Calvary Independent Baptist Church

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## STATEMENT OF FAITH

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Preaching the Word....Teaching the Word

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#### The Bible

We believe that the Bible, comprised of 39 books of the Old Testament and of the 27 books of the New Testament exclusively, is verbally and plenarily inspired of God and is the sole and final authority for faith and practice,

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (2 Timothy 3:16 KJV)

that it is without error in all matters of which it speaks,

Thy word *is* true *from* the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments *endureth* for ever. (Psalms 119:160 KJV)

that it is inerrant and that God has preserved His Word,

For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfulled. (Matthew 5:18 KJV)

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you. (I Peter 1:23 - 25 KJV)

The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O Lord, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever. (Psalms 12:6-7 KJV)

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost. (2 Peter 1:20 – 21 KJV)

that it is complete with no further revelation needed or being given in this the Church Age,

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. (1 Corinthians 13:10 KJV)

that it is to be interpreted literally, i.e. according to the grammatical, historical, and theological method which will lead one to a dispensational understanding of Scripture,

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; (Hebrews 1:1- 2 KJV)

of which the King James version is a reliable and trustworthy translation which version is now exclusively used in the ministries of this church.

#### God and Creation

We believe that the God of the Bible exists,

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. (Genesis 1:1 KJV)

that He is One Eternal, Living, Personal and Triune God,

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. (1 John 5:7 KJV)

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said,

Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. (Exodus 3:14 KJV)

existing in three distinct persons— the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — each being equal, identical in essence, having the same attributes — the distinctions between the persons in the Trinity are seen in their distinct offices,

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: (Philippians 2:5-6 KJV)

But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back *part* of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. (Acts 5:3-4 KJV)

#### and we believe that God created all things that exist,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3 KJV)

#### by the word of his power without the use of preexisting materials,

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. (Hebrews 11:3 KJV)

#### in six literal twenty-four hour days,

For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. (Exodus 20:11 KJV)

therefore we reject all gap-like theories and also believe that the creation is sustained by Christ. For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (Colossians 1:17 KJV)

#### Christ

#### We believe that Jesus Christ is the second person of the God-head existing eternally,

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (John 1:1-3 KJV)

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Matthew 28:19 KJV)

#### That He is equal with the Father,

I and my Father are one. (John 10:30 KJV)

#### That He was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of Mary by means of the miracle of the virgin birth,

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. (Luke 1:35 KJV)

That by means of the incarnation He became the Godman thereby to continue forever as both true God and true man— one person with two natures, Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: (Philippians 2:5-7 KJV)

#### And we also believe that His temptation described in Matthew 4:1-11 was valid though He Himself could not have sinned,

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. (Hebrews 4:15 KJV)

#### And he voluntarily died as a substitutionary sacrifice for all men,

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:8 KJV)

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. (1 John 2:2 KJV)

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

(2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)

#### In which His shed blood redeems man,

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (1 Peter 1:18-19 KJV)

#### And His death is sufficient for all men, but only efficient for those who believe,

For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe. (1 Timothy 4:10 KJV)

#### That physical healing is not included in the atonement,

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare *our* sicknesses.

(Matthew 8:16-17 KJV)

#### That He arose bodily from the grave,

And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. (Matthew 28:5-6 KJV)

And as they thus spake, Jesus himself stood in the midst of them, and saith unto them, Peace *be* unto you. But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. (Luke 24:36-39 KJV)

### And that He is now seated at the Father's right hand making intercession for believers.

Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. (Romans 8:34 KJV)

#### Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the eternal third person of the God-Head.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, *be* with you all. Amen. (II Corinthians 13:14 KJV)

#### That He is equal in essence to the Father and the Son, possessing the same attributes,

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (John 14:16 KJV)

How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:14 KJV)

### And that His ministry is to glorify Christ and to convict the world,

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. (John 16:7-14)

#### That He is a person, not a mere influence

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (John 14:26 KJV)

