

BBF Statement of Faith, Core Values, Mission Statement and Slogan

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Each of these help to describe BBF by answering different questions...

*The **Statement of Faith** answers the question: What do we believe?*

*Our **Core Values** answers: How do we live out our beliefs?*

*Our **Mission Statement** answers: What has this body been called to do?*

*Our **Slogan** is intended to summarize the above.*

Statement of Faith

We believe that the Bible is God's word to mankind. It is without error and is our source of information about God. We believe that it accurately communicates all that we need to know for our salvation and for living in obedience to God. Below is a non-exhaustive summary of some of those truths.

The Nature of God-- There is one true God, the all powerful creator of the universe who chooses to interact with humans. God has intellect, emotions and a will. God is a "Trinity". Although this word does not appear in the Bible it refers to the mystery of one God eternally existing as three persons:

The Father-- He is the almighty ruler of the heavens and the earth, of all that is seen and unseen. God is light. In Him is no darkness at all. God is Love.

Jesus Christ--The only Son of God, who is also called the Word. He was born miraculously of Mary, a virgin, and became a real man. He is fully God and fully man. He lived on this earth and was crucified on a cross during the era of the Roman Empire. We believe Jesus physically rose from the dead and now lives forever with the Father. Until Christ returns bodily to earth again, He is seated at God's right hand where he intercedes for all who trust Him by faith.

The Holy Spirit--the Holy Spirit is also God and a distinct person. The Spirit is given to all those who trust Christ. The Spirit lives within true believers and empowers them to witness to others about Christ, enables them to live in obedience to God's Word as He guides them through the Bible and gives spiritual gifts to every believer. These gifts are to be used to build up and strengthen the church.

Man--The first man and woman were tempted by Satan, the enemy of God, to rebel against God. They chose to rebel and now all mankind is born with a nature that is in rebellion, or spiritually dead, to the true God. The result is physical death and ultimately spiritual death, or separation from God, for every human being. We are condemned to Hell and unable to know God or to make ourselves acceptable to Him by any good works or religious rituals. We need to be rescued by God from this predicament.

We believe that humanity, though fallen is sacred in God's eyes and was uniquely created by Him, in His image and for His glory. We are to exercise dominion over the earth and to enjoy a relationship with Him forever. Every human is created in the image of God and has great value to the Creator. In God's design for humanity, life begins at fertilization.

We believe in the creation of life and the entire universe as recorded in the Genesis creation record. We also believe in the historicity of the biblical record, including the special creation of Adam and Eve as the progenitors of all people, the literal fall and resultant divine curse on the creation, the worldwide flood, and the origin of nations and diverse languages at the tower of Babel.

Salvation/Rescue--In spite of our rebellion, God is willing to rescue us because He sees our plight and His loving compassion motivates Him to take action. This salvation, or rescue, is a free gift from God--it is not something we can earn. It requires turning from our own way to God's way, and a personal faith & trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Although the gift is free, it came at a great price. God's Justice demands that we be condemned for our rebellion. His Love provides an escape from the death penalty that we deserve. Christ satisfied Justice when he paid the death penalty for all people for all time when he died on the cross. His sacrificial death is the means by which God the Father punished all of our sins past, present, and future. If we place our trust in Christ's death for us rather than our own efforts, we are completely forgiven and accepted by God and granted direct access to God the Father. Paraphrasing John 3:18—He who trusts in Jesus is not condemned to Hell but he who does not trust is condemned already. God urges us to accept his offer of rescue from Hell, but he doesn't force us to accept his offer. Matthew 7:7 reads: "Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

We believe that true salvation will be made evident through a changed life.

The Church--God has given the church (believers sharing their lives) two practices that are regular reminders of core truths of our faith: baptism and communion. Baptism is a public confession of faith. Communion (also known as the Lord's Supper) is a memorial of Christ's sacrifice. Baptism and communion are for those who have personally received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Neither of these actions of faith can in any way save us nor gives us more of God's grace. We are saved only by the finished work of Christ's death on the cross.

Marriage-- God ordained the sacred institution of marriage as a spiritual and physical union in which one man and one woman enter into a covenant with God until death separates them. His design for the continuance of humanity is through the procreation and discipleship of children within the marriage union. Marriage is to be a picture of the relationship between Jesus Christ and His Church.

The Future--Jesus physically rose from the dead and now lives forever with the Father. We too, shall one day be raised from death to live forever with Him. We believe Christ's resurrection guarantees that every true believer will also be physically resurrected to live forever in God's eternal kingdom.

Core Values

Summary: We aim to honor God as disciples who know and trust Jesus Christ personally and worship him. We seek to live by God's Word, serve God's people and come together in unity as we live and proclaim Christ's love. We recognize that our relationship with God is of primary importance. This statement describes behavior that (1) we expect to flow out of a right relationship with God (e.g. outreach) and (2) will help us continue in a right relationship with God (e.g. prayer).

