

## Articles of Faith What We Teach at Oak Grove Baptist Church

*From the time of the Apostles to today, Christians have laid out doctrine (beliefs) in brief, definitive statements. As those who know God, we believe it necessary to set forth in a concise fashion the cornerstone truths that our church teaches as guided by Scripture. Our Doctrinal Statement summarizes essential Christian beliefs, shows unity in Christ, and affirms our belief in the Christian truths which have been held by the church throughout the ages and particularly since the Protestant reformation, including believer's baptism, and congregational polity (government).*

Certain theological distinctives which distinguish Oak Grove Baptist Church from other churches who would affirm the basic doctrines and which shape the teaching of the church are noted. We do not expect all members to embrace all aspects of these distinctives, but members should expect that nothing contrary to these distinctives will be taught.

### 1. The Holy Scriptures

We teach that the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, is the Word of God, written by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit to choose the exact words that would convey God's intentions,<sup>1</sup> contained no error in the original documents,<sup>2</sup> and is the only sufficient, certain, and authoritative standard of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience. We teach that it is authored by God, its subject is truth and therefore contains no errors, and salvation is its ultimate end.<sup>3</sup> We teach that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us. Therefore, it is, and will always remain, the true center of Christian union, and the final authority in testing all claims about what is true and right.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> John 10:35; 14:26; 16:12-15; Acts 1:16; 3:21; 1 Corinthians 2:7-14; 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 3:16

<sup>2</sup> Numbers 23:19; Proverbs 30:5-6; Psalm 12:6; 119:89; Matthew 24:35; John 17:17; Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18

<sup>3</sup> John 5:38-39; 8:31-32; 20:31; Romans 1:16-17; 2 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 1:10-12

<sup>4</sup> Isaiah 8:20; Psalm 119:59-60; Matthew 5:18; 22:29,31,32; Acts 17:11; 20:32; 28:23; Romans 2:12; Ephesians 2:20; Philippians 3:16; 1:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 John 4:1,6

### 2. God

We teach that there is one, and only one living and true God,<sup>5</sup> an infinite all-knowing Spirit,<sup>6</sup> the Maker and supreme Ruler of heaven and earth<sup>7</sup> who is inexpressibly glorious in His holiness,<sup>8</sup> and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love.<sup>9</sup> We teach that in the unity of the Godhead there are three eternally existent persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,<sup>10</sup> which are equal in every divine attribute yet they execute distinct but complementary functions in the great work of creation, providence, and redemption.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 48:12; Jeremiah 10:10; Matthew 16:16; 1 Corinthians 8:4,6; 2 Corinthians 6:16; 1 Timothy 4:10; Hebrews 3:12; Revelation 7:2

<sup>6</sup> Exodus 3:14; John 4:24

<sup>7</sup> Genesis 1:1-31; Psalm 83:18, 147:5; 148:13; Isaiah 48:13; Daniel 4:25,34-35; Romans 1:20; Ephesians 3:9; Hebrews 3:4

<sup>8</sup> Exodus 15:11; Psalm 103:19; 138:5; Isaiah 6:3; Romans 11:36; 1 Peter 1:15-16; Revelation 4:6-8

<sup>9</sup> Jeremiah 2:12-13; Matthew 10:37; Mark 12:30; Revelation 4:11; 5:12-14

<sup>10</sup> Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1-3; 15:26; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:5-6

<sup>11</sup> John 5:17; 10:30; 14:11,23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 2:10-11; 8:6; Ephesians 2:18; Philippians 2:5-6

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### 3. Distinctive || God's Creation of the Universe and Man

We teach that God created from nothing all that now exists in six days, and it was all very good.<sup>12</sup> We teach that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit acted together in the work of creation,<sup>13</sup> that out of all living things only man was created in God's image and without sin, and that God granted him dominion over all lesser forms of life and over the earth itself.<sup>14</sup> We teach that God, being eternally joyfully self-sufficient and not being moved by any incompleteness, need, or deficiency within Himself,<sup>15</sup> was pleased in creation to display His glory for the everlasting joy of the redeemed, from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.<sup>16</sup> We teach that God directly created Adam from the dust of the ground and Eve from his side, and that Adam and Eve were the historical parents of all humanity,<sup>17</sup> and therefore there is only one race—the human race—though there are many distinct people groups.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Genesis 1:1-2:3; Exodus 20:11; 31:17; Psalm 24:1-2; 33:6, 9; Jeremiah 10:12-13; Acts 17:24; Romans 4:17; Hebrews 11:3