That he convicts and regenerates those that trust Christ. (Titus 3:5 KJV)

#### That He permanently indwells him,

But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (Romans 8:9 KJV)

#### And seals him,

In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (Ephesians 1:13 KJV)

# And that in the early church He bestowed miraculous gifts upon believers for the purpose (1) of edifying the body

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

(1 Corinthians 12:11-12 KJV)

#### And (2) of confirming Scripture,

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. (Mark 16:20 KJV)

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands. (Acts 14:3 KJV)

### Therefore the gifts listed in I Corinthians 13:8-10 functioned only until the completion of the Bible

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether

there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. (I Corinthians 13:8-10 KJV)

### With some fading out prior to the completion of the Bible,

How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? (Hebrews 2:3-4 KJV)

#### Therefore, we will not allow the exercising of any socalled gift of speaking in tongues, extra-Biblical prophesying, or healing.

A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; (Titus 3:10 KJV)

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. (Romans 16:17 KJV)

#### The Devil

#### We believe that Satan is a literal, living spiritual being,

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. (John 8:44 KJV)

#### That he is the agent of the fall,

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field

which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? (Genesis 3:1 KJV)

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: (Revelation 12:9a KJV)

#### That he is the god of this world,

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

(2 Corinthians 4:4 KJV)

#### That he is the chief enemey of the Christian,

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. (Ephesians 6:11 KJV)

#### And that he and his angels will be eternally punished,

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: (Matthew 25:41 KJV)

### And that he can be overcome by the Christian who obeys God's Word.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. (James 4:7 KJV)

#### Man

#### We believe that God created man, Adam, out of the dust of the earth on the sixth day of creation,

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, (Genesis 1:26a KJV)

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Genesis 2:7 KJV)

#### That he was created in the image of God,

So God created man in his *own* image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Genesis 1:27 KJV)

#### That at the time of his sin against God the entire human race was plunged into sin,

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Romans 5:12 KJV)

### That his sin brought spiritual death, separation from God,

For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23 KJV)

#### Physical death,

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (1 Corinthians 15:22 KJV)

#### And a depraved nature upon all mankind,

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins: Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. (Ephesians 2:1-3 KJV)

#### And therefore men are sinners both by birth,

Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (Psalms 51:5 KJV)

#### And by choice,

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. (Romans 3:10-19 KJV)

#### And have no means of saving themselves,

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)

#### And that men are guilty without excuse before God.

But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe. (Galatians 3:22 KJV)

#### Salvation

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God, not merited nor received by any virtue within man, not any good works wrought by man, but that this gift is solely by grace,

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 KJV)

#### And the mercy of God,

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; (Titus 3:5 KJV)

### Through faith; that all who take Christ as Savior are saved,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. (John 5:24 KJV)

#### And thus eternally secure in Christ,

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Romans 8:1 KJV)

Therefore we reject the doctrinal deviation referred to as Arminianism; furthermore, we believe that salvation was planned from the foundation of the world by God to be the shed blood of Christ,

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, (1 Peter 1:18-20 KJV)

That along with this planning God foreknew those who would accept the blood atonement and calls all who would do so His elect,

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. (1 Peter 1:2 KJV)

And therefore we reject an election which makes sinners get saved, consequently we reject the doctrinal deviation known as Calvinism. We believe that the sinner can only come to Christ if the Father draws him.

