

STATEMENT OF FAITH



... God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. (Galatians 6:14)

MILTON BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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PREFACE

This statement of faith explains what we at Milton Bible Fellowship (MBF) believe and how New Testament church principles should be practised in our church.

The Elders

STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. The Bible is God's inspired word, without error in its original texts, and is the ultimate authority on faith and practice. (2Tim. 3:16-17; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2Pet. 1:21)
2. There is one God (Deut. 6:4, 1 Tim 2:5), eternally existent (Deut. 33:27) in three persons (Matt. 28:19): Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Heb. 9:14)
3. The Lord Jesus Christ is truly God and truly man (1 Tim. 3:16, 2:5 – 6) born of a virgin (Luke 1:35) sinlessly perfect (Heb. 4:15, 1 Pet. 2:22, 1 John 3:5, 2 Cor 5:21). Because of his sacrifice, the sinner finds in Christ a substitute (1 Pet. 2:24) and a representative (Heb. 7:25). He rose from the dead bodily (Luke 24:39) and ascended to His Father's right hand (Eph. 1:20 – 23) where He now ministers as our Great High Priest (Heb. 4:14 – 16, 9:24)
4. Each member of the human race is fallen, sinful and lost (Rom. 3:23, 5:12). Regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for the salvation of men and women (Titus 3:5, Rom. 8:9). Redemption is wholly by the blood of Christ (Heb. 9:12 – 14, 1 Pet. 1:18 – 19) and salvation is by grace, through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:5 – 9). Every true child of God possesses eternal life and is saved for all eternity (John 10:27 – 29, 5:24, 3:16).
5. From the moment of conversion, each believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit who seals him unto

the day of redemption (Eph. 1:13 – 14, 4:30, Rom. 8:9 – 11). It is through the power of the Holy Spirit that the believer can live a godly life (Gal. 5:16, 22 – 23).

6. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust (Phil. 3:21, John 5:29, 1 Cor. 15: 51 – 55, Rev. 20:12 – 13), the everlasting blessedness of the saved (Phil. 1:23, Rev. 22:4 – 5) and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost (Rev. 20:10 – 15, Matt. 25:46).
7. We believe in the personal and imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 4:14 – 18, Titus 2:13, Acts 1:11, Heb. 9:28).
8. The church as a whole is not an organization but a living organism, known as the body of Christ (Eph. 1:22 – 23). The local church is composed of believers in a locality who gather in Christ's name as a corporate testimony to the Lordship of Christ (Col. 1:18) and to the oneness of the body of Christ (John 17:21). Government and discipline are the responsibility of the local church (Matt 18:15 – 17, 1 Cor. 5:1 – 13).
9. In keeping with our belief in the oneness of the body of Christ, the Lord's people should avoid names other than those which are given them in Scripture, such as Christians (Acts 11:26), saints (1 Cor 1:2), believers (Acts 5:14), brethren (Heb. 2:11) and disciples (Acts 9:1, 10:23).

10. There are two Christian ordinances: baptism by immersion (Matt. 28:19, Acts 8:35 – 39) and the Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:19 – 21).

10.1. Baptism is for believers upon confession of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 8:37). It signifies that the one being baptized considers himself to have been crucified with Christ unto sin, has been buried with Him and is risen with Him to walk in new life (Rom. 6:3 – 6).

10.1.1. Believers wishing to be baptised will be interviewed by at least two elders about their faith in Jesus Christ. If their confession is satisfactory, arrangements for their baptism will be made promptly.

10.1.2. Baptism and fellowship reception can be simultaneous if announced to the assembly following the reception process described below.

10.2. The early church commemorated the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) and we believe that it is the privilege of every true believer to heed the Lord’s request: “Do this in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19).



11. God created humans in his own image and of two sexes – male and female. They are complimentary and designed to nurture and support each other. (Gen 1. 27)

11.1. Marriage is a covenant between a man and a woman only. It is a picture of the relationship between Christ and the Church (Gen 2:24; Eph 5: 22 – 33)

11.2. Gender is considered synonymous with sex.

SOME GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Objectives of an Assembly:

MBF exists for the glory of God. It gathers together

- To maintain a corporate testimony to the Lordship of Christ and to the Oneness of the Body of Christ (Col. 1:18, Eph. 4:3 – 6)
- In order to commemorate the Lord’s Supper (Luke 22:19, Acts 20:7)
- For mutual edification (Heb. 10:25)
- For prayer (Acts 12:12, 1 Tim. 2:1).
- For evangelism (Matt. 28:19 – 20).
- For teaching of the word of God (2 Tim. 4:2)
- For the propagation of missions:
 - ↳ Sending out missionaries, home and abroad. (Acts 13:2 – 3)
 - ↳ Praying for missionaries and supporting them financially (Col. 4:3, 2 Cor. 9)
 - ↳ Welcoming them back on furloughs (Acts 14:27)

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

1. The assembly shall not be subject to any outside ecclesiastical authority, but to God and His Word alone.
2. The congregation of believers in fellowship shall not become part of any sect or denomination. They shall, however, recognise the oneness of the Body of Christ (John 17:21 – 23) and extend fellowship to any believer who holds to the truth of the word of God, loving all the children of God “That in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both theirs and ours (1 Cor 1:2)
3. Elders are mature, spiritual men who are responsible to God for guiding the assembly in spiritual matters.

4. All business of the assembly, physical and financial, shall be conducted by the Board of the Corporation of Milton Bible Fellowship.

RECEPTION AND FELLOWSHIP

For the scriptural definition of fellowship in the church, see article 8 in our statement of faith.

Believers who wish to be received into fellowship with the assembly are interviewed by at least two elders. If they have a clear confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, subscribe to the statement of faith and are godly in walk, they are announced to the assembly at the Lord’s Supper meeting one week in advance of reception.

Believers cease to be associated with the assembly fellowship for the reasons stated below:

- They may move to another district and therefore are transferred by a letter of commendation (Rom. 16:1 – 2, Acts 18:27).
- They