



# Emmanuel Baptist Church

## Basis of Faith

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This church adopts as a general summary of faith the 1689 'London Confession of Faith'.

This confession of faith gives a concise statement of biblical doctrine, but in no way is its authority equal to that of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

### **1. The Scriptures**

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are the only authoritative rule of Christian faith and practice.

### **2. Doctrine of God**

There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections, and being infinite in them all. To Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.

### **3. The Trinity**

There are three distinct Persons in the Godhead: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

### **4. Creation**

God created all things perfect from nothing. Man was originally created by God after His own image in perfect righteousness.

### **5. Providence**

God from eternity decrees all things that come to pass, and perpetually governs all creatures and events. However, He is not in any way the author or approver of sin, nor does He take away the responsibility of intelligent creatures.

### **6. The Fall of Man**

Adam, through Satan's temptation, broke God's commandment, and fell from his original righteousness. All Adam's descendants fell with him, and as a result have inherited a corrupt nature and are guilty before God. From this corrupt nature proceed all actual transgressions of the law of God. By reason of this fall, man is unable of himself to please God or to choose Christ as his Saviour and Lord.

## **God's Grace and our Salvation**

### **7. The Mediator**

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is the divinely appointed Mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin. He perfectly fulfilled the law, suffered, and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended to the Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the universe.

### **8. Election**

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons to eternal life – not because of foreseen merit in them, but because of His mercy in Christ. Those who have been predestined to be saved are called, justified, sanctified and glorified

## **9. Regeneration and Calling**

Regeneration is the implanting of spiritual life by the Holy Spirit. God calls us into fellowship with Jesus Christ by His Word and His Holy Spirit, our minds being spiritually enlightened and our wills and affections being renewed.

## **10. Repentance**

Repentance is a saving grace in which the repentant person is convicted of his sinfulness by the Holy Spirit, and then humbles himself because of his sin, showing godly sorrow, hatred of sin, and a willingness to walk before God so as to please Him in all things.

## **11. Faith**

Faith is a saving grace, by which we receive and rest upon Jesus Christ alone for salvation as He is freely offered to us in the Gospel.

## **12 Justification and Adoption**

Justification is an act of God's free grace, by which He pardons our sins, and accounts us righteous. This is not based on anything we have done, but only on the righteousness of Christ imputed to us and received by faith alone. Once justified, we are adopted into the family of God.

## **13. Sanctification**

Those who are united to Jesus Christ are renewed in their whole nature after the image of God. It is a progressive work of the Holy Spirit, who dwells in all believers. We are thus enabled to pursue a life of holiness in obedience to all the commands of Christ, though never attaining to perfection in this life.

## **14. Perseverance**

Those whom God has accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by the Holy Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but will persevere to the end.

## **15. The Church**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, which is composed of God's elect in every age. According to His commandment, Christians are to gather in local churches. To each of these churches He has given authority for administering worship, order and discipline. The officers of a church are elders and deacons.

## **16. Baptism**

Baptism is an ordinance commanded by the Lord Jesus for believers only, in which they are immersed in water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. It is a sign of their union with Christ in His death and resurrection, of remission of sins, and of their giving themselves to God to walk in newness of life. It is necessary for church membership.

## **17. The Lord's Supper**

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and wine, and to be observed by His Church until He returns. It is in no sense a sacrifice or a means of having sins cleansed. Its purpose is to commemorate Christ's death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond and a renewal of their fellowship with Christ and their fellow believers.

## **18. Evangelism and Missions**

It is the duty of every church and every Christian to extend the Gospel to all men everywhere. As faith comes by hearing the Word of God, we are to endeavour by all methods sanctioned in the Word of God to persuade men to seek Jesus Christ and His salvation.

## **The Christian Life**

### **19. The Law of God**

God has commanded us to love Him with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. The Christian's guide is laid down in His law, especially in the Ten Commandments.

### **20. The Lord's Day**

The Lord's Day is to be kept holy. It is given for our benefit, which we obtain through resting from our normal occupations and by giving ourselves to the worship and service of God.

### **21. The State**

Civil government is ordained by God, and it is the duty of Christians to obey those who have the rule over them, in matters consistent with the teaching of the Scriptures. Christians are to pray for their rulers.

## **The Last Things**

### **22 .The Return of Christ**

We believe in the visible, personal and bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **23. The Resurrection**

The bodies of men after death return to dust, but the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised at the coming of Christ.

### **24. The Judgment**

God has appointed a day in which He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when everyone shall receive according to his deeds. The wicked will go into everlasting punishment in hell with the devil and his angels. The righteous, with glorified bodies, will live and reign with Christ forever.