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44 KJV)

### That the Father draws through the hearing of God's Word,

So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17 KJV)

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (James 1:18 KJV)

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (1 Peter 1:23 KJV)

#### And through the ministry of the Spirit,

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (John 16:8 KJV)

### That man has the opportunity to call on the Lord for salvation,

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13 KJV)

#### That he must repent of his sin,

And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: (Acts 17:30 KJV)

#### And ask the Lord to save him,

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10 KJV)

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13 KJV)

### Trusting in the sufficiency of Christ to save completely,

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25 KJV)

### That at the moment a sinner is saved he is instantaneously converted,

Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; (Acts 3:19 KJV)

#### Becoming a new creature in Christ,

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV)

#### And declared righteous before God,

For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. (2 Corinthians 5:21 KJV)

Furthermore, the truly saved person is sanctified, which sanctification is in three aspects (1) positional—the moment a person is saved, he is saved from the guilt and penalty of sin,

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. (Romans 8:1 KJV)

#### And is said to be sanctified, that is, set apart to God,

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. (Hebrews 10:10 KJV)

For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. (Hebrews 10:14 KJV)

(2) progressive—sanctification continues as a process wherein the believer as he is obedient to the Word of

#### God is being saved from the power of sin,

Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace. (Romans 6:13-14 KJV)

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (Romans 12:1-2 KJV)

#### (3) perfect—the ultimate end of sanctification is that the believer will be saved from the very presence of sin,

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. (1 John 3:2 KJV)

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. (Philippians 3:20-21 KJV)

# HEAVEN: We believe that upon death the soul of the truly saved person is immediately absent from the body and present with the Lord in heaven,

We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:8 KJV)

For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and

to be with Christ; which is far better: (Philippians 1:23 KJV)

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. (Matthew 6:9 KJV)

While his body will be awaiting the resurrection (see the Eschatology section for information on the rapture, the first resurrection, and the eternal state of the believer.)

HELL: We believe that upon death the soul of the lost person will go immediately to conscious punishment in hell,

And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. (Luke 16:22-24 KJV)

And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. (Mark 9:43-48 KJV)

That the lost will not be annihilated,

And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand, The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name. (Revelation 14:9-11 KJV)

And that while the lost is in hell his body will be awaiting the second resurrection (consult the Eschatology section for more information on the second resurrection, the Great White Throne of Judgment and the lake of fire.)

#### Church

The word Church means assembly of called out ones, i.e., those who have been saved by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus. Only local churches assemble.

We do not believe in a universal church, as there is no such assembly; nor do we believe in the concept of an invisible church. The New Testament clearly demonstrates that God's ordained institution in this age is the local church. The last book of the Bible addressed 7 local churches, not a fictitious universal church.

Therefore the local church is God's program for carrying out His work in this dispensation,

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. (Matthew 16:18 KJV)

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved. (Acts 2:47 KJV)

Therefore we reject as unbiblical all attempts to do the Lord's work independent of the local church. We believe that the local church is to be composed of only those believers who have been scripturally baptized after salvation,

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. (Acts 2:41-42 KJV)

And who are willing to walk faithful to God's Word, (I Corinthians 5, Romans 16:17, II Thessalonians 3:6-14, etc.) therefore we believe in a regenerated church membership; that each local church is a separate, independent, autonomous, self-governing organization,

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

(1 Timothy 3:15 KJV)

#### We believe that the local church should be separate from the state,

They say unto him, Caesar's. Then saith he unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. (Matthew 22:21 KJV)

### That the members of a local church have individual soul liberty,

But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (1 Peter 2:9 KJV)

#### We believe in Church discipline when it is warranted.

(I Corinthians 5; Romans 16:17; Titus 3:10; Matthew 18:15-17; etc.);

#### That during the meetings of the church, the women are not to ask questions, teach men, or usurp authority,

Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but *they are commanded* to be under obedience, as also saith the law. And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church.