<sup>13</sup> Genesis 1:1-2, 26-28; Job 26:13; Psalm 104:30; John 1:1-3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 1:2

<sup>14</sup> Genesis 1:26-28,31; 9:6; Psalm 8:3-8; Colossians 3:10; James 3:9

<sup>15</sup> Exodus 3:13-14; Job 22:2-3; Psalm 50:9-15; Acts 17:25

<sup>16</sup> Isaiah 35:10; 43:7; Romans 1:20; Revelation 5:9; 7:9-10

<sup>17</sup> Genesis 2:7; 2:21-22; 3:20; Romans 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:22,45

<sup>18</sup> Genesis 3:20; 10:1-32; 11:1-9; Deuteronomy 32:8; Malachi 2:10; Luke 3:23-38; Acts 17:24-28; 1 Timothy 2:13; Revelation 5:9

### 4. Providence

We teach that from all eternity God decrees, or permits, everything that occurs.<sup>19</sup> We teach that He is absolutely sovereign over all creatures and events and perpetually upholds all things;<sup>20</sup> therefore, nothing is contingent (dependant on the action of humans) or uncertain to Him.<sup>21</sup> Yet God did this in such a way that He is neither the author nor approver of sin, nor does He violate the will or limit the moral accountability of mankind.<sup>22</sup> In God's infinite wisdom and power, all things work together for the good of those who love Him,<sup>23</sup> and for the glory of His name.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Numbers 23:19; Psalm 115:3; 135:6; Isaiah 45:6-7; 46:9-11; Acts 15:18; Ephesians 1:11; Hebrews 1:3; 6:17

<sup>20</sup> 1 Chronicles 29:11-12; Job 38:4-41; Proverbs 16:4,9; 21:1; Daniel 4:25; Matthew 10:29-31; John 19:11; Acts 2:23; 4:27-28; Romans 9:15-21

<sup>21</sup> Job 1:21; Proverbs 16:33; Isaiah 14:27; Ezekiel 11:5

<sup>22</sup> Genesis 3:6; Psalm 50:21; Habakkuk 1:13; John 8:38-47; James 1:13; 1 John 1:5; 2:16; 1 Peter 1:17

<sup>23</sup> Genesis 50:20; Deuteronomy 8:15-16; Romans 8:28; Hebrews 12:5-11

<sup>24</sup> Exodus 9:16; Isaiah 60:21; Ezekiel 28:20-24; Romans 9:22-24; 11:33-36

### 5. The Fall of Man and Its Effect on Humanity

We teach that Adam, as the representative of all mankind, was created morally upright and perfect,<sup>25</sup> but was led astray from God's word and wisdom by the subtlety of Satan's deceit thereby voluntarily and deliberately falling from his original righteousness and communion with God<sup>26</sup> and as a consequence every person is now a sinner by nature,<sup>27</sup> by choice, and by divine declaration,<sup>28</sup> which results in a state of radical depravity, meaning that every dimension of his being is distorted by sin.<sup>29</sup> Apart from the grace of God, fallen man is ruled by sin, hostile to God, sees the message of the cross as

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<sup>25</sup> Genesis 1:26-27, 31; 2:16-17; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:26-29; Romans 2:14-15

<sup>26</sup> Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12; 1 Corinthians 15:21; 2 Corinthians 11:3; 1 Timothy 2:13-14

<sup>27</sup> Psalm 51:5; Job 14:4; John 3:6; Romans 3:23; 5:12-19; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22,45,49

<sup>28</sup> Genesis 6:12; Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:9-18; 8:7; James 1:13-15

<sup>29</sup> Genesis 6:5; Deuteronomy 29:4; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:18; 1:28-32; 6:16,20; Titus 1:15-16; Revelation 22:11

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foolishness,<sup>30</sup> and neither desires nor is able to love God, keep His laws, understand the gospel, repent of sin, or trust in Christ<sup>31</sup> and therefore is justly condemned to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.<sup>32</sup> During this life, this corruption of nature remains in those who are regenerated<sup>33</sup> and calls for vigilance in the lifelong fight of faith.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Romans 5:10,12; 8:6-8; Ephesians 2:1-3; Colossians 1:13, 21; 2 Timothy 2:26; Titus 3:3; James 4:4; 1 Corinthians 1:18, 21

