

Banbury Evangelical Free Church

Statement of Faith

We believe in –

1. The divine inspiration, infallibility and entire trustworthiness of Holy Scripture as originally given and its sole authority in all matters of faith and conduct (2 Tim.3:15-17, John 17:18, 2 Pet.1:21);
2. One God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. He is sovereign in redemption, creation, revelation and final judgement (Gen.1:1, John 1:1-4, 17:3, 17:21, Col.1:12-20, Rom.3:24, 2:3, 2:16, Heb.9:27);
3. The creation of mankind in God's image as male and female. This gender identity is inseparable from our biological sex determined at conception, and may not be changed or reassigned (Gen.1:27; Matt.19:4; Mark 10:6);
4. The universal sinfulness and guilt of all mankind because of the Fall, which happened when Adam and Eve succumbed to the temptation of Satan, the devil. This rendered mankind subject to God's wrath, condemnation, and punishment (Isa.53:6, 64:6, John 3:36, Rom.1:18-32, 3:10-23, 5:12, Matt.25:30);
5. Redemption from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death (as our Representative and Substitute) of Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God (Isa.53:4-6, Mk.10:45, Acts 4:12, Rom.5:18-19, 8:1, 2 Cor.5:15-21, Gal.3:13, 1 Pet.1:18-21, 2:24, 3:18, Heb.10:10-12);
6. The incarnation of the Son of God who was born of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, lived a sinless life, was bodily raised from the dead and ascended into heaven as the only and eternal Mediator between God and man (Lk.1:35, Matt.1:20, Heb.4:15, 7:26, Matt.28:1-28, Mk.16:1-20, Lk.24:1-53, Jn.20:1-31, 21:1-25, Acts 2:24-36, 3:15, 4:10, 13:30-37, 1 Cor.15:3-4, 15:20);
7. The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration to make the death of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance towards God and faith in Jesus Christ (Jn.3:3-8, 16:7-11, Acts 11:18, 20:21, Rom.8:9-11, Eph.2:1-10, Titus 3:5);
8. The justification of the sinner freely by grace through faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 3:24-26, Eph 2:8-9);
9. The work of the Holy Spirit indwelling, sanctifying and filling the believer, resulting in Christ-likeness, holiness, worship and evangelism (Jn.14:16-17, 14:26, 16:13-15, 1 Pet. 1:14-17, 1 Thess.4:3, Acts 1:4, 1:8, 2:4, 2:38, 4:31, Eph.5:18, Rom.8:29, 2 Cor.6:14-18, Eph.1:4, Jn.4:24, Acts 4:31, 4:33, 13:1-5);
10. The gift of marriage as an institution ordained by God, a public life-long commitment between one man and one woman, which should only be broken by the death of one or both of the parties to it. Divorce is only permitted in certain clearly defined

circumstances. Sexual relations are only to take place within the marriage bond (Gen.2:24; Matt.19:8; Rom.7:2; Matt.5:32; 1 Cor.7:15; 1 Cor.7:2; Lev.18:22);

11. The One Holy Universal Church, the Body of Christ, to which all regenerate believers belong, under the Headship of Christ; and the local church, a company of believers, meeting regularly on the basis of the Apostles' doctrine (Eph.1:22-23, Col.1:18, Acts 2:47, Eph.5:24-29, 1 Cor.12:27, Rom.12:5, 1 Cor.4:17, 2 Thess.1:4, Acts 2:42);
12. Baptism and the Lord's Supper, which have been given to the church by the Lord Jesus Christ as visible signs of the gospel. Baptism with water is a symbol of union with Christ and entry into his church, but does not impart spiritual life. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience, whereby believers, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, remember the death of Christ and anticipate his second coming (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Rom.6:3, 4; Matt.26:26-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor.11:23-29);
13. The personal return of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the dead, the final judgement, the everlasting punishment of the wicked and the everlasting blessedness of the righteous (Matt.24:27-31, 24:44, Acts 1:6-11, 1 Thess.4:13-18, Rev 20:11-15, Matt. 25:14-30 Rev.19:1-10, 21:23-27).