

Fellowship Bible Church

Membership Commitment Packet

Doctrinal Standards

All of the following doctrinal statements¹⁸ represent the beliefs of the elders of Fellowship Bible Church (FBC). However, the elders have determined that certain statements are to be considered *primary* and others are to be considered *secondary* as it pertains to membership in FBC.

Full agreement with the following *primary* doctrinal statements is required for membership in FBC. While a full understanding of and the ability to adequately articulate these beliefs is not required, the explicit rejection of any one of them disqualifies one from membership in FBC.

We believe:

- The Scriptures are inspired of God, authoritative, and without error. They are to be interpreted in a normal literal way, and are understood under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. (DSFBC #1)
- One God eternally exists in three equal persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (DSFBC #2)
- God the Father sovereignly orders and directs all things and all the affairs of men according to His own purpose, pleasure, glory and grace. This includes hearing/answering prayers and saving from sin/death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. (DSFBC #3)
- God the Son (Jesus Christ) took on flesh, begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin, and is fully God and fully man. (DSFBC #4)
- Jesus Christ died for our sins as our substitute, and declares righteous all who believe on the basis of that shed blood. (DSFBC #5)
- Jesus Christ rose again in bodily form, ascended to heaven, and is presently serving there as High Priest, Intercessor and Advocate on our behalf with God the Father. (DSFBC #6)
- Jesus Christ will someday return (personal and bodily visible) to earth in the glory of His Father. (DSFBC #7)
- The Holy Spirit is fully God with all His attributes. He does the following: convicts the world of sin/righteousness/judgment, regenerates/seals/sets apart/baptizes/indwells believers, and distributes to them spiritual gifts as He wills. (DSFBC #8)
- Man was created in God's image, but sin brought both physical and spiritual death to the entire human race. All humans are born with and live according to that sinful nature, and are absolutely sinful apart from divine grace. (DSFBC #9)
- Whoever places his trust in Jesus Christ as Savior becomes a child of God, and this salvation is not the result of any human effort or merit. (DSFBC #10)
- All true believers are kept eternally secure by God's power through spiritual birth, sealing/indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of Jesus Christ. (DSFBC #11)
- Although all true believers still possess a sinful nature, God's full provision – through identification with Jesus Christ, personal knowledge and application of Scripture, and the Holy Spirit's indwelling power – gives them the resources to overcome this sinful nature and live for God. (DSFBC #12)

¹⁸ For purposes of this membership packet, the doctrinal statements are presented in abbreviated form in the order they appear in the *Doctrinal Statement of Fellowship Bible Church* available upon request or accessible at <http://www.fbctulsa.org/folders.asp?action=display&record=39>. The abbreviated statements used here are cross-referenced to the full statements using DSFBC and the number of the corresponding statement.

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- All humans will be bodily resurrected. Believers unto eternal joy and life in the presence of God, unbelievers unto eternal judgment and suffering apart from God. (DSFBC #14)
- Satan is a real person who attempts to defeat Christians, but they can overcome these schemes through the power of the Holy Spirit and application of Scriptural truth. (DSFBC #15)
- Jesus Christ will return for His church imminently and physically, at which time all of its members – living or dead – will be caught up to be with the Lord forever. (DSFBC #16)
- The church as a whole is the body of Christ, comprised of all believers from the day of Pentecost until it is caught up to be with the Lord. Local churches are a visible expression of Christ comprised of an assembly of believers, and they exercise God-given authority to do the following until they are caught up by Jesus Christ: ordain elders/deacons/missionaries, practice Biblical discipline, administer ordinances of water baptism and the Lord's supper. (DSFBC #17)
- The church's purposes are to worship and glorify God, build up its members, and make the offer of salvation known to the whole world by fulfilling the command to believers to communicate God's reconciliation of unbelievers to Himself through Jesus Christ. (DSFBC #18)
- All believers are to give attention to becoming spiritually mature in order to function effectively in the local body and to grow in faith, hope, and love. (DSFBC #19)

Full agreement with the following *secondary* doctrinal statements is not required for membership in FBC. However, members are required to submit to the elders by recognizing FBC leadership will preach, teach and counsel in accordance with these statements.

We believe:

- Jesus Christ's personal, visible bodily return will be premillennial in order to set up an earthly kingdom in which He shall reign in righteousness and peace. (DSFBC #7)
- Biblical and historical evidence indicates the gift of speaking in tongues has probably ceased. (DSFBC #8)
- God heals with or without means in answer to prayers by faith and in accord with His will, although healing cannot be claimed on the same unconditional basis of faith as salvation is claimed. (DSFBC #13)
- Jesus Christ's return for His church will be pretribulational. (DSFBC #16)
- Although Scripture does make reference to spiritual gifts, it does not emphasize searching for one's gifts in order to function. (DSFBC #19)

It is the responsibility of all members to have read the *Doctrinal Statement of Fellowship Bible Church* in its entirety and to address any questions, comments, or concerns with a pastor or elder. Additionally, members commit to being diligent to preserve unity and peace by adhering to all *primary* doctrinal statements and not being divisive over any *secondary* doctrinal statements.