



# OUR BELIEFS

## **THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe the Bible is God's Word given by divine inspiration, the record of God's revelation of Himself to humanity (II Timothy 3:16).

## **THE GODHEAD (TRINITY)**

We believe in the one living and true God, perfect in wisdom, sovereignty, holiness, justice, mercy and love (I Timothy 1:17; Psalm 86:15; Deuteronomy 32:3-4). He exists eternally in three coequal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit who act together in creation, providence and redemption (Genesis 1:26; I Peter 1:2; Hebrews 1:1-3).

## **THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST**

We believe Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died on a cross for our sin and rose from the dead, and is coming back again (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5; Acts 1:9, 10; Hebrews 7:25; Hebrews 9:24; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:1-2; I Peter 4:5; Romans 14:9; 2 Timothy 4:1).

## **THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit inspired men to write the Scriptures (II Peter 1:21). Through this Word, He convicts individuals of their sinfulness and of the righteousness of Christ, draws them to the Savior, and bears witness to their new birth (James 1:18; John 16:7-11; I Thessalonians 1:5-6; Romans 8:16).

## **THE ROLE OF ANGELS**

We believe God created an order of spiritual beings called angels to serve Him and do His will (Psalm 148:1-5; Colossians 1:16).

## **THE NEED OF HUMANITY**

We believe God created man/woman in His own image to have fellowship with Himself and to be steward over His creation (Genesis 1:26-28). As a result, each person is unique, possesses dignity and is worthy of respect (Psalm 139:13-17). Through the temptation of Satan, Adam chose to disobey God; this brought sin and death to the human race and suffering to all creation (Genesis 3; Romans 5:12-21; 8:22). Therefore, everyone is born with a sinful nature and needs to be reconciled to God (Romans 3:9-18, 23).

## **SALVATION**

We believe salvation is redemption by Christ of the whole person from sin and death (II Timothy 1:9-10; I Thessalonians 5:23). It is offered as a free gift by God to all and must be received personally through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ (I Timothy 2:4; Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 20:21).

## **THE CHURCH**

We believe the Church is the body of which Christ is the head and all who believe in Him are members (Ephesians 1:22-23; Romans 12:4-5).

The ordinances of the church are baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:18-20).

The Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and of the cup by believers together as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Christ.

## **RELIGIOUS LIBERTY**

We believe religious liberty, rooted in Scripture, is the inalienable right of all individuals to freedom of conscience with ultimate accountability to God (Genesis 1:27; John 8:32; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Romans 8:21; Acts 5:29).

Church and state exist by the will of God. Each has distinctive concerns and responsibilities, free from control by the other (Matthew 22:21).

## **THE FAMILY**

We affirm the family as the basic unit of society and seek to preserve its integrity and stability (Genesis 2:21-25; Ephesians 6:1-4). We believe the Bible teaches that marriage refers to the covenant relationship exclusively between one man and one woman, as instituted by God in the beginning (Genesis 2:20b-24; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Hebrews 13:4).

## **THE END TIMES**

The certain hope of the Christian is that Jesus Christ will return to the earth suddenly, personally and visibly in glory according to His promise (Titus 2:13; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; John 14:1-3).

This is an abridged version of our Statement of Beliefs. To see the full Statement on the North American Baptist Conference website, [click here](https://nabconference.org/us/#our_beliefs) (in text button; [https://nabconference.org/us/#our\\_beliefs](https://nabconference.org/us/#our_beliefs))