 Timothy 3:8 => Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued,

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