(1 Corinthians 14:34-35 KJV)

Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. (1 Timothy 2:11-12 KJV)

#### That all believers who refuse to identify with the local church are disobedient,

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25 KJV)

# That the local church is to have two offices—pastor(s) and deacons, (I Timothy 3) both of which should be elected by the local church in accordance with the qualifications established in the New Testament,

And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid *their* hands on them. (Acts 6:5-6 KJV)

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: (Titus 1:5 KJV)

### The office of pastor is also designated as elder, bishop, overseer, and teacher,

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; (Ephesians 4:11 KJV)

And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. (Acts 20:17 KJV)

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. (Acts 20:28 KJV)

### The pastor is the overseer of the church and is to rule over the Church,

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their* conversation. (Hebrews 13:7 KJV)

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that *is* unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17 KJV)

### The deacons are to care for the temporal and mundane affairs of the church,

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples *unto them*, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. (Acts 6:2-3 KJV)

That the local church has to administer two ordinances—one of which is baptism. Baptism has no saving power nor does it convey grace. Baptism is the single immersion of someone already saved,

And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. (Acts 8:36-39 KJV)

### And it is the outward picture of the inward regeneration,

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: (Romans 6:3-5 KJV)

Picturing the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ and the baptism is to be done in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen. (Matthew 28:19-20 KJV)

The other ordinance to be administered by the local church is the Lord's supper which is a commemoration of the Lord's death, For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the *same* night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26 KJV)

And is to be observed by those who are saved and are walking in obedient fellowship with Christ, therefore we practice "close communion." Close communion is not "Closed communion" of which only members may partake, nor is it "open communion" of which anyone may partake, but is that communion which is preceded by a warning that only obedient Christians should partake—the decision to partake or not being left up to each individual person.

Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink *this* cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of *that* bread, and drink of *that* cup. For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many *are* weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

(1 Corinthians 11:27-31 KJV)

The bread and the fruit of the vine (grape juice, not alcoholic wine) which are the elements of the Lord's Supper are the only symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood,

And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake *it*, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave *it* to

them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many. Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God. (Mark 14:22-25 KJV)

And when he had given thanks, he brake *it*, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also *he took* the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink *it*, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come. (1 Corinthians 11:24-26 KJV)

And furthermore, the Lord's Supper can convey no grace nor have any saving power.

We also believe that the local church must remain separate from the contamination of the world,

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*. (Ephesians 5:11 KJV)

#### From ecclesiastical apostacy,

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14 KJV)

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them;* and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing;* and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be

my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. (2 Corinthians 6:14-18 KJV)

### And from any person or ecclesiastical body that compromises God's Word,

Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us. (2 Thessalonians 3:6 KJV)

And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed. Yet count *him* not as an enemy, but admonish *him* as a brother. (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15 KJV)

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. (Romans 16:17 KJV)

Therefore it is impossible for an obedient local church or child of God to fellowship with or support the men and ministries of apostasy or of disorderly brethren (or brethren so-called).

#### Eschatology (The Future)

We believe that the next prophetic event to be fulfilled will be the personal coming of Christ in the air to rapture all believers of the church age,

But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

(1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 KJV)

#### That it is imminent,

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (Titus 2:13 KJV)

#### That it is pre-tribulational and pre-millenial,

And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, *even* Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come. (1 Thessalonians 1:10 KJV)

Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; (2 Thessalonians 2:3 KJV)

### And that at the rapture the spirits of dead saints which up until the rapture were in conscious joy in heaven

We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:8 KJV)

#### Will accompany Christ to the clouds of the air to be reunited with their resurrected changed bodies,

Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(1 Corinthians 15:51-52 KJV)

And that also the living saints will be taken from the earth to meet the Lord in the air, their bodies likewise having been changed. Following the rapture we believe that the judgment seat of Christ will occur, the purpose being the issuing of rewards to believers,

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad. (2 Corinthians 5:10 KJV)

For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (1 Corinthians 3:11-15 KJV)

### Which will be followed at some subsequent time by the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. (Revelation 19:10 KJV)

Furthermore, we believe that God's program for national Israel will resume following the rapture with the tribulation or Daniel's seventieth seven which will last for seven years, Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off. but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the (Daniel 9:24-27 KJV) desolate.

