

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Preamble

We the Christian members of Deaf Liberty Baptist Church do establish this Statement of Faith in order to declare and proclaim the truths found in the Holy Word of God, The Bible. Concerning all matters of faith and practice, the doctrinal foundation for Deaf Liberty Baptist Church is found only in the Bible, The Word of God. This Statement of Faith serves as the foundation of our understanding of the Word of God as it relates to the decisions that the Deaf Liberty Baptist Church will make.

Article 1 – The Holy Bible

We believe that the Holy Bible is comprised of Old and New Testaments and that the sixty-six books from Genesis to Revelation were originally, verbally inspired by God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible and God-breathed. They were penned by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. The purpose of the Bible is to provide the believer with doctrine, reproof, correction and instruction in righteousness. The Scriptures are to be interpreted according to their literal, face value unless the Scripture specifies otherwise. Our preferred translation is the King James Version.

2 Peter 1:19-21, 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Article 2 – The Trinity

We believe in one God being manifested in three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Coequal and Coeternal in Divine perfection, each Person has a distinct yet harmonious office in the Godhead.

Genesis 1:26, Isaiah 6:8, Matthew 3:16-17, ! John 5:7

Article 3 – God The Father

We believe in the one living and true God. He is omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent. He is immutable and eternal. The Father is recognized as God and He is the author of the decree of God. He is the elector of our salvation, and He sent His Son to earth for the purpose of salvation. He chastens His children and He is the final Judge of the living and the dead at the end of all things.

Psalms 139:7-12, Job 42:2, Mark 10:27, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Revelation 1:8

Article 4 – God The Son

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was born of the virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man.

We believe that Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice. Our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

We believe that Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

John 20:28, 1 Timothy 1:17, Matthew 1:18, 1 Timothy 3:16, John 1:14, 1 Corinthians 15, Acts 1:3, 1 Peter 3:22

Article 5 – God The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, and is the Administrator of spiritual gifts for the believer. These gifted believers are used to equip the church to do the work of the ministry. We believe that the sign gifts were temporary but that the gifts for ministry are still in use today. The Holy Spirit indwells the saints, and seals the believer at the moment of salvation. He convicts the sinner of fault and reproves the world while guiding the believer. He fills the believer and empowers the believer for Christian life and service.

1 Corinthians 13:8-10, Romans 12:6-8, 2 Corinthians 3:17-18, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 1:13-14, Ephesians 5:18, Romans 8:2

Article 6 – Creation

We believe that God created the universe, earth and man in six literal, twenty-four hour periods. We believe that man is the special creation God has created perfectly in His image. We believe that it requires faith to accept the Biblical account of creation. We believe that living creatures continue after their kind. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, The Day-Age theory and Theistic Evolution as unbiblical theories of the origin of man.

Genesis 1-2, John 1:1-3, Hebrews 11:3,

Article 7 – The Depravity of Man

We believe that as a result of the sin of Adam that the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Therefore, man is utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. As a result, no person is sinless, man is incapable of doing any spiritual work and understanding any spiritual thing to please God.

Romans 3:10, 23, Romans 5:12, Romans 8:8, Genesis 3, Ephesians 1:4-7

Article 8 – Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace through faith in Jesus Christ whose blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of sin. We

believe that works cannot and will not add anything to our salvation. We believe that faith and repentance are the basic requirements for salvation. We believe that at the moment of salvation we are given God's justification which means we are seen as righteous in God's eyes. We believe that the believer experiences regeneration by the Holy Spirit and that this spiritual rebirth provides eternal life for the believer in Heaven. We believe that once believers place their faith in the Lord, they are placed in the security of both Christ's and the Father's hands and are eternally secure there. We believe that the believer is sanctified through the offering of the body of Christ to be separated from sin unto God through God's Word. Therefore, all the saved should live in such a manner as to not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and that separation from all religious apostasy is commanded by God.

