

Bridgewater Church Statement of Faith

THE SCRIPTURES:

We believe in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writing and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life. 2 Tim. 3:16,17; 1 Pet. 2:19-21.

THE TRUE GOD:

We believe in one God eternally existing as the creator and supreme ruler of heaven and earth. His glory, majesty, and holiness are inexpressible. The unity of the Godhead exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. 1 Cor. 8:6; Ex. 20:2,3; Deut. 6:4; 2 Cor. 13:14.

THE SON OF GOD:

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true man. Jn. 1:1,2,14; Lk. 1:35; Phil. 2:6,7.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person equal to all parts of the Godhead in nature and attributes. He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment leading men to repentance and faith whereupon He indwells and seals them unto the day of redemption. Jn. 16:8-11; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13,14.

We believe the Holy Spirit is capable of working in miraculous ways in this day and age. However, we believe sign gifts were used by God to give testimony to His new revelation (Deuteronomy 13:1-4; 18:21-22), and these gifts are no longer necessary today (1 Timothy 3:16-17). These gifts began to lessen even during the time of the apostles (Philippians 2:27; 1 Timothy 5:23; 2 Timothy 4:20 contrasted to Acts 5:16; 19:11). One example of these gifts was tongues, which were spoken human languages (Acts 2:4-12).

THE CONDITION OF MAN:

We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is

separation from God; that all human beings are born with a sinful nature; and in the case of those who reach moral responsibility, become sinners in thought, word, and deed. Gen. 3:1-6,24; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1,3.

SALVATION:

1. Atonement for Sin: We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice. 1 Pet. 2:24; Eph 1:7; Acts 4:12.
 2. By Grace through Faith: We believe we are justified by grace alone through faith that comes as a result of the Spirit's work of conviction leading to repentance. Eph. 2:8,9; Titus 3:5; Acts 3:19.
 3. Eternal Security: We believe in the eternal security of all the truly redeemed; once saved, they are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever. Jn. 10:27-30; 1 Pet. 1:5; Heb. 7:25. This assurance in no way gives the believer license to continue in sin. Rom. 13:13,14; Titus 2:11,12.
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THE RESURRECTION:

1. Of Christ: We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and in His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate. Eph. 1:6; 1 Cor. 15:3,4.
 2. Of Mankind
 3. Of Believers: We believe in the bodily resurrection of the justified unto everlasting blessedness in heaven's glory. 2 Cor. 4:14; 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 20:6.
 4. Of the Unsaved: We believe in the bodily resurrection of the wicked dead unto everlasting punishment in the lake of fire. Rev. 20:11- 15.
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THE CHURCH:

1. Universally: We believe that the Church consists of all believers having become part of the body of Christ at the moment of conversion. 1 Cor. 12:12,13; Eph. 5:25-27; Eph. 1:22,23.
2. Locally: We believe that a church of Christ is a congregation of believers associated by the faith and fellowship of the Gospel. It shall be governed by the Scriptural standards of pastors and deacons, with every believer utilizing the gift of grace within them, being active in the work of self-edification, evangelism, and observance of the ordinances. Mt. 28:19,20; 1 Tim. 3:15; Eph. 4:7,11-13; 1 Tim. 3.
3. Church Ordinances

- Baptism: We believe that Christian Baptism is the believer's immersion in water symbolizing the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord demonstrating the believer's death to sin and commitment to a new life. Rom. 6:3-6.
- Lord's Supper: We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of the death of the Lord Jesus Christ whereupon the believer solemnly examines himself for worthiness. 1 Cor. 11:23-32.

THE RETURN OF CHRIST:

We believe in the "blessed hope" of the personal return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; and that He will come before the thousand year reign of Christ on earth. 1 Thess. 4:13-16; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-21.

CHRISTIAN LIVING:

1. Sanctification: We believe that Christians are set apart unto God and that the Holy Spirit's progressive work of sanctification coupled with obedience to the written Word enables each believer to live a victorious life over the old nature. 1 Thess. 5:24; Heb. 10:10; Gal. 5:16; Rom. 12:1; 6:22.
2. Separation: We believe that saved persons should not bring reproach to the Lord and should thus separate themselves from all worldly practices, associations, and religious apostasy. 1 Jn. 2:15-17; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 2 Cor. 6:14-17; 2 Jn. 9-11.

Bridgewater Church Membership Lifestyle Statement

In the membership interview, we ask that all our members be committed to:

1. Make it a practice **to pray** for the Church and its members.

"Pray continually." 1 Thessalonians 5:17

2. To live before the world in such a way that the name of my Lord and the Church will not be brought into disrepute. **(To live right)**

"So that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation..." Philippians 2:15a

3. Endeavor to **keep the unity** of the Spirit in the bond of peace with the other members of the Church.

*"Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."
Ephesians 4:3*

4. **Attend the services** as often as God permits, absenting myself only when I can do so with a good conscience toward Him.

"Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another..." Hebrews 10:25a

5. **Give** to the support of the Church in proportion as the Lord prospers me.

"Each one of you should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

6. **Serve in the ministry of the Church.**

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

In making this covenant promise, I realize that failure on my part to fulfill any of the above Scriptural duties will be sufficient grounds for my name being dropped from the membership roll of the Church (2 Thessalonians 3:14-15).

What can I do to help myself accomplish these things?

- Become a part of a Bridgewater Small Group.
- Volunteer to serve on a ministry team.

What is church discipline?

We believe that as believers we have a responsibility to each other to help each other follow Christ. Specifically if someone is involved in ongoing, unrepentant sin, we believe that the steps found in Matthew 18:15-17 should be taken. The ultimate goal is to help restore that person's relationship with God.

