

Abbey Baptist Church Basis of Faith

1. The Being of God

We believe that there is one true God, eternal, infinite, glorious and sovereign whose nature is love. In the one essence of God are three distinct persons, co-equal and co-eternal, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God is the Creator. He alone is the source of life. In creation God formed man and woman in his own image.

We believe that God is the Sustainer. He has not abandoned the world to the powers of chance or evil. God is sovereign over angels, people and events, and is guiding history towards its predestined end.

We believe that God is the Redeemer. Salvation in its origin, provision and application is entirely the work of God.

2. The Holy Scriptures

We believe that the Scriptures are of divine origin. In communicating his revelation God used human authors without employing them mechanically or disregarding their personalities. The Holy Spirit so prepared and guided the writers that the original Scriptures were preserved from all error. We accept the divine authority of the whole Bible — that is, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments.

We believe that God has graciously given in the Scriptures a sufficient, necessary, and reliable revelation of his character and plan.

We believe that God guides his people through his Spirit in a way that is consistent with his written word and that the Bible is to be decisive in all matters of belief and behaviour.

3. Mankind in Sin

We believe that Adam and Eve were created sinless, but tempted by Satan, the leader of the fallen angels, they rebelled against God. By this fall Adam, as the representative of the human race, forfeited his high privilege and brought about the condemnation of all mankind and God's curse on the physical creation.

We believe that although all people are separated from God by their sin, they are still accountable to him. Because of their fallen state they cannot save themselves and are unwilling and unable to please God or to choose Christ.

4. The Plan of Salvation

We believe that salvation is entirely the result of divine grace. God in eternity predestined to salvation a great multitude of sinners for whom the eternal Son of God willingly became

the mediator, took a real and sinless human nature in the womb of the virgin Mary, and lived a perfect life in full obedience to the holy law of God.

We believe that Jesus Christ bled and died on the cross to give himself as a substitute for his elect, bearing the just wrath of God as the full penalty of their sin.

We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day. He ascended into heaven where he lives and reigns, interceding for his church and governing all things until the end of time.

We believe that Jesus Christ's death and resurrection also secured the future redemption of the physical creation from its cursed state.

5. The Application of Salvation

We believe that the salvation secured by the work of Jesus Christ is applied to the elect by the Holy Spirit. By his powerful and sovereign work those dead in sin are made alive in Christ. They hear the call of God through his word and are given the desire and ability to repent of sin and believe in Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord.

We believe that sinners are justified by faith in Jesus Christ alone. They receive forgiveness for sins and are credited with the righteousness of Christ.

We believe that those whom God justifies will persevere to the end and enter into the joys of eternal life with Christ in heaven.

6. The Christian Life

We believe that the Christian receives the blessings of the new covenant, experiencing forgiveness of sins and the creation of an inward desire to glorify God by a sanctified life which conforms to his laws with the assistance of the Holy Spirit within.

We believe that good works and holy living are essential evidence of a genuine experience of divine grace.

7. The Church

We believe that the universal church is the innumerable company of God's elect in every age.

We believe that the local church is made up of those who have joined together in visible fellowship as a community and that it is the duty of all believers to unite with a local church in commitment to the Lord, to the truth and to each other in love.

We believe that it is the responsibility of God's people to spread the gospel in their locality and among all nations.

We believe that the sole head of the church is Jesus Christ who communicates his will through his Word and guides the church by his Spirit. He also equips his people for his work on earth. The local church is led by elders and others are appointed to specific areas of service.

We believe that the local church is responsible to Christ for its own administration and in this respect is independent of every other form of control.

8. Ordinances

We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper were instituted by Christ and that both ordinances are to be observed by local churches until he returns.

We believe that Baptism is only for those who have made a profession of repentance and of faith in Christ and that the symbolism of this ordinance is most accurately portrayed by immersion in water.

We believe that participation in the Lord's supper is appropriate only for those who profess to have saving faith in Christ.

We believe that the biblical pattern is most fully reflected when the ordinances are understood in conjunction with commitment to a local church.

9. The Last Things

We believe that, at a time known only to God, the Lord Jesus Christ will return to this earth with power and glory to raise the dead, both believers and unbelievers, and to judge all mankind in righteousness. Unbelievers will be condemned to eternal punishment.

We believe that the physical creation will be renewed into a perfect and glorious new creation. There, believers will be made perfect through the merits of Christ and will experience the eternal joy of the presence of God in the new heavens and new earth, the full and final kingdom of God.