#### That this period will be a time of judgment upon the ungodly in general and upon Israel in particular,

Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it. (Jeremiah 30:7 KJV)

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand? (Revelation 6:17 KJV)

### That the tribulation will conclude with Christ's personal, visible return to the earth,

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city. Then shall the LORD go forth,

and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle. And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south. (Zechariah 14:1-4 KJV)

For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (Matthew 24:27 KJV)

### Which will bring the destruction of the anti-god forces;

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. (Revelation 19:19-21 KJV)

#### And the judgment of the unsaved.

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth *his* sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous

answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ve have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ve have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25:31-46 KJV)

And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-10 KJV)

Also we believe that after the tribulation, the resurrection of Old Testament and tribulational saints will take place,

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation *even* to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame *and* everlasting contempt. (Daniel 12:1-2 KJV)

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. (Revelation 20:4-5 KJV)

#### That by this time all Israel will be saved,

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only *son*, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn. (Zechariah 12:10 KJV)

#### That she will be restored to Palestine,

And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one. All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: and it shall be lifted up, and inhabited in her place, from Benjamin's gate unto the place of the first gate, unto the corner gate, and *from* the tower of Hananeel unto the king's winepresses. And *men* shall dwell in it, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely inhabited. (Zechariah 14:9-11 KJV)

That Christ shall establish a literal 1,000 year kingdom,

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison. And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever. (Revelation 20:1-10 KJV)

### During which time Satan shall be bound and righteousness will reign over the earth.

In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the

LORD'S house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah shall be holiness unto the LORD of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and seethe therein: and in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the house of the LORD of hosts. (Zechariah 14:20-21 KJV) (cf Isaiah 11:1-9)

The millennium will conclude with the loosing of Satan for one final rebellion against God which rebellion culminates in the casting of Satan into the lake of fire and the judgment of all unbelievers, living and dead—the dead being taken from hell where they were consciously tormented,

And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. (Luke 16:23-24 KJV)

### And reunited with their body to appear at the great white throne of judgment,

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:11-15 KJV)

### Which judgment will condemn all unbelievers to an eternal conscious existence in the lake of fire.

Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast *them* from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire. (Matthew 18:8 KJV)

#### We believe that after the Great White Throne Judgment all trace of former ages will be removed with the destruction of the old heaven and earth,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? (2 Peter 3:12 KJV)

#### And that all believers of all ages will enjoy eternal blessedness with God in a new heaven and a new earth.

And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Revelation 21:1-4 KJV)

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads. (Revelation 22:3-4 KJV)

### OUTLINE OF PROCEDURES

#### Procedure I-Membership

Those desiring church membership must be saved,

Scripturally baptized,

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. (Acts 2:41 KJV)

#### Submit to the statement of faith,

A man that is an heretic after the first and second admonition reject; (Titus 3:10 KJV)

That ye may with one mind *and* one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:6 KJV)

And be willing to walk faithful to God's Word; (I Corinthians 5, Romans 16:17, II Thessalonians 3:6-14, etc.) of which one aspect is attending the services of the local church regularly.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some *is*; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. (Hebrews 10:25 KJV)

#### Procedure II—Deacons

Deacons shall be elected by the church as needed (Acts 6:5-6) in accordance with qualifications listed in I Timothy 3:8-13 and are to care for and maintain all properties of the church so that the pastor(s) can give themselves to the Word of God and to prayer (Acts 6:2-3).

#### Procedure III—Pastors

Pastor(s) shall be elected by the church (Titus 1:5) in accordance with the qualifications listed in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9. Upon being elected they are ordained (Titus 1:5). All pastors of this church must agree with this statement of faith both in word and in practice.

#### Procedure IV—Meetings

This church shall meet every Lord's day (Sunday - Acts 20:7), and at such times for Biblical purposes as the pastor deems necessary.

#### Procedure V—Organizations

The Church shall maintain and operate such organizations as are necessary to carry out the Word of God. (Matthew 28:19-20) One of these organizations includes a Christian Day School which is a ministry and an arm of the Church.

### Calvary Independent Baptist Church

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