



CSBC Foundational Beliefs

A Summary of the Most Important Concepts from The Baptist Faith & Message (2000)

Based on the truths reflected in the Baptist Faith & Message (2000), below is a final summary of key concepts that we affirm, along with corresponding Scripture references to support these convictions:

1. The Bible

-We believe the Bible is God's written revelation of Himself to mankind, divinely delivered through human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. The Scriptures are therefore supremely authoritative without equal, totally true without error, and fully sufficient without lack as the eternal Word of the Living God.

(Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 19:7-11; 119:11,89,105; Isaiah 40:8; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

2. God

-We believe God is the one, true, living, and eternal Creator of the universe who reveals Himself to us as the triune Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without any division of nature, essence, or being.

(Genesis 1:1-2; Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)

3. Jesus Christ

-We believe Jesus Christ is both fully human and fully divine as the Son of God who was born of a virgin, lived a sinless life, died a sacrificial death on the cross as a substitute for mankind, was bodily resurrected from the dead, ascended into heaven to send down His Holy Spirit, and will one day return in glory to judge all men and rule an eternal kingdom.

(John 1:1-18, 10:30; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9)

4. Mankind

-We believe mankind is the crowning work of God's creation as male and female human beings made in His image who are worthy of love, dignity, and respect regardless of age, race, gender, or class. However, all human beings are also sinful by nature and by choice for consciously disobeying God's will and distorting His image. Therefore, all human beings have inherited both physical and spiritual death and are in need of redemption.

(Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-20,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 1 Corinthians 15:21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11)

5. Salvation

-We believe eternal salvation is a gift of God's grace that is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior through repentance and faith. True saving faith is based solely on a reborn believer's trust in the finished work of Christ who through His life, death, and resurrection, atoned for the penalty of sin and obtained a perfect status of righteousness and justification before God. All truly redeemed believers are eternally secure in Christ and will persevere to the end.

(Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:21; John 1:11-14, 3:3-21; Acts 2:21, 4:12; Romans 3:23-25; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 2:8-9)

6. The Church

-We believe the Church is the spiritual body of Jesus Christ, which includes all redeemed believers of all the ages from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation who are united in faith through the Holy Spirit. As a locally autonomous congregation of believers, we are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, operate under the Lordship of Christ through democratic processes, observe the two ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, and seek to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth before Christ's return.

(Matthew 16:15-19, 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 2:19-22; Colossians 1:18)

7. The World to Come

-We believe God will bring the current world to its appropriate end in His own time and way. At that time, known only by the Father, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth and will judge both the saved and the unsaved. Those who placed their faith in Christ will receive a glorified body and dwell forever with the Lord in the New Heavens and the New Earth. Those who have not placed their faith in Christ will spend eternity separated from the Lord's relational presence in Hell, the place of everlasting punishment.

(Isaiah 65:17; Matthew 16:27; 24:3-51; Luke 12:40; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11, 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Hebrews 9:27-28; 2 Peter 3:7-13; Revelation 20:1-22:13)