

## What We Believe

Historically, Baptists have argued that the only comprehensive, binding statement of faith is the inspired Word of God, the Bible!

Any other statement of doctrines or beliefs would be incomplete. And it would represent a human interpretation of what people consider important. Because Statements of Faith have been abused (sometimes being considered more authoritative than the Bible), Baptists have been reticent to adopt them as binding doctrinal positions.

Baptists insist that all people have a right – and a responsibility – to read the Bible!

Having said that, Baptists do recognize that there is value in summarizing some of our core convictions and values.

The Council of First Baptist Church has chosen to affirm the Statement of Faith of **The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada**<sup>1</sup> as a summary of our basic beliefs:

- *The Holy Scriptures as originally given by God are divinely inspired, infallible, entirely trustworthy, and constitute the only supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.*
- *There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*
- *Our Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh; we affirm his virgin birth, sinless humanity, divine miracles, vicarious and atoning death, bodily resurrection, ascension, ongoing mediatorial work, and personal return in power and glory.*
- *The salvation of lost and sinful humanity is possible only through the merits of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, received by faith apart from works, and is characterized by regeneration by the Holy Spirit.*
- *The Holy Spirit enables believers to live a holy life, to witness and work for the Lord Jesus Christ.*
- *The Church, the body of Christ, consists of all true believers.*
- *Ultimately God will judge the living and the dead, those who are saved unto the resurrection of life, those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.*

As Baptists we also recognize two ordinances: believers' baptism and the Lord's Supper (Communion).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.evangelicalfellowship.ca/about/mission.asp>