

**SILVERDALE BAPTIST CHURCH CONSTITUTION  
UPDATE PROJECT 2007-2008  
DECEMBER 27, 2007**

**DOCTRINAL STATEMENT  
UPDATED VERSION**

**1. OF THE SCRIPTURES**

We believe that the 66 Books of the Holy Bible as originally written, are truth without error, inspired and preserved by God which was recorded by men guided by the Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible to be the only authority by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions are tested.

II Timothy 3:16, 17

II Peter 1:19-21

**2. OF THE TRUE GOD**

We believe there is only one living and true God, who is an infinite and eternal, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, worthy of all honor, confidence and love. God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are three parts in one, equal and working in harmony for our redemption.

Exodus 20:2, 3

Ps 90:1-2

I Corinthians 8:6

I John 5:7

Revelation 4:11

**3. OF JESUS CHRIST**

We believe that Jesus Christ is a divine person, equal in being with God the Father and God the Spirit. He existed in the beginning, was used to form and hold together creation. In humility, he added to Himself humanity by being born of a virgin, living a sinless life, and dying on the cross. He arose victoriously on the third day, conquering death and providing salvation to all. God the Father established Him as Lord and placed Him as head over the Church, He is our mediator between God and man and He will one day will return to Earth.

John 10:30

John 1:1-5

Matthew 1:23-25

Isaiah 7:14

Philippians 2:5-11  
1 Cor 15:3-6  
Acts 1:4-11  
Romans 10:9-10  
Ephesians 4:15  
Colossians 1:15-20  
1 John 2:1  
Revelation 22:20

#### **4. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal in being with God the Father and God the Son. He restrains evil until God's purpose is fulfilled. He convicts us of sin, of unrighteousness and of judgment. He bears witness to the truth of salvation in Jesus Christ. He is the agent of salvation, who guides, teaches, witnesses, seals and sanctifies the new believer, indwelling and empowering him to live an obedient life.

Matthew 28:19  
Mark 1:8  
Luke 24:49  
John 3:5-6  
John 14:16, 26  
John 16:8-11  
Acts 5:30-32; 11:16  
Roman 8:14, 16  
Roman 8:26, 27  
Ephesians 1:13-14  
Hebrews 9:14  
II Peter 1:21

#### **5. OF THE DEVIL, OR SATAN**

We believe in the being of Satan, that he is a fallen angel, the unholy ruler of this world, the ruler over all the powers of darkness, who is destined to eternal judgment in the lake of fire.

Matthew 4:1-3; 25:41  
John 10:10  
II Corinthians 4:4  
Revelation 12:7-9; 20:10

#### **6. OF CREATION**

We believe the Genesis account of creation and take it literally. Man was directly created by God and not by evolutionary means.

Genesis 1, 2  
Exodus 31:16-17  
John 1:3  
Colossians 1:16-17

## **7. OF THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe that man was created innocent and under God's directives, but by voluntary disobedience fell from his sinless state. Consequently, all mankind are sinners, not only by heritage but by choice, and are under God's just condemnation, without defense or excuse.

Genesis 3:1-7

Romans 1:18-32

Romans 5:12-19

## **8. OF THE VIRGIN BIRTH**

We believe that Jesus was born of Mary, a virgin, through the Holy Spirit by a miracle of God. This miracle will never be repeated. Jesus is both the Son of God and God, the Son.

Matthew 1:23-25

Isaiah 7:14

Luke 1:26-38

## **9. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is by grace alone, through Jesus Christ the Son of God, who acts as a mediator to God the Father on our behalf. By the appointment of the Father, Christ, through His death on the cross, took upon Himself the payment for the sins of the world. He honored the Father by His personal obedience. Christ atoned for the world's sin by shedding His blood when He died on the cross.

The selected verses accurately depict Christ's humanity without sin and how he was sacrificed on our behalf through the grace of God.

Isaiah 53:4-7

John 3:16

Acts 15:11

Romans 3:23-25

I Corinthians 15:3

II Corinthians 5:17-21

Ephesians 2:8-9

Philippians 2:5-11

I John 4:10

## **10. OF SALVATION**

We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, and that this new birth is a new creation complete in Jesus Christ. It is an instantaneous event and not a process. In the new birth

the one who had been dead in trespasses and in sin is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God. It is therefore by Grace and not by works that a new believer is saved. The new creation is brought about in miraculous manner by the power of the Holy Spirit. Our obedience to the Gospel is manifested by the fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life and it is eternally secure.

John 3:3, 6-8

Acts 16:30-33

Romans 6:23

II Corinthians 5:17, 19

Ephesians 2:1

Colossians 2:13

II Peter 1:4

I John 5:1

## **11. OF JUSTIFICATION**

Justification is the act of God pronouncing one free from the guilt of sin and found to be completely right or just in His eyes. Justification can only come by God's grace through His Son's death and resurrection and not by any other means. Only those who have accepted what Christ has done on their behalf are pardoned from their sins and will receive the gift of eternal life.

