

SESSION III: WHO AND WHAT IS WRBC?

A. Our Purpose Statement

The White Rock Baptist Church is a community of believers (Rom. 12:3-21) bound together by faith in Jesus Christ that exists to worship God through Jesus Christ (Mt. 4:10; Jn. 4:23-24), to teach biblical truths (Heb. 5:11-6:1; II Pet. 3:18), to nurture Christian relationships (Jn. 12:35; I Jn. 3:16-17; Heb. 13:16), and to reach the world with the Gospel of Christ (Eph. 3:10; Rom. 10:13-14).

B. Basic Beliefs

1. Our bylaws make this statement about our faith:

“The most full revelation of God to humanity is Jesus Christ who is the only way to salvation, as testified to in the inspired Holy Bible. The Church subscribes to the doctrinal statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 1963. The ordinances of the Church are baptism by immersion and the Lord’s Supper.”

2. A distillation of core beliefs:

- **Jesus Christ is the unique Son of God, Lord over all.**

We believe Jesus Christ, the Son of God, co-equal with the Father is the supreme authority and the center of our faith and learning. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Isa. 9:6; Mt. 1:22-23; Jn. 1:1-5; 14:10-30; Heb. 4:14, 15; I Cor. 15:3-4; Rom. 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; I Ti. 6:14-15; Titus 2:13

- **Salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone.**

Salvation is God's free gift to us. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith.

Jn. 1:12; Rom. 5:1; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-10; Gal. 3:26; Titus 3:5

- **The Bible is authoritative and reliable, the objective standard for faith and ethics.**

The Bible, inspired, authoritative, and trustworthy, is our sole tangible authority for faith and life. Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We encourage daily Bible reading,

Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we preach and teach.

II Tim. 3:15

- **The local church, under the Lordship of Christ, is locally owned and operated.**

Christ is the recognized head of our church over against any other person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of associating and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. We practice congregational polity; i.e., every member has a voice and a vote. We thus encourage church membership and the investment of each individual through exercise of gifts, prayer, giving, and genuine fellowship.

I Cor. 12:12-26; Eph. 4:11-16; Col. 1:18

- **Baptism by immersion is a symbolic statement of the believer's faith in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.**

We practice believer's baptism because it follows the example set by Jesus, because Christ commanded it, and because it is a public profession of one's faith in Christ and the desire to follow Him.

Mt. 28:19-20; Acts 18:8; I Jn. 2:3

- **Every believer in Christ is a free and responsible priest before God.**

Every believer has direct access to God through Christ and should cultivate that relationship through prayer

and Bible reading. The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to “full time” Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. Every believer has the responsibility of bringing the gospel message to others. We encourage every member to find a place of service and ministry in or through the local church.

This principle of priesthood leads to the convictions of autonomy of the local church and religious freedom in society and the local church.

1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6

- **Every person is free before God to follow his conscience in matters of faith and worship.**
Each person is accountable for himself/herself before God. No hierarchy of spiritual authorities is needed to dictate to Christians what they must believe or how they must practice their faith. While the church and its leaders are ordained to give spiritual guidance, God also made each person with the capacity to respond to Him directly without requiring any human mediation. Each Christian has the right and ability to interpret Scripture, though he/she may not always do so rightly. One function of the church is to assist in the process of interpretation.

Heb. 9-10

3. Our Core Values

4. Our Practices That Demonstrate the Gospel

Lord's Supper

Baptism



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