

SESSION FIVE AND SIX

I. WHAT WE BELIEVE

The doctrinal stance of FFC is laid out in the following statement: “Our doctrine is based solely on God’s word.” Throughout the New Testament the importance of sound doctrine is stressed over and over again. Paul says in *2 Timothy 2:15*: “*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

Paul also warns us in *2 Timothy 4:3-4*: “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their **own desires**, because they have **itching ears**, they will heap up **for themselves** teachers; and they will turn their ears **away** from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*”

At Faith Fellowship Church we are committed to “rightly dividing” God’s Word and preaching not simply what “itching ears” desire to hear. The following statements summarize what we believe God’s Word says about the essential doctrines of our faith in Jesus Christ.

1. The Scriptures:

We believe in the **inerrancy** of Scripture as the Word of God, complete in and of itself, as found in the original manuscripts of both the Old and New Testaments. We also believe that **God is the Author**, writing through men. (*2 Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21, Revelation 22:18-19*)

2. The Trinity:

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God; that the Scriptures reveal God as eternally existing and manifesting Himself in three (3) Persons - the **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**. We believe that all three (3) Persons of the Divine Trinity are equal in every aspect but carry out distinct functions. (*Genesis 1:1-3, Exodus 20:2-3, I Corinthians 8:6, Matthew 3:16-17, Revelation 4:11, John 1:1-3, John 5-7, John 19:30, II Corinthians 13:14*)

3. Jesus Christ:

We believe **Jesus Christ** to be **God the Son**. He was 100% God, and 100% man. We believe that He was **born of a virgin**, that He lived His life without sin, that He died as the substitutionary payment for our sin, and that He restored us to fellowship with God. We believe that He was physically raised from the dead (*I Corinthians 15*), and is now in the presence of God as our intercessor and High Priest. (*John 1:1-14, Philippians 2:6-8, Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-25, Luke 1:35, Ephesians 2:8, Acts 15:11, Romans 3:24-25, John 3:16, Matthew 18:11, Hebrews 2:14, Isaiah 53:4-12, I John 4:10, I Corinthians 15:3-4, 2 Corinthians 5:21, John 10:18, Galatians. 1:4, I Peter 2:24, I Peter 3:18, Hebrews 12:2; I Corinthians 15:20, Hebrews 9:12-15, 7:25, I John 2:2, Matthew 28:6-7, Luke 24:39, 51, John 20:27, Acts 1:9-11, Mark 16:19, Revelation 3:21, Hebrews 8:6, I Timothy 2:5, I John 2:1, Hebrews 2:17*)

4. The Second Coming:

We believe in the personal **return** of **Jesus Christ** and that it will be revealed in three stages
(*1 Thessalonians 4:15-18*):

- 1) The rapture of the saints.
- 2) His pre-millennial return to earth.
- 3) His millennial reign on earth. (*John 14:1-3*)

(*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:50ff, Acts. 1:11, James 5:8, Hebrews 9:28, Luke 1:32, Isaiah 9:6-7, Acts 2:39-30, 1 Corinthians 15:25, Isaiah 32:1, 11:4-5, Psalm 72:8, Revelation 20:1-4,6*)

5. The Holy Spirit:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a **Divine Person**, not merely a force; equal with God the Father and God the Son and possesses the same nature. He is responsible primarily to empower followers of Jesus to live every day for God. (*John 14:16-17, Matthew 28:19, Hebrews 9:14, John 14:26, Luke 1:35, Genesis 1:1, 2 Thessalonians 2:7-13, John 16:8-11, 15:26,27, Acts 5:30-32, John 3:5,6, Ephesians 1: 13-14, Mark 1:8, John 1:33, Acts 11:16, Luke 14-49, John 16:13, 14:26, Romans 8: 14-16, 1 Peter 1:22, Romans 8:26-27, Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12*)

6. Satan:

We believe in the reality of Satan (the Devil) and that he actively and aggressively works at destroying and hindering God's work on earth. As a **creation** of God he must ultimately submit to God's authority over him. His destiny is sure - eternity in the Lake of Fire. (*Matthew 4:1-11, Mark 1:13, 2 Corinthians 4:44, Ephesians 2:2, Revelation 20:10, Isaiah 14, Ezekiel 28, Genesis 3, Job 1*)

7. Creation:

We believe in the **Genesis** account of creation (in six days) as literal, true, accurate and scientific; and we reject any other theories. (*Genesis 1 & 2, Colossians 1:16-17, John 1:3, Genesis 1:27, 2:7*)

8. Fall of Man:

We believe that Adam was created sinless, but that he willfully chose to break God's law, thereby bringing **sin** into the world. As a consequence, all mankind became law-breakers and stand "**guilty**" before God, deserving of punishment, and therefore have been sentenced to "death" (eternal separation from God). (*John 3:3, Galatians 3:26, Acts 16:31, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 John 5:1, John 3:6-7, 2 Peter 1:4, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1, 2 Corinthians 5:19, Colossians 2:13, John 3:8, 12-13, Galatians 5:22, Ephesians 5:9*)