Isaiah 53:11

Romans 5:1-2

Romans 5:9-10

Romans 8:1-2

Galatians 2:15-21

Titus 3:3-8

## **12. OF FAITH AND SALVATION**

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.

Acts 16:31

Acts 10:43

Acts 4:12

Galatians 2:16

1 Thessalonians 5:9

1 Peter 1:8-9

Acts 16:31.

## **13. OF THE LOCAL CHURCH**

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by the new covenant and devoted to Biblical teaching, to fellowship, to the ordinances of Jesus Christ and to prayer. Its officers are pastors/elders and deacons, whose

qualifications are clearly defined in the Bible. Its mission is to be Christ's bride and body and to make disciples. Each local church has the right of self government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations. The one and only superintendent is Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. True local churches work together in love, to do good works and further the Gospel.

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 2:41-42

Acts 15:16-18

Acts 20:28

Ephesians 1:22-23

Ephesians 2:10

Ephesians 4:11-12

Ephesians 5:23-32

Colossians 1:18

1 Timothy 3:1-13

#### **14. OF BAPTISM**

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show their public identification with our crucified, buried and risen Savior. (Immersion symbolizes the believer's death to sin and emergence symbolizes the believer's resurrection to new life.) The believer should be old enough to understand what they are voluntarily doing. Baptism is a prerequisite for membership in our church.

Matthew 28:19-20

Mark 16:16

Acts 2:38-41

Acts 8:35-39

Romans 6:3-7

#### **15. OF COMMUNION**

We believe that Communion (also know as the Lord's Supper) is the frequent commemoration of His death, until He returns. The bread symbolizes His body and the grape juice symbolizes His blood, which He gave for the forgiveness of sins. Participation should be preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Matthew 26:26-30

Matthew 5:23-24

Acts 2:42-46

Acts 20:7

I Corinthians 11:20-34

#### **16. OF THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER**

We believe that all who are truly born again are eternally secure, kept by God the Father and the Holy Spirit for Jesus Christ.

John 10:28-29  
John 14:16-17  
Romans 8:35-39  
Philippians 1:6  
I Peter 1:3-5  
Jude 1

## **17. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked, that only those who through faith are justified by the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit are truly righteous in God the Father's sight. All who continue in un-repentance and unbelief are wicked in His sight and under His curse. This distinction holds among mankind when living and after death, resulting in the everlasting joy of the righteous in heaven and the everlasting suffering of the wicked in hell.

Genesis 18:23-25  
Isaiah 53:11  
Malachi 3:16-18  
Matthew 25:31-46  
John 8:23-24  
Romans 5:1  
Romans 6:23  
I John 5:19

## **18. OF CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that Civil Government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that government officials are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed. However, government rulings that are opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, the coming King of Kings, should not be obeyed.

Daniel 4:17  
Matthew 22:21  
Acts 4:18-20  
Acts 5:27-29  
Acts 23:1-5  
Romans 13:1-7  
Revelation 17:14

## **19. OF THE RESURRECTION, PERSONAL, VISIBLE, PRE-MILLENIAL, RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS**

We believe in the following historical events:

The bodily resurrection of Christ

Matthew 28:5-7

Mark 16:6-7

Luke 24:2-7, 36-42

John 20:11-16

I Corinthians 15:3-8

The ascension of Christ

Mark 16:19

Luke 24:51

Acts 1:9

Hebrews 12:2

The priesthood of Christ

I Timothy 2:5

Hebrews 2:17, 5:9, 8:6

I John 2:1

We believe that the following events will occur:

The second coming of Christ

John 14:3

Acts 1:11

Hebrews 9:27-28

James 5:7-8

The resurrection and change of the righteous dead and living -  
Rapture

I Corinthians 15:35-57

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

The Millennial reign of Christ and the righteous

Isaiah 11:1-10, 32:1-4

I Corinthians 15:25

Revelation 20:1-6

The resurrection of the wicked dead

Daniel 12:2

Acts 24:14-15

Revelation 20:5, 11-15

The New Heaven and Earth

2 Peter 3:10-13

Revelation 21:1-27

## **20. ARTICLE II: THE CHURCH COVENANT**

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior; and on profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we now in the presence of God and this assembly solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one local body in Christ.

We covenant, by the power of the Holy Spirit to abstain from complaining, gossip, bitterness, lust, greed, pride, laziness, drunkenness, legalism, and sexual immorality. Instead, we will cultivate and celebrate love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.. We will encourage, forgive, serve, admonish and accept one another. We will live carefully and wisely, recognizing that we represent Christ before a watching world. We will strive, by God's grace, to trust His promises and obey His commands thereby living a life of faith.

We further covenant to study God's Word individually and as families; to lead and train our children in the Christian life; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the true church, the spiritual body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We covenant to promote this assembly's spiritual health; and to sustain its meetings and ministries, remembering the scriptural instruction to not forsake the assembling of ourselves together. We will observe its ordinances, maintain its disciplines, and will cheerfully, generously and regularly give tithes and offerings to cover church expenses, the needs of the poor and local and international evangelism.

"May the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."