

Statement of Faith

Baptists of Western Australia hold that:

1. Jesus Christ alone is Head of the Church.
2. The Church is the community called into being by God. In both its universal and local expressions, it consists of persons who have personally and knowingly accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, and have pledged themselves to worship, follow and serve him as a priestly community.
3. By His high-priestly ministry, Jesus Christ has opened the way for every believer to approach God the Father directly through him.
4. Jesus Christ is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct in the life of both churches and individuals.
5. He has given to all churches and to every individual the right and responsibility to understand and to do God's will. Therefore, being accountable to God, Christians are not to despise their fellow believers but to accept one another as Christ's servants, allowing each other freedom of conscience. God has given to human governments the right and responsibility to promote what is just and good but not to coerce belief or practice contrary to conscience.

In common with many other Christians, Baptists of Western Australia also hold that:

1. There is only one God. He is infinitely good and great, and has revealed himself to be personal and triune in essential being, eternally existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
2. God speaks to us through the Bible, the sixty-six Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Being God-breathed they are fully trustworthy and supremely authoritative in all matters of faith and conduct.
3. God created the heavens and the earth and all that exists in them. He continues to care for and govern his creation, working out his purposes for all he has made.
4. God created humans in his image, male and female, intending that we live in fellowship with him. However, tempted by Satan, God's adversary, the first man and woman disobeyed God. As a result we all sin, falling short in our responsibilities to love God and neighbour and to care for the world.
5. Despite our sin, which alienates us from God and rightly deserves his judgment, God, because of his grace and great love for all people, sent his Son into the world to save us. The incarnate Son, Jesus of Nazareth, was conceived by the virgin Mary through the Holy Spirit. Fully human and fully divine, he lived on earth a sinless life of perfect obedience. He died on the cross as a sacrifice on our behalf and in our place, redeeming us from the penalty and power of sin and triumphing over Satan. He was raised bodily from the dead and ascended to his Father's presence where he lives forever as our great High Priest and reigns as Lord of all.
6. The Gospel, the good news concerning Jesus Christ and his reconciling work, is God's powerful way of bringing salvation. All who respond in repentance and faith God sets right with himself, forgiving and cleansing them from sin, giving them his Holy Spirit and eternal life, and incorporating them into his church.
7. The Holy Spirit gives new life to all believers and resides in them permanently. He makes them holy, and enables them to grow into the likeness of Christ. Through his Spirit God empowers all his people for life and witness, granting them various gifts for the well-being, functioning and mission of the church.
8. While all believers belong to the universal church, God gathers them into local churches which exist to worship and serve him. Jesus Christ, the head of the church, has established both baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of believers on their profession of faith, an act of identification with the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. It involves commitment to a life of discipleship in fellowship with his people. In the Lord's Supper, believers

remember Christ's sacrificial death, share in fellowship with their risen Lord and with one another, and look forward to his return.

9. All Christians are commanded to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and their neighbours as themselves. We discover what love means in practice through searching the Scriptures, which reveal God's character and will. Such love includes the responsibility of every Christian to participate in the proclamation of the Good News throughout the world.
10. Jesus Christ will return visibly and victoriously from his Father's presence to gather his people to himself and to complete his conquest of sin and evil. All people, both believers and unbelievers, will be raised bodily and be judged by God. Believers will enjoy eternal blessedness in God's presence, while unbelievers will suffer the eternal punishment of exclusion from his presence. The whole creation will be so transformed that righteousness will characterise the new heavens and the new earth for ever.

The Doctrinal Basis of the Rockingham Baptist Church shall be the fundamental truths of Christianity as revealed in the Bible.

We believe in:

- a) The one, true and living God who eternally exists in three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit who are of the same substance and equal in power and glory.
 - a. Genesis 1:26; Exodus 3:2-6; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 2; John 1:1-18; 10:30 Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9
- b) The sovereignty of God in creation, revelation, redemption, and the final judgment; and that humankind was created in the image of God.
 - a. Genesis 1:1-20; Psalm 135:5-15; Daniel 4:34, 35; Ephesians 1:11
- c) The Bible as God's word written, and therefore entirely true and trustworthy, powerful to accomplish God's purpose in giving it to us. It is the sole authority in all matters of faith and practice.
 - a. Psalm 19:7-11; Isaiah 55:1; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Peter 2:19-21
- d) The universal sinfulness and guilt of human nature since the Fall, rendering everyone subject to God's wrath and condemnation.
 - a. Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 1:18; 3:9-20
- e) The existence, personality and evil nature of Satan.
 - a. Isaiah 14:12; Matthew 4:1-11; Peter 5:8; Corinthians 11:14
- f) The full deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the incarnate Son of God; His virgin birth and His real and sinless humanity; His death on the Cross; His bodily resurrection and His present reign in heaven and earth and His future personal return, when He will judge everyone, executing God's just condemnation on the unrepentant and receiving the redeemed to eternal glory.
 - a. John 1:1; Matthew 1:21-23; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:14-16; John 19:17-19, 28-37 Luke 24:1-47; Colossians 3:1; 1 Thessalonians 4: 14-17; Matthew 25:31-46
- g) Redemption from the guilt, penalty, and the power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of our representative and substitute, Jesus Christ the only mediator between God and man.
 - a. John 14:6; Ephesians 1:7, 8; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:26-28; 9:11-15

- h) Justification as God's act of undeserved mercy, in which sinners are pardoned all their sins, and accepted as righteous in God's sight, only because of the righteousness of Christ imputed to them, this justification being received by faith alone.
- i) Romans 3:21-30; Galatians 2:11-20
- j) The need for the Holy Spirit to make the work of Christ effective to the individual sinner, granting him repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ.
- k) John 3:1-11; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8-9