<sup>31</sup> Jeremiah 13:23; Mark 4:10-12; John 6:44, 65; 8:43-47; 1 Corinthians 2:14; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4; Ephesians 4:17-19

<sup>32</sup> Ezekiel 18:19-20; Matthew 20:15; Romans 1:20; 2:1-16; 3:19; Galatians 3:10; 3:22

<sup>33</sup> Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 7:18,23; Galatians 5:16-18; Hebrew 3:12-13; 1 Peter 2:11; 1 John 1:8

<sup>34</sup> 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 2 Timothy 4:7-8

### 6. Christ and the Way of Salvation

We teach that salvation is by grace alone and that the only way of salvation is in the name of Jesus Christ who was sent into the world by the Father to save sinners.<sup>35</sup> We teach that Christ was born of a virgin,<sup>36</sup> lived a sinless life,<sup>37</sup> and died a sacrificial death on the cross where He absorbed our punishment and appeased the wrath of God against us<sup>38</sup> through the one time act of shedding His blood to atone for our sins.<sup>39</sup> We teach that on the third day he rose victoriously from the dead and is now enthroned in heaven where he continually pleads with the Father on our behalf,<sup>40</sup> uniting the compassions of his human nature with his divine attributes<sup>41</sup> so that he is qualified in every way to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> John 3:16,17; 17:2; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:19-22; 5:8; 10:13-15; Galatians 4:4-5

<sup>36</sup> Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:26-35; John 1:14

<sup>37</sup> Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 4:1-11; Romans 5:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 2:14,17; 4:15; 7:26-28

<sup>38</sup> Isaiah 53:10; Romans 4:25; 5:9; 8:1,3; Ephesians 2:3-6; Galatians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9

<sup>39</sup> Matthew 20:28; John 10:15; 19:30; Acts 20:28; Romans 3:23-25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 5:25; Hebrews 9:11-14

<sup>40</sup> Matthew 28:5-7; Acts 1:3, 9-11; 2:33; 5:31; 1 Corinthians 15:4-8; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:8,13; 8:1

<sup>41</sup> John 5:21, 26; Acts 2:29-36; 17:31; Romans 1:4; Ephesians 1:20-22; Philippians 2:6-11; Colossians 2:9

<sup>42</sup> Romans 8:34; Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-16; 7:25-26

### 7. The Freeness of Salvation

We teach that the blessings of salvation are freely offered to all by the gospel,<sup>43</sup> that it is the immediate duty of all to accept the gospel with a glad, obedient faith and Godly sorrow,<sup>44</sup> and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth other than his own inherent depravity (sinfulness) by which he refuses to listen and suppresses the truth in unrighteousness thereby rejecting the gospel<sup>45</sup> which makes him wholly responsible for his just condemnation.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>43</sup> Isaiah 55:1; Romans 10:9,13; Revelation 22:17

<sup>44</sup> Mark 1:15; Romans 1:15-17; 16:26; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10

<sup>45</sup> Proverbs 1:24; Matthew 23:37; John 5:39-40; Acts 13:46; Romans 1:18-32; 9:32

<sup>46</sup> Matthew 11:20-22; John 3:18,19; 2 Thessalonians 1:8

### 8. Grace in Regeneration

We teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again.<sup>47</sup> This results in the mind being spiritually and savingly enlightened to understand the Word of God which is accomplished in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit<sup>48</sup> and the divine truth of the Word of

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<sup>47</sup> Deuteronomy 30:6; Ezekiel 36:26; John 3:3,6-7; Romans 2:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Revelation 14:3; 21:27

<sup>48</sup> Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 55:8-9; John 1:13; 3:8; Romans 5:5; 11:33-34

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God.<sup>49</sup> This is done in a way that brings about voluntary obedience and faith<sup>50</sup> which is evidenced by fruits worthy of repentance as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>49</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:30; James 1:16-18; 1 Peter 1:22-25

<sup>50</sup> Ephesians 3:14-21; Philippians 2:13; 1 John 4:7; 5:1

<sup>51</sup> Matthew 3:8-10; 7:20; Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:20-24; 5:9; Colossians 3:9-11; 1 John 5:4,18

