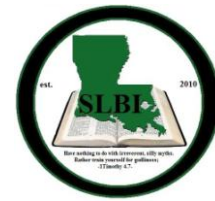




As faculty in The Southeast Louisiana Bible Institute
we affirm the following doctrinal statement:



Article I- The Nature of God

We believe in the eternal power of the Godhead. That God has made Himself known to mankind through His word in three persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—and that these three are one God. We can equally speak of God **the** Father, God **the** Son, God **the** Spirit as having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections and as being worthy of precisely the same reverence and obedience (**Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 9.14**).

Article II- The Nature of the Holy Scriptures

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures. It is our conviction that the entire Bible is God breathed and that the very words recorded are exactly what God wanted expressed (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**). Since the entire Bible is inspired, we also believe that it is our responsibility to obey it. We do not regard the New Testament commands as applicable only to the churches to which they were written, nor do we edit the doctrine of Christ based on assumed cultural bias. We believe specifically that the New Testament is the complete revelation from God to man, and only in the New Testament do we have everything that pertains to life, godliness, doctrine and worship.

Article III- The Nature of the Church

We believe the church is that which was built by Christ, was purchased with His blood and that which He will save. That the church is the body of Christ, and that Christ is the only head of that body. Therefore, all authority belongs to Christ. It is the church's responsibility to obey the commands of Christ. Since the church is the body of Christ, He naturally has only one body. Therefore, every church which is a man-made organization does not belong to Christ. And, since salvation is found only in Christ, if they do not belong to Christ they will not be saved. Therefore, the Lord's church is comprised only of those individual congregations that pattern themselves doctrinally after the church built by Christ and established by the apostles in the New Testament.

In understanding the nature of the church, as established and defined in the New Testament, we can only have fellowship with those who have fellowship with God. Those who have fellowship with God (as defined in **1 John 1:1-7**) are those who are "walking in the light" and who have doctrinal unity with those who have testified "concerning the Word of life." Thus, it is impossible for us to have unity with, or to offer fellowship to, those who, because of lack of fellowship with Christ, cannot be "walking in the light." We believe the teachings of the New Testament are clear enough that we can distinguish between those who are in the light and those who are in darkness (**Ephesians 5:8-17**). We equally will not fellowship those who do not abide by the teachings of Christ (**2 John 9-10**).

Article IV- The Nature of Worship

We believe that the New Testament teaches two equal aspects of the nature of worship assemblies- spirit and truth. The act itself -of coming together as the church on the Lord's Day (Sunday, the first day of the week) and the actions of the worshiper in that assembly are clearly defined in the New Testament. As concerning the use of instrumental music in worship assemblies, the New Testament neither teaches specifically, nor infers by any means, that in the worship assemblies there should be anything other than congregational singing without the use of mechanical instruments. Therefore, only a cappella singing is taught as that form of worship accepted by God in worship assemblies.

In addition, the New Testament teaches that men are to assume the leadership roles in the assembly. Therefore we do not believe it is in accordance with New Testament teaching, and the nature of worship, to have women assume leadership roles in the assemblies of His church in any capacity. Nor is it approved or known in the New Testament that elders, deacons and/or preachers have any scope of power to "ordain" any such practices within individual congregations or the Lord's church universal.

Article V- The Nature of Salvation

We believe that salvation for mankind is found only through obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This grace of God is given to mankind and revealed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, the saving grace of God is conditional for all mankind. The Scriptures teach that one receives forgiveness of sins when he is baptized. There is no other point in one's initial obedience where he/she receives forgiveness. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that one be baptized (immersed) to be saved. Otherwise his/her sins will not be forgiven. While there are clearly other Biblical conditions necessary (hear- **Romans 10:17**; believe- **John 8:24**; repent- **Acts 2:38**; confess- **Romans 10:9-10**), it is when one emerges from the waters of baptism that he/she is united with Christ (**Romans 6:3-4**; **Galatians 3:27**) and receives the benefits of His blood which was shed on the cross.

At no time are these conditions to be understood as acts we do to merit or earn our salvation. God determines to whom He extends His grace. However, He is not going to give His gift of grace to one who disregards His commands in the Gospel or to one who continues in sin.

Article VI- The Nature of Marriage

We believe that the New Testament teaches marriage is between one man and one woman for life, a union defined as "one flesh" in God's word (**Ephesians 5:31-32**). That fornication (adultery) is the only exception to the dissolution of this one flesh union. That the act of adultery allows the offended party (non adulterer) the right of divorce and remarriage; but, that the offending party(adulterer) has no right to remarry (**Matthew 5:31-32;19.3-9**).

Signature

date

Printed Name