



## **Our Beliefs**

Our nine core beliefs—about God, people, the Church, the Bible, and Christ’s return—are the foundation of this church. This is **what we believe**.

### **Beliefs About God**

There is one living, sovereign God who eternally exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*(Revelation 1:8; Isaiah 43:10-11; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19)*

Jesus was sent by the Father to live on earth; he was fully God and fully human, yet had no sin. Jesus willingly laid down his life and, after three days, rose from the grave. In doing this, Jesus fulfilled the payment for the world’s debt of sin.

*(Luke 1:31, 35; 1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21)*

The Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and Son to convict the world of sin and to empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. He lives in every believer and is a constant helper, teacher, and guide.

*(John 14:16-17)*

### **Beliefs About People**

God created people in his image, and everyone matters to God.

*(Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 5:1-2)*

All people are sinners and need God’s forgiveness.

*(Romans 3:23)*

Those who confess and turn from their sin, trusting in Jesus Christ, will be saved by grace and become children of God, with the promise of eternal life.

*(John 3:16-17; Galatians 3:26)*

### **Beliefs About The Church, The Bible, and Christ’s Return**

Jesus Christ is the head of the church and all believing people are members.

*(Ephesians 4:15-16)*

The Bible is the inspired Word of God and is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

*(2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

Jesus Christ will return and there will be a final judgment.

*(Matthew 24:3, 37)*

## **Values**

Our values determine **who** we become. Our desire is for kids, students, and adults to become people who:

### **Follow Jesus**

Following Jesus is an ongoing commitment. From declaring our trust in Him and getting baptized, to sharing our faith with friends and inviting others to church—it's something we can strive to do each day.

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God. (Ephesians 2:8)*

### **Spend Time with God**

God invites us to spend time with him on a regular basis. We can do this through prayer, music, reflection, and reading the Bible.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

### **Connect in Community**

God created us to have relationships with others. We encourage attenders to connect to the church community by joining a small group, serving, or even just saying *hello* to someone new in church.

*Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another. (Hebrews 10:24-25)*

### **Serve Others**

Share God's joy and love by serving others—in your home, church, neighborhood, and around the world. Discover your God-given gifts to learn how God has uniquely wired you to serve others.

*Use your freedom to serve one another in love. For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Galatians 5:13-14)*

### **Live Generously**

God has called us to live generously. We can do this by sharing our time, talents, and finances.

*I am praying that you will put into action the generosity that comes from your faith as you understand and experience all the good things we have in Christ. (Philemon 1:6)*

## **Purpose**

**Why** does the church exist?

First Baptist exists to bring people into a relationship with God through Jesus Christ, to draw them into a Christ-centered community, and to help them grow in their faith. That's what drives every decision we make and guides every conversation we have.

## **Mission**

A mission is **what** a team does.

Empowered by God to reach others for Christ.

## **Strategy**

Strategies get us where we want to go. This is **how** we accomplish our mission and purpose. We strive to include strategies that are **relevant** to the audience, bring about **transformation**, and create **ownership** in those who participate.

## **Goals**

Our goals determine **where** we go. Our goals are based on our values and not on the quantity of our strategies. Transformation is our passion, so we set goals around what matters most to us. Goals help us dream big and measure what matters.

