

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Live Oak Baptist Church seeks to be people of the BOOK, the Bible, the Word of God. The following outline of our beliefs is an overview of what the Bible teaches. Each category is based upon two or more specific Scripture references.

The Scriptures - The Holy Bible is God's revelation of Himself to man and is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy, revealing the principles by which God judges us. It will remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

God - There is one, and only one, living and true God. Eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes; but with division of nature, essence or being.

God the Father - God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His will. It is the grace of God that brings everything He ordains to pass. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

God the Son - Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. ...He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His shed blood and substitutionary death on the cross, He made it possible for the redemption of men from sin.

God the Holy Spirit - The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church in worship, evangelism and service.

Man - Man is the special creation of God, in His own image. He created them male and female as the crowning work of His creation. By his choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. The sacredness of human personality is evident in that God created man in His own image, and in that Christ died for man; therefore every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

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 obtained eternal redemption for the believer. Salvation provided by Christ alone is in its broadest sense when a person believes he is a sinner, and believes that Jesus Christ shed his precious blood, died on the cross and was resurrected the third day according to the Scriptures. Salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification.

Baptism & the Lord's Supper - Christian baptism is the complete immersion of a believer in water. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The believer is giving testimony to his death to sin, the putting away of the old life (burial), and his resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience (given by the Lord Jesus Christ), whereby members show forth the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Evangelism & Missions - It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ, and every church of the Lord Jesus Christ, to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. Believers are to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

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. Marriage is sacred because God ordained it to be a picture of the relationship of the Church to Christ. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband, even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus 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 children. 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.