

Doctrinal Statement

1. God

There is one and only one living and true God. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with distinct personal attributes but without division in nature, essence, or being.

2. God as Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His created universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history, according to the purposes of His grace. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

3. God the Son

The eternal Jesus Christ is the Son of God who was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary. In this human incarnation, Jesus perfectly obeyed His Father, God, and offered Himself on the cross as the only acceptable sacrifice for the sins of humankind, thus redeeming humanity from the consequences of sin.

4. God The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God who exalts Jesus, convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He enlightens and empowers the individual believer and the church as a whole in worship, evangelism, and service.

5. The Scriptures

The Bible was written by men who were divinely inspired by God and it is the record of God's revelation of Himself for humankind. The Bible is truth without any error. The criterion by which the Bible is to be interpreted is Jesus Christ. The words of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, will be the church's only instruction manual. We understand God speaks to us through: (1) the Bible, (2) through circumstances, (3) through prayer, and (4) through the community of believers. While statements (2) through (4) may be very helpful in understanding God's will in certain areas, any time these are in direct conflict with the clear biblical message, they must be rejected and the Biblical message must be followed.

6. Humanity

Humankind was created by the special act of God, in His own image, and is the crowning work of God's creation. By free choice, the first man and woman sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man and woman in His own image.

7. Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole man, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood sacrifice obtained eternal

redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense, salvation includes spiritual regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.

8. The Church

A church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous, local body of baptized believers who are associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. Often described in the Bible as the "body of Christ," the church, in its largest sense, consists of all the redeemed. The purpose of the church is to carry out the will of Jesus Christ in everything.

9. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's day. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion.

10. Baptism and The Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

11. Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, physical and spiritual. All that we have and all that we are, we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to serve God with their time, talents, finances, and material possessions.

12. Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ, through the power and direction of the Holy Spirit, to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ and to make disciples of all nations.

13. Last Things

God, in His own time, and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. At this time, Jesus Christ will return personally, visibly and audibly. The dead will be raised and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell. The righteous will receive their reward and will dwell forever in heaven with the Lord.

14. Unity

Jesus desires and prayed for unity among His disciples. It is, thus, obligatory upon believers who make up the body of Christ to seek unity with other believers. In matters of spiritual essentials, believers will unite on clear Biblical truths. In non-essential matters, these same believers will practice liberty and Christian love.

Value Statement

It is important that a prospective member know what the church believes about current issues. We believe that the Bible gives us direction in each of these issues of life. The world may not agree with our stand, but we must answer to a much greater Authority than man. Current issues and our positions include:

God's Design for the Family

- * God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.
- * Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime.
- * The husband and the wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. A husband has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband, just as the church willingly submits to the leadership of Christ. She, being in the image of God, as is her husband, and thus being equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.
- * Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage and to teach them by consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on Biblical Truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents (*Ephesians 5*).
- * We do not view homosexuality as a legitimate alternative lifestyle. Homosexuality is a choice that is against God's natural order (*Romans 1:26-27*).
- * Homosexuality is a sin that can be forgiven and from which a person can be delivered (*1 Corinthians 6:9-11*). We love the sinner, but not the sin.

Abuse of the Body

- * We believe the Bible teaches that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 6:12-20*).
- * Therefore, any abuse of the body, whether through alcohol, drugs, sexual immorality, or other harmful practices, is to be avoided, with the help of God.
- * We also believe that our church should minister positively to those who suffer from various addictions, teaching that the message of Christ is one of freedom.

The Sanctity of Life

- * We believe God to be the author of all life. For humanity, life begins at conception and ends only within the plan of God. Therefore suicide, assisted suicide, euthanasia and abortion are all unacceptable practices according to God's Law, even though some of these practices may be acceptable under civil law (*Psalms 139:13-16*).
- None of the above is to be considered an un-pardonable sin. God's mercy and forgiveness will be extended to those who come to Him in faith and repentance.*

Our History

In 1963, the First Southern Baptist Church and the Woodland Church of Christ both purchased property that shared a common boundary line. A fence went up to separate the two churches and it remained until 1986 when the wind blew it down.

Meanwhile, both churches ended up with new pastors who became friends and even dared to talk about their differences in doctrine and practice. After many years of praying, talking, and planning, both pastors found out that they had more in common than not. They decided to seek God's will about merging together as one congregation, and then shared this with the churches. Some members were afraid of the idea, but most were favorable even though they were very cautious. The merging process was not easy.

After a series of "Open Forum" meetings, we decided in July of 1997 to begin worshipping together and we have been together even since. We changed our name to Woodland United Fellowship because this name describes what God has done. We all believe that what has happened here is God's work and we look forward to the future as God leads the way.