Ephesians 2:8-9, John 14:6, Romans 10:9-13, Romans 1:17, Titus 3:5, John 3:1-17, John 10:27-29, John 17:17

Article 9 – The Local Church

We believe the local church should be free of any external authority and control and is responsible to govern itself according to the mandates of Scripture. We believe that Jesus Christ builds His church upon the Rock of Christ and the gates of hell will never prevail against it. We believe that the local church is comprised of called-out believers who gather together to fellowship with each other, minister to the lost, and worship God. We believe that there are two ordinances commanded by Christ for the church to carry out. These two ordinances are believer's baptism and the Lord's supper. Believer's baptism should be carried out as soon as possible after a candidate has presented themselves for baptism to the church. We believe the believer's baptism should be by immersion in water representative of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Upon baptism, believers become members of the local church except for certain situations. The Lord's supper should be observed regularly for the purpose of remembering the death and suffering of Jesus Christ. Sobriety is important as the Lord's supper should never be taken lightly. We believe that the Lord's day is the first day of week (Sunday) as Christ was risen from the grave on this day. We believe that it is the church's responsibility to care for its financial obligations by taking an offering. As members of the church, believers are to give liberally and cheerfully above their tithe (10%). We believe that there are 2 (two) Biblical officers in the church, the Pastor and deacons. The Pastor is responsible to shepherd the flock and to give himself to the ministry of the Word and prayer, while the deacons are responsible to perform the service duties of the church.

Matthew 16:18, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 3:21, Matthew 28:19-20, I Corinthians 11:20-30. Matthew 28:1-7, Malachi 3:8-10, Matthew 6, 1 Timothy 3:1-13, Acts 6:1-7

Article 10 – The Second Coming of Christ

We believe in the personal, imminent rapture of the church to Christ prior to the seven year tribulation. At the end of this tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly

return, with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15, Revelation 4-5, 16, 19-21

Article 11 – Eternity

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. We believe that the souls of all believers are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord. They await the moment when soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until body and soul are reunited at the Great White Throne Judgment. There they will be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire for eternity.

Matthew 25:46, John 5:28-29, Revelation 20:4-6,12-13, Luke 23:43, 2 Corinthians 5:8

Article 12 – The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of Man; that he is the open and declared enemy of man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

Job 1:6-7, Isaiah 14:12-17, Matthew 4:2-11, 25:41, Revelation 20:10

Article 13 – Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: (1) the home; (2) the church, (3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. Upon contradiction with God's Word, the authority concerning that specific issue should rest in the Word of God. "We ought to obey God rather than man."

Romans 13:1-7, Ephesians 5:2-24, Hebrews 13:17, 1 Peter 2:13-14, Acts 5:29

Article 14 – Family Relationships

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and in the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Women certainly can and should serve in the church and be respected for their service.

We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the Church. The wife is to submit herself to the leadership of her husband as the Church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are an heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible to

teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline.

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorced and remarried persons may and should hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God and should never be looked down upon as second-rate Christians.

Galatians 3:28, Colossians 3:18, 1 Timothy 2:8-15, 3:4-12, Genesis 1:26-28, Exodus 20:12, Psalm 127:3-5, Proverbs 19:18, Mark 10:6-12, Ephesians 5:21-33, 6:1-4, Hebrews 13:14, 1 Peter 3:1-7, Malachi 2:14-17, Matthew 19:3-12, Romans 7:1-3, 1 Timothy 3:2,12, Titus 1:6

Article 15 – Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that all intimate sexual activity should be within the boundary of a Biblical marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any perversion of the marriage bed is wrong and corrupts God's gift of sex. We believe that homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography (amongst others) are perversions of God's gift of sex designed for a man and a woman in the confines of marriage. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man to one woman.

Genesis 2:24, Romans 1, 7:2, 1 Corinthians 7:10, Ephesians 5:22-23

Article 16 – The Value of Human Life

We believe that life is a gift of God from conception until natural death. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. We do not believe that abortion is acceptable under any circumstance. We believe that taking a human life is regarded as a moral evil, regardless of intention. Any act or omission which causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes murder and is contrary to the will of God.

Exodus 20:13, 23:7, Matthew 5:21, Acts 17:28

Article 17 – Missions

We believe that God has given the church a Great Commission to proclaim the gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us.

Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15, Luke 24:46-48, John 20:21, Acts 1:8, 2 Corinthians 5:20

Article 18 – Lawsuits between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve disputes. We do believe that the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander.

1 Corinthians 6:1-8, Ephesians 4:31-32

Article 19 – Amendments

This Statement of Faith may be amended. Amendments to the Statement of Faith may be presented by the Pastor, the Deacons, or by any ten (10) active, in good standing members. Amendments must be submitted in writing to the Pastor and Deacons thirty (30) days before the meeting in which it is to be considered and/or ratified. It must be read from the pulpit on two (2) Sundays immediately preceding the meeting in which it is to be considered or ratified. Amendments must be ratified by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the active, in good standing, members present. The vote must be by secret ballot. The ballots must be counted by the deacons or Pastoral appointees together and in full view of the entire voting congregation and recorded immediately as ratified or not unless there is good reason for a recount.