

# Higher Plain Baptist Church

## Statement of Faith

(What We Believe)

1. **The verbal inspiration of the Scriptures** (the 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament): The Bible is the absolute and final authority in all matters of faith and practice. We use only the Authorized King James Version (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21).
2. **One God, eternally existing in the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit:** Each is co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; John 14:10, 26).
3. **The Genesis account of creation:** The heavens and earth and all things therein were created in six literal, twenty-four hour days (Genesis 1:1-31).
4. **The Deity of Jesus Christ:**
  - a. **The Lord Jesus Christ became man** – without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2; II Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8).
  - b. **The Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption** through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice. Our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7, I Peter 1:3-5).
  - c. **The Lord 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 for the believer** (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2).
5. **The Bible teaches about a literal heaven and a literal hell** (Psalm 139:8; Matthew 25:41; Luke 16:22-24; John 3:13; Acts 1:11; II Corinthians 12:2; Revelation 20:13-15).
6. **Salvation is by grace only through the finished work of Christ**, and not of man's works; **received by repentance and personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ** (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; I Peter 1:18-19; Acts 17:30; 20:21; Romans 10:9-10, 13).
7. **The eternal security of the believer:** The redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; Ephesians 4:30; I Peter 1:4-5).

8. **There are only two offices of the local church:** Pastor and Deacon (I Timothy 3:1-13).
9. **Observance of only two Scriptural ordinances of the local church:**
  - a. Baptism by immersion under the authority of the local church; that baptism does not save but is the first act of obedience after being saved (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42).
  - b. The Lord's Supper, utilizing only the two elements of unleavened bread and the unfermented fruit of the vine (grape juice) (I Corinthians 11:23-26).
10. **The saved should live holy, dedicated, and separated lives unto the Lord, so as not to bring reproach upon their Lord and Savior.** Separation from all religious apostasy and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14-17; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11).
11. **The local, New Testament church is a visible, self-governing body of baptized believers:**
  - a. The local church is solely made up of born-again persons (I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-17).
  - b. The establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-3; Titus 1:5-11).
  - c. The autonomy of the local church is free of any external authority or control (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1, 4; I Corinthians 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; I Peter 5:1-4).
  - d. The local church is to reproduce itself, taking the Gospel to the whole world. (Acts 14:21-23)
12. **The pre-millennial, pre-tribulation rapture position of born-again believers:** Revelation 3:22 is the last reference to the churches in Revelation until Revelation 22:16, strongly suggesting that the seven churches in Revelation 2 and 3 represent the entire Church Age with the rapture occurring immediately thereafter in Revelation 4:1 (I Thessalonians 1:10; 5:1-9; II Thessalonians 2:7-8; James 5:8; Revelation 3:10, 22-4:1).
13. **The literal second coming of Christ:** Christ will rapture His church prior to the seven-year Tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return with His saints to establish His earthly Messianic kingdom which was promised to the nation of Israel (Psalms 89:3-4; Daniel 2:31-45; Zechariah 14:4-11; I Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).