

Approved EBCI Statement of Faith and Statement of Baptist Principles

21 November 2013

Statement of Faith

1. **THE BIBLE.** We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as fully inspired of God and accept them as our final and sufficient authority for faith and life. (, 2 Sam 22: 31, , Ps 19:7-11, Ps 119:105, Luke 16:29, ,Rom 15:4, 2 Peter 1: 20-21, 2 Tim. 3:15-17, Heb 4:12, Rom 16:25-26, I Pet 1:25)
2. **GOD.** We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Gen 1:1, Deut. 6:4, Jer. 10:10, Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14, John 1:1-3; 14:11; 15:26, 20:30-31, Heb. 1:2, 1 John 4:14-15)
3. **JESUS.** We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary and is true God and true man. (Matt. 1:20-25, John 1:1-3; 14; 18; 5:18, 8:58, 20:28, Rom. 9:5, Col 1:13-14, Heb. 1:8, I Thes 4:14-18, Titus 2:13, 2 Peter 1:1, Matt. 1:1-16, Luke 3:23-38)
4. **HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit, His regenerating work, and abiding presence in the true believer. (John 14:16; 26; 15:26; 16:7-11, Rom. 5:5; 8:1-17, 1 Cor. 12-14, Gal. 5:16-26, John 3:5-8; II Tim 1:14, Titus 3:5, II Pet 1:21, I John 4:13)
5. **MAN & SIN.** We believe that God created man in His own image: that man sinned and thereby incurred the penalty of death, physical and spiritual: that all human beings inherit a sinful nature which produces actual transgressions involving personal guilt. (Gen. 1:26-27, Gen. 3, Rom. 3:10-18, 23-25; 5:12-14, Gal. 3:22)
6. **SALVATION.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, an atoning and substitutionary sacrifice, according to the Scriptures, and that all who repent of their sin and believe in Him are justified by grace through faith, on the ground of His shed blood. (John 3:16-21, Acts 4:12, 20:28, Rom. 3:23-26, Eph. 1:7, 2:8,9, 5:9, Gal 2:20, 3:13, I Tim 2:3-6)
7. **RESURRECTION OF CHRIST.** We believe in the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, His ascension into heaven, His exaltation and His ministry as our high priest, mediator and advocate. (Matt. 28:6, Luke 24:5-6, John 21:14, 1 Cor. 15:3-4; 12-20, Luke 24:50-53, Acts 1:1-2; 9-11, Heb. 4:14; 8:1-6, Phil 2:5-11, I Tim 2:5, Rom 8:34, I Pet 1:3)
8. **RETURN OF CHRIST.** We believe in the personal, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory. (Matt. 24:30-44, 1 Cor. 15:24, 1 Thes. 4:14-17; 5:1-2, II Thes 1:7, I John 2:28, Rev. 1:7, Acts 1:11, Tit 2:11-14)

9. **FINAL JUDGEMENT.** We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead, the just and the unjust. We believe that all will be judged by Jesus Christ, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost. (Eccl. 11:9; 12:14, Acts 17:31, Acts 24:15, Rom. 14:10, 1 Cor. 15:21-23, 35-58, 1 Thess 4:13-18, Heb. 9:27, Rev. 20:11-15)
10. **THE CHURCH.** We believe that a New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptised believers, observing the two ordinances of Christ – Lord’s Supper and Baptism, committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. We also believe that the Church is the body of Christ which includes all those who have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 16:18, 18:17, 28:19-20, John 3:5-7, Acts 1:8, 2:41-47, Rom. 9:23-26, 1 Cor. 1:1-2; 3:10-11; 11:23-34; 12:27, Eph. 2:8-9; 19-22, Col 1:18, 2:9-10)
11. **ORDINANCES.** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ gave His church two ordinances to follow, Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. We believe that He commanded all believers to be baptised by immersion. We believe that all believers should examine themselves before they take the Lord’s Supper; we also believe that they should ensure that they take the Lord’s Supper in a worthy manner.
12. **MARRIAGE.** We believe that God has ordained marriage as a lifelong relationship between one natural man and one natural woman. We also believe that a believer should only marry another believer and that believers are to abstain from sexual immorality, including pre-marital and extra-marital sex. (Gen 2:24, Mat 19:4-6, Mal 2:10-16, 1 Cor 7:39, 2 Cor 6:14,15, 1 Thes 4:3-8, Heb 13:4, Acts 15:20)

Acceptance of this Statement of Faith

I, the undersigned, freely and voluntarily agree with the Biblical principles set out in this Statement of Faith. I understand and agree to the fact that should I violate these principles, I may be required by the leadership to either accept counsel and discipline or forfeit my membership of Emirates Baptist Church International.

I accept the above Statement of Faith.

Signature

Date

Statement of Baptist Principles

PREAMBLE: We as Baptists share many areas of our faith with other members of the professing Christian Church. These include a belief in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; in the supreme Lordship of Jesus Christ as Head of the Church; and in the Bible as the inspired Word of God, and as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

There are however areas of principle and practice where we as Baptists make distinctive emphases arising out of our understanding of the Scriptures. It is to clarify these that the following statement is made. We, as Baptists believe in:

1. The **DIRECT LORDSHIP OF CHRIST** over every believer and over the local church. By this we understand that Christ exercises His authority over the believer and the local church directly, without delegating it to another.
2. The **CHURCH** as the whole company of those who have been redeemed by Jesus Christ and regenerated by the Holy Spirit. The local church, being a manifestation of the universal church, is a community of believers in a particular place where the Word of God is preached and the ordinances of Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper are observed. It is fully autonomous and remains so notwithstanding responsibilities it may accept by voluntary association.
3. **BELIEVER'S BAPTISM** as an act of obedience to our Lord Jesus Christ and a sign of personal repentance, faith and regeneration; it consists of the immersion in water into the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
4. The **CONGREGATIONAL PRINCIPLE**, namely that each member has the privilege and responsibility to use his/her gifts and abilities to participate fully in the life of the church. We recognise that God gifts His church with Overseers (who are called Pastors) whose primary function is to lead in a spirit of servanthood, to equip and provide spiritual oversight, and Deacons whose primary function is to facilitate the smooth functioning of the Church. This principle further recognises that each member should participate in the appointment of the Church's leaders, and that a constituted church meeting, subject to the direct Lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of Scripture, is the highest court of authority for the local church.
5. The **PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS**, by which we understand that each Christian has direct access to God through Christ our High Priest, and shares with Him in His work of reconciliation. This involves intercession, worship, faithful service and bearing witness to Jesus Christ, even to the ends of the earth.

6. The principle of **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**, namely, that no individual should be coerced either by the State or by any secular, ecclesiastical or religious group in matters of faith. The right of private conscience is to be respected. For each believer this means the right to interpret the Scriptures responsibly and to act in the light of his conscience.

7. The principle of **SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE** in that, in the providence of God, the two differ in their respective natures and functions. The Church is not to be identified with the State nor is it, in its faith or practice, to be directed or controlled by the State. The State is responsible for administering justice, ensuring an orderly community, and promoting the welfare of its citizens. The Church is responsible for preaching the Gospel and for demonstrating and making known God's will and care for all mankind.