9. New Birth:

We believe that **salvation** (the only escape from our “death” sentence) is by **grace** through **faith** in **Jesus Christ**, and that it is available to all who believe in the substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and who acknowledge Him alone as Lord and Savior. (*Jn. 3:3, Gal. 3:26, Acts 16:31, II Cor. 5:17, I John 5:1, Jn. 3:6-7, II Pet. 1:4, Rom 6:23, Eph. 2:1, II Cor. 5:19, Col 2:13, Jn. 3:8, 12-13, Gal. 5:22, Eph. 5:9*)

10. Justification:

We believe that upon **salvation** the believer is justified, such justification including: the pardoning of sin, the impartation of righteousness, the endowment of eternal life, and the status of a new creation. This justification is accomplished solely through faith in Jesus’ death; His righteousness is credited to us on His merits, not our own works. (*Acts 13:39, Is. 53:11, Zech. 13:1, Rom 8:1, 5:1,9, Tit. 3:5-7, Rom. 1:17, Hab. 2:4, Gal. 3:11, Rom 4:1-8, Heb. 10:38*)

11. Sanctification:

We believe that sanctification is the process by which God gives to us His **holiness**. This is **progressive** work that begins at the new birth (salvation) and continues in our hearts by the work of the Holy Spirit in connection with Bible study, self examination and repentance of sin, watchfulness and prayer – only to be completed upon the return of Christ! (*I Cor. 6:11, II Pet. 3:18, I Thes. 3:12, I Jn. 3:2*)

12. Eternal Security:

We believe that God will never disown those who are **truly** born again, as manifested by a life of serving Christ. (*Jn. 6:36-40, 10:27-39, I Cor. 1:4-8, I Pet. 1:5, Phil 1:6, Jude 1, Rom. 8:35-39, Rom. 13:13-14, Gal. 5:13, Tit. 2:11-15*)

13. The Christian Life:

We believe that all believers should live in such a manner as to enhance their testimony as **ambassadors** for **Christ**, and to not bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord. This life includes obedience to Scriptural principles of living. (*II Tim. 3:1-5, Rom. 12:1-2, 14:1-3, I Jn. 2:15-17, II Jn. 9-11, II Cor. 6:14, 7:1*)

14. Two Natures:

We believe that every believer possesses two natures: **spiritual** and **sinful**, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the **power** of the **indwelling Holy Spirit**, and that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. (*Rom. 6:13, 8:12, Gal. 5:16-25, Eph. 4:22-24, Col 3:10, I Pet. 1:14-16, I Jn. 3:5-9*)

15. The Local Church:

We believe that the local church is a **servant-hood** association of born again believers, believers equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, observing the directives of Christ, and therefore no hierarchy of individuals or organizations holds absolute right over us. On all matters of servant-hood, of policy, of government, of discipline and benevolence; the will of the local church, as led by Scripture, is final. (*Acts. 2:41-42, I Cor. 11:2, Eph. 1:22-23, Acts. 20:17-18, I Tim. 3:1-7, Col. 1:18, Eph. 5:23, I Pt. 3:21, Matt. 28:18-20*)

16. Baptism:

We believe God's Word commands every believer, and only believers, to be baptized by the immersion of the believer in water. Baptism, while **not** necessary for salvation, is a beautiful **outward symbol** of our inward faith and public identification with the crucified Savior who was buried and rose again. (*Romans 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Acts. 8:36-39, Jn. 3:23, Matt. 3:16, I Pt. 3:21, Matt. 28:18-20*)

17. Communion:

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the **remembrance** of His death until He comes, and that it should be observed by believers in recognition of His broken body and shed blood. Communion must always be preceded by **self-examination**. It is **not** necessary for salvation. (*I Corinthians 11:23-28, Matt. 26:17-30*)

18. Evangelism:

We believe that it is the solemn obligation and privilege of all believers to do their utmost to carry out the Savior's command to give the **Gospel** to the **whole world**. This is accomplished through verbalization of our beliefs, leading a life which exemplifies our beliefs, following the Holy Spirit's leading, and supporting fellow believers' evangelistic efforts through prayer, finances and exhortation. (*Eph. 4:12, Mk. 16:15, Acts. 1:8, Matt. 28:19,20*)

19. The Resurrection:

We believe that all those who have been truly born again will be resurrected at the **rapture** of the **Church** to eternal fellowship with the Lord; and that their works shall be rewarded at the judgment seat of Christ; and that they shall reign and judge with Him in the Millennium. We believe that those who are not born-again will be resurrected at the Great White Throne Judgment where they will be judged and thrown into the Lake of Fire for eternity. (*Mal. 3:18, Rom 6:17-18, Rom 5:1, I Thes. 4:13-18, I Cor. 15:42-44, 52, II Cor. 5:10, I Cor. 3:11-15, Jn. 8:21, Matt. 7:13-14, Jn. 5:28-29, Lk. 16:25, Mk. 9:32-48, Rev. 20:11-15*)