

# **First Baptist Church of Clayton**

## **A Statement of Core Values**

This Statement of Core Values is neither a complete statement of our faith, nor does it have any quality of finality or infallibility. It is not a creed. It represents a consensus of our core values for the general guidance of our own people and others. The church is free to revise this Statement of Core Values as may seem prudent at any time.

### ***We Value Christian Worship***

We value the tradition of Christ-centered worship based on the life of Jesus, the Christian calendar, Christian symbols, the message of the scriptures, and congregational participation in the worship of the church. We value the traditional ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper. We value the study and preaching of the Bible for Christian faith and life, freely interpreted by Christians led by the Holy Spirit within the community of faith.

### ***We Value Christian Ministry***

We value our call to proclaim the gospel to every person. While we respect the beliefs of others, we desire to share the good news of God's salvation in Jesus Christ with everyone through our words and deeds. We value our call to encourage spiritual growth and fulfillment in every member. We value our congregation's heritage and express thanksgiving to God for blessing the ministries of this church. We value our responsibility to be faithful stewards of all God has entrusted to us. We value our responsibility to minister to the Clayton community and to live as "salt and light" as Christ's representatives. We value Christ's model for ministry and leadership that is the role of a servant and expect servant oriented leadership to be the goal of all who serve our church in leadership.

### ***We Value Christian Fellowship***

We value the unity of the church based solely on our shared faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We value traditional Baptist congregational life marked by commitment to the Lordship of Christ, the authority of scripture, the priesthood of every believer, congregational government by democracy, the autonomy of the local church, and the separation of church and state. We value mutual care for one another and strive to love one another out of reverence for Christ and to maintain harmony through acceptance and forgiveness. We value all persons. We accept all persons on their profession or statement of faith in Christ. We believe the grace of God forgives, cleanses, and restores so that all persons can serve God freely in the church. We further believe God's call is open to all persons and places no restrictions on women serving in the church. We value the fellowship of the Lord's table and invite all persons who profess faith in Christ to share in celebrating the Lord's Supper. We value leaders that embrace our core values. We expect their leadership to be consistent with core values. We expect that when our members leave this place that they will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where they can carry out the spirit of these core values and the principle of God's Word.

### ***We Value Christian Missions***

We value missions as the extension of God's redemptive purpose through evangelism, education, and Christian service beyond the local church. As Baptists, we seek to present the gospel of Christ in a way that is consistent with biblical faith, our Baptist heritage and respects the person with whom we are sharing the message. We encourage all members of our church to become involved in missions by studying, praying, giving and doing missions.

### ***We Value Christian Cooperation***

Baptists are autonomous but cooperating people. Our heritage has been one of working with our convention, state, and association to accomplish more effectively the work of Christ in the world. We believe that cooperation is imperative for the mission and ministry of the church. The church is free to decide with whom it will associate or cooperate in the mutual ministry of the church. All such relationships are strictly voluntary and no cooperating organizations have authority over the local church. First Baptist Church seeks to be ecumenical in its approach to mission and ministry. First Baptist Church is free to enter into or to sever any cooperative relationship when it is deemed necessary.

### ***We Value Christian Discipleship***

We value Christian discipleship, a process of personal growth in Jesus Christ. Learning to walk in His ways we are equipped by the Holy Spirit through Bible study, prayer, and worship to accept the good news of Jesus Christ and assist in the spread of the gospel. Through Christian discipleship we learn to be more Christ like, learn to witness through faith, and learn to disciple others to follow him.

### ***We Value Christian Prayer***

We value the opportunity to go to the Lord in prayer. Prayer is the door through which we commune with God and He communes with us. We encourage individual, family, group and corporate prayer as it brings us into close fellowship with God. Prayer allows us to admit our need for God and declare our dependence on His Holy Spirit to guide us in seeking God's will through all life's circumstances.

### ***We Value Christian Living***

We value the opportunity to walk in love as Christ has loved us, to care for one another, to be kind and forgiving. We believe our Christian example in our work, in our school, and in every step of our daily life is a living witness. We strive to live by faith and obedience in our homes where love, mutual respect, prayer, and Bible study are planted and nourished as seeds of the Christian life.