Background: The church as described in Acts 2 is a "fellowship of believers" rather than a building. The church submitted to the Holy Spirit's guidance and was alive, vibrant and growing. Lives were being changed to be like Christ and Christ followers were completely committed to serving God during their life-time. Our desire at BBF is to be like the Acts 2 church that was devoted to studying the Word, prayer, fellowship, meeting each other's needs and reaching those far from God. To be that kind of church in our culture, we commit to the following core values:

Truth and grace --- We expect God's truths to be consistently communicated through relevant and practical Bible-based teaching. We seek truth and discernment from God. We want to encourage people to find love, acceptance and help while hearing the Gospel. We want to be firmly committed to God's Truth and Grace so that we can confidently reach out to people from different cultures & backgrounds.

Prayer --- We individually and corporately, devote ourselves to prayer as a lifestyle of intimate dependence upon our Lord. Our mission is impossible to achieve, especially in our increasingly contentious society, with our own strength and effort. With faith and prayer we humbly seek God together.

Worship --- We exalt God by giving Him first place in every aspect of life and actively engage in a lifetime process of growing closer to God.

Relationships --- We value relationships built on a mutual trust in God. We want to encourage, help, comfort and provide accountability as we press on to imitate Christ.

Discipleship --- We want to become like Christ in character, attitude and actions while training others to do likewise. We honor God by continually growing as disciples, dedicated to knowing, worshipping and serving Jesus Christ. The spiritual health of the individuals within BBF is essential.

Service --- We work towards recognizing, developing and deploying our spiritual gifts joyfully giving of our time, talents, gifts and resources to make a difference in people's lives for eternity.

Unity-- We seek to be a unified church family, including people of all ages, backgrounds, circumstances, and cultures. Together we desire to encourage, equip, serve and be accountable to one another as we share Christ's love (see expansion on this point in the appendix to this document).

Outreach --- We serve as an example of Christ's love, in our own group and as we interact with our local, regional and global communities. As Christ-followers, we love the lost by building relationships and sharing Christ with those who don't know Him on an individual basis and by supporting and participating in local, regional and international mission work.

Mission Statement

Bridge Bible Fellowship exists to glorify God by reconciling people to Him and to each other through biblical teaching, counseling, and discipleship, with a particular emphasis on relationships in the nuclear family and the church family.

Theme verse:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

2nd Corinthians 5:17-21

Reconcile: to bring into agreement or harmony; make compatible or consistent: *to reconcile differing statements; to reconcile accounts.*

Slogan

Building Bridges, Building Family

Appendix 1-Expansion on the core value 'Unified'

We aim to promote harmony through our worship and teaching. Our object is to be fully-functioning in both truth and love. Part of Jesus' prayer in John 17 is, "May they [the believers] experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me." When loving unity is displayed, people will see that God has sent his son!

The Bible commands unity among those in different life situations. People from varied circumstances grow by sharing their lives with one another. The challenge is to look past individual circumstances and to rejoice together as God touches hearts. There is a certain strength and encouragement for both parties when the passion of a recently-rescued believer with no church background shares his or her life with one who has spent years immersed in God's Love and Wisdom, learning to stand firm through life's ups and downs.

Unity among different age groups is also a priority. People can grow by interacting across the age spectrum. We are strengthened by embracing the enthusiasm and energy of the younger half of our church family while integrating the experience and wisdom of the older half. The challenge for the mature is to remain actively engaged with the younger generation, encouraging their spiritual growth. The challenge for the younger generation is to honor and respect older members of our community by seeking their involvement.

We aim to connect across the generations and social spectrum in our body while seeking to welcome the younger half and aiming to provide a special focus on parents leading young families. Strong, spiritually healthy families form part of the backbone of the church as a living example of God's love.

Appendix 2-Expansion on Mission Statement, Slogan and our name 'BBF'

Bridge/Building God's Bridges Bridge building symbolically refers to connecting people to God & people to people. A bridge connects two points separated by an obstacle such as water or a gorge. Spiritually...

- a) We are separated from God by a HUGE man-made obstacle, our sin. Christ's death bridged the gap by providing forgiveness and eliminating the obstacle that blocked a relationship with God.
- b) As God's children we demonstrate love for God by loving others...something difficult to do because of 'gaps' between us—remember that 70's phrase...'the generation gap'? Empowered by God's love, we can overcome the gaps created not only by age but also by background and circumstances.

Bible Our intent is that these bridges are constructed of the truths in God's Word.

Fellowship or 'shared lives' is the result of bridges built of love, forgiveness and truth.

Building God's Family Bridge building, as described above, results in stronger & healthier relationships. God has given us a powerful physical example with our earthly families. God even calls us 'His Children' and tells us that He is our 'Father' and even 'Daddy'. BBF builds family on two fronts:

- a) Earthly Family—Building up and restoring relationships between husbands & wives and between parents & kids.
- b) Spiritual Family—working to unify diverse people by developing & strengthening relationships that exist between people with different ages, backgrounds and circumstances.

Appendix 3-Signatures

I have read the September 2011 version of the BBF statement of faith and core values as posted on the www.bridgebible.org. By signing below, I affirm the following:

- I believe the truths stated in the Statement of Faith.
- I am willing, in general, to support the aims expressed in the Core Values, Mission Statement & Slogan.
- If I change my mind, I will notify an Elder.

_____ (print name)

_____ (signature)

_____ (date signed)

When signed, please return this document. It will be kept on file at the church office.