### 9. Faith and Repentance

We teach that faith and repentance are required by Scripture and inseparably linked graces that are granted to us as a gift by the regenerating Spirit of God<sup>52</sup> that deeply convince us of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ.<sup>53</sup> We then turn to God with true repentance, confession of sin, and pleas for mercy<sup>54</sup> while whole heartedly receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, and relying on him alone as the only and all sufficient Savior.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8; 1 John 5:1

<sup>53</sup> John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; 16:30-31

<sup>54</sup> Psalm 51; Luke 15:18-21; 18:13; 2 Corinthians 7:10-11; James 4:7-10

<sup>55</sup> Psalm 2:6; Matthew 13:44; Acts 3:22-23; Romans 10:9-11; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 1:8; 4:14; 7:25

### 10. Justification

We teach that Christ freely justifies (declares free from guilt or blame) those that believe in him<sup>56</sup> which includes the pardon of sin<sup>57</sup> and the promise of eternal life without any consideration of works which we have done. Rather it is solely through faith in the shed blood of Christ<sup>58</sup> by which His perfect righteousness is freely imputed (credited) to us so that God sees us as having the righteousness of Christ.<sup>59</sup> This brings us into a peaceful and favorable state (right standing) with God, and secures all the benefits of salvation for us.<sup>60</sup>

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<sup>56</sup> John 1:16; Romans 4:23-25; 5:1-2; 8:1,30; Galatians 2:16; 3:24; Ephesians 3:8

<sup>57</sup> Isaiah 53:11-12; Zechariah 13:1; Matthew 9:6; Acts 10:43; 13:39; Romans 4:6-8; 5:9

<sup>58</sup> Romans 3:23-24,28; 4:4-5; 5:17-21; 6:23; Philippians 3:7-9; Titus 3:5-7; 1 John 2:25

<sup>59</sup> Romans 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 5:18-19; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 John 2:12

<sup>60</sup> Matthew 6:33; Romans 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; 1 Timothy 4:8

### 11. God's Purpose of Grace

We teach that election is the act of God by which, before the foundation of the world, He chose in Christ those whom He graciously regenerates, saves, and sanctifies.<sup>61</sup> This in no way contradicts or negates the responsibility of man to repent and trust Christ as Savior and Lord.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>61</sup> John 6:37-40; 10:14-16; 15:16; Acts 13:48; Romans 8:28-30; 9:10-18; 11:5-6; Ephesians 1:3-14; 2:8-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:8-9; 2:10; 1 Peter 1:1-2; 1 John 4:19

<sup>62</sup> Ezekiel 18:23,32; 33:11; Matthew 25:31-46; John 3:18-19,36; 5:40; Acts 17:30-31; Romans 1:18-21; 2:4-5; 9:19-23; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-10; 2:10-12; Revelation 22:17

### 12. Sanctification

We teach that sanctification is the process by which the believer is able to live a life of increasing holiness in conformity to the will of God and becomes more and more like Christ.<sup>63</sup> We teach that it is a

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<sup>63</sup> Romans 8:5; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 1:4; Philippians 2:12-16; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5; 5:23; 1 Peter 1:2

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progressive work that is begun in regeneration,<sup>64</sup> continued through self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer by the power of God's Word and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,<sup>65</sup> but never complete in this life.<sup>66</sup>

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<sup>64</sup> Proverbs 4:18; Acts 26:18; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:9-11; 3:12-16; Hebrews 6:1; 2 Peter 1:5-8

<sup>65</sup> Matt. 26:41; Luke 9:23; 11:35; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Ephesians 4:11-12,30; 6:18; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 John 2:29

<sup>66</sup> Romans 13:11

### 13. Perseverance of the Saints

We teach that those who are true believers can neither totally nor finally fall from a state of grace.<sup>67</sup> This persevering attachment to Christ is what distinguishes them from temporary believers.<sup>68</sup> Though true believers may fall through neglect and temptation, into sin, such that they incur God's displeasure and grieve the Holy Spirit, their graces and comforts become impaired, they hurt and scandalize others and bring temporary judgments on themselves, and disgrace the church,<sup>69</sup> nevertheless they will renew their repentance and be preserved through faith in Christ Jesus to the end.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>67</sup> Mark 13:13; John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18

<sup>68</sup> Job 17:9; Matthew 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; 13:18; 1 John 2:19

<sup>69</sup> 2 Samuel 12:14; Isaiah 64:5,9; Psalms 32:3-4; 51:10,12; Matthew 26:70,72,74; Ephesians 4:30

<sup>70</sup> Luke 22:32,61-62; Philippians 1:6; 2:13; Hebrews 1:14; 13:5; Jude 24-25; 1 John 4:4

### 14. The Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

We teach that the law of God is the holy, just, good, eternal and perfect rule of righteousness and moral government<sup>71</sup> and that the inability of fallen men to fulfill its precepts described in the Scriptures arises entirely from their love of sin.<sup>72</sup> The one great end of the gospel, and the means of grace connected with the church, is to deliver fallen men from bondage to sin, and to restore them to willing and cheerful obedience to what the will of God as revealed in the law requires.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>71</sup> Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:31; 7:12

<sup>72</sup> Jeremiah 13:23; Romans 3:20; 4:15; 8:7-8

<sup>73</sup> Psalm 119; Romans 7:7,14-22; 8:2-4; 10:4; Galatians 3:21; 1 Timothy 1:5; Hebrews 8:10; Jude 20,21

### 15. Distinctive || Christ's Church and its Officers

We teach that there is one universal Church, composed of all those, in every time and place, who are chosen in Christ and united to Him through faith by the Spirit in one Body, with Christ Himself as the all-supplying, all-sustaining, all-supreme, and all-authoritative Head.<sup>74</sup> We teach that it is God's will that the universal Church find expression in local churches which consist of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, associated with one another for fellowship,<sup>75</sup> hearing the Word of God proclaimed,<sup>76</sup> practicing the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper,<sup>77</sup> governed by His commandments as revealed in His Word,<sup>78</sup> the building of each other's faith through the manifold ministries of love,<sup>79</sup> and holding each other accountable in the obedience of faith through

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<sup>74</sup> 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 1:22; 3:6; 4:15-16; 5:23; Colossians 1:18

<sup>75</sup> Acts 2:41-42, 47; 8:1; 11:21-23; 1 Corinthians 1:1-8; 4:17; 14:23; 16:19; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 3 John 9

<sup>76</sup> Ephesians 4:11-12; 2 Timothy 4:1-2

<sup>77</sup> Matthew 28:19; 1 Corinthians 11:2, 23-26

<sup>78</sup> Matthew 28:20; John 14:15,21; 15:12; Acts 5:11; 1 Corinthians 5:12-13; Galatians 6:2; 1 Thessalonians 4:2; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; 1 John 4:21; 2 John 6

<sup>79</sup> Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 5:6; 12:1-31; 14:12,26; 2 Corinthians 2:17; Ephesians 4:1-16

## **Articles of Faith**

### **What We Teach at Oak Grove Baptist Church**

Biblical discipline.<sup>80</sup> Its only scriptural officers are pastors (men called to teach and govern as shepherds, overseers, and elders of the body — three terms that are used interchangeably in the New Testament for the same office) and deacons (those called to serve the church) whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.<sup>81</sup> Women are not to fulfill the role of pastor in the local church, but are encouraged to use their gifts in appropriate roles that edify the body of Christ and spread the gospel.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>80</sup> Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:14-15; James 5:19-20

<sup>81</sup> Acts 6:4; 14:23; 15:22; 20:28; Ephesians 4:11-12; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:17 Titus 1:5-9

<sup>82</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:34; 1 Timothy 2:12-13

#### **16. Evangelism**

We teach that the ministry of evangelism (sharing and proclaiming the message of salvation only possible by grace through faith in Jesus Christ) and discipleship (helping followers of Christ grow up into maturity in Christ) is a responsibility of all followers of Jesus Christ.<sup>83</sup> It is a priority in evangelism to unite new believers with local churches.<sup>84</sup> The ultimate aim of world missions is that God would create, by His Word, worshippers who glorify His name through glad-hearted faith and obedience.<sup>85</sup>

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<sup>83</sup> Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:9-15; 1 Peter 3:15

<sup>84</sup> Acts 2:41-47; 4:32-35; Hebrews 10:19-25

<sup>85</sup> John 4:23; Romans 1:5; 15:8-11

#### **17. Distinctive || Believer's Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We teach that only two ordinances have been committed to the local church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. We teach that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water,<sup>86</sup> into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit<sup>87</sup> to give a solemn and beautiful testimony of a believer's faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior which results in death to sin and resurrection to a new life.<sup>88</sup> We teach that it is required prior to being admitted to church membership.<sup>89</sup> We do not believe in baptismal regeneration, nor do we hold that baptism is necessary for salvation. We teach that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration and proclamation of the death of Christ until he comes<sup>90</sup> and should always be preceded by solemn self-examination.<sup>91</sup>

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<sup>86</sup> Matthew 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; Acts 2:38-42; 8:12, 36-39; 16:32-34; 18:8

<sup>87</sup> Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48

<sup>88</sup> Acts 22:16; Romans 6:4; Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:18-21

<sup>89</sup> Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42; 10:48; Romans 6:3; Galatians 3:27;

<sup>90</sup> Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Corinthians 11:17-32

<sup>91</sup> 1 Corinthians 5:1-8; 10:3-32; 11:28-29

#### **18. The Lord's Day**

We teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath. It is kept holy to the Lord when people have first prepared their hearts appropriately and arranged their every day affairs in advance so that they may observe a holy rest and fill their day with public and private acts of worship and the duties of necessity and mercy.<sup>92</sup>

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<sup>92</sup> Genesis 2:3; Exodus 20:8; Leviticus 19:30; Psalm 26:8; 118:15,24; Isaiah 56:2-8; 58:13-14; Mark 2:27; Luke 10:42; John 20:19; Acts 2:42-47; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 4:3-11; 10:24-25; Rev. 1:10

#### **19. Separation and Unity**

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We teach that because of the holiness of God in all His attributes and our responsibility to guard the purity of the Gospel believers are commanded to pursue holiness,<sup>93</sup> and separate from false teachers and clearly disobedient brethren.<sup>94</sup> However, they must also value the eager pursuit of unity with faithful brethren in the body of Christ.<sup>95</sup> We teach the importance of discipleship,<sup>96</sup> mutual accountability of all believers to each other,<sup>97</sup> as well as the need for discipline of sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture.<sup>98</sup>

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<sup>93</sup> Leviticus 20:7; Romans 12:2; Hebrews 12:14; James 1:27; 1 Peter 1:14-16

<sup>94</sup> Romans 16:17-20; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:6,14-15

<sup>95</sup> John 17:20-23; Romans 12:18; Ephesians 4:1-6

<sup>96</sup> Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 2:2

<sup>97</sup> Matthew 18:5-14; Galatians 6:1-2

<sup>98</sup> Matthew 18:15-22; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 1:19-20; Titus 1:10-16

### **20. Distinctive || Family**

We teach that God established the institution of marriage in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve, whom He created male and female as unique biological persons made to complete each other, and that the pattern of the monogamous union of one genetic male and one genetic female in marriage until death parts them is to be followed.<sup>99</sup> We teach that God's plan for human sexuality is to be expressed only within the context of marriage.<sup>100</sup> Christians are to marry only other Christians or remain single as God enables them.<sup>101</sup> Children are to be seen as gifts from God and are to be raised for God's glory and service. An authority structure exists within the family. The Lord is the Head of the home, the husband is the head of the wife and is to love her as Christ loves the Church, and children are to be obedient to their parents.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>99</sup> Genesis 1:27; 2:21-24; Matthew 5:31-32; 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 7:39

<sup>100</sup> Genesis 1:28; 1 Corinthians 7:2-3; Hebrews 13:4

<sup>101</sup> 1 Corinthians 7:8-9,25-28; 2 Corinthians 6:14

<sup>102</sup> Psalm 127:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21

### **21. Distinctive || Sanctity of Life**

We teach that human life is sacred from conception to its natural end, and that we must have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of those around us.<sup>103</sup>

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<sup>103</sup> Psalm 139:13; Isaiah 49:1; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 12:20-21; Galatians 6:10

### **22. Civil Government**

We teach that God has ordained civil authorities to be under Him and over the people, for His own glory and the public good.<sup>104</sup> Christians should make requests and prayers for those in authority and submit in the Lord to all things they lawfully require,<sup>105</sup> except when they oppose the will of our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>106</sup> who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.<sup>107</sup>

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<sup>104</sup> Deuteronomy 16:18; Exodus 18:23; 2 Samuel 23:3; Romans 13:1-7

<sup>105</sup> Matthew 22:21; 1 Timothy 2:1-4; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14

<sup>106</sup> Daniel 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20; 5:29; Matthew 14:4, 9-13

<sup>107</sup> Psalm 2:1-12; 72:11; Matthew 23:10; Revelation 19:16

## Articles of Faith What We Teach at Oak Grove Baptist Church

### 23. The Righteous and the Wicked

We teach that there is a radical and essential difference between those made righteous in Christ and those who remain wicked and disobedient.<sup>108</sup> We teach that only those who through faith are justified (given right standing with God) in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem,<sup>109</sup> while all who remain unrepentant and do not believe are wicked in his sight, and under the curse and wrath of God.<sup>110</sup> We teach that a persons state, righteous or wicked, and therefore their eternal destination, with God or separated from him eternally in Hell, is fixed at death and will remain fixed for all eternity.<sup>111</sup>

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<sup>108</sup> Genesis 18:23; Psalm 10:4; Proverbs 10:24; 11:31; 12:26; Ecclesiastes 3:17; Isaiah 5:20; 55:6-7; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 7:13-14; 13:1-50; 25:1-46; Acts 10:34-35; Romans 6:16

<sup>109</sup> Luke 9:23-26; Romans 1:17; 6:18,22; 7:6; 1 Corinthians 11:32; 1 Peter 4:17-18; 1 John 2:29; 3:7

<sup>110</sup> Isaiah 57:21; Matthew 13:30,41-42,49-50; 25:41; John 3:36; Galatians 3:10; 1 John 5:19

<sup>111</sup> Proverbs 14:32; Luke 12:4-5; 16:25; John 8:21-24; 2 Timothy 2:19; Revelation 22:11

### 24. Last Things

We teach the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>112</sup> the bodily resurrection of the dead,<sup>113</sup> the establishment of His kingdom,<sup>114</sup> the final separation of Satan with his hosts and all the wicked, who are outside of Christ, from the benevolent presence of God to everlasting conscious misery which will eternally demonstrate His justice, and the everlasting joy of the righteous serving God and giving Him unending praise and glory which will eternally demonstrate His mercy.<sup>115</sup>

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<sup>112</sup> Matthew 24:30-31; 28:20; Mark 13:24-27; 14:61-62; Luke 24:39-43; Acts 1:9-11; 3:21; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-18; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 2:28; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-16

<sup>113</sup> Job 19:25-26; Isaiah 26:19; John 6:40; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58

<sup>114</sup> Luke 22:28-30; 1 Corinthians 15:22-24; 2 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 20:4-6

<sup>115</sup> Psalm 16:11; Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 3:12; 13:37-43,49-50; 19:29; 25:23,31-46; Mark 9:43-48; John 4:36; 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Acts 10:42; 17:31; Romans 2:2-16; 3:5-6; 6:23; 9:22-23; 1 Corinthians 4:5; 6:9-10; 2 Corinthians 4:18; 5:10-11; Philippians 3:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10; Hebrews 1:10-12; 6:1-2; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:3-13; 1 John 4:17; Jude 4,7; Revelation 14:11; 20:11-15; 22:11

### 25. The Glory of God

We teach that Christians must live for God's glory alone<sup>116</sup> through their awareness and enjoyment of His Person,<sup>117</sup> submission to His authority<sup>118</sup> and reliance upon His goodness.<sup>119</sup> In truth, all things that have or will transpire, serve to glorify God as their highest purpose.<sup>120</sup>

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<sup>116</sup> Matthew 5:16; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Philippians 1:9-11; 1 Peter 4:11

<sup>117</sup> Psalm 23:4; 46:1; 139:7-10; Proverbs 15:3; Jeremiah 16:17; Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5-6

<sup>118</sup> 1 Samuel 15:22-23; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Micah 6:8; John 15:14-17; Hebrews 12:28-29

<sup>119</sup> Psalm 18:1-3; Isaiah 41:10; Habakkuk 3:17-19; Matthew 6:25-32; Luke 11:11-13; Philippians 4:6-7

<sup>120</sup> Psalm 46:10; 86:9; Malachi 1:11; Romans 11:36; Ephesians 1:3-14; 3:20-21

*Formulated with reference to [The Baptist Faith and Message 2000](#), the [New Hampshire Confession of Faith \(1853\)](#), and the [1689 Baptist Confession for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century modernized by Stan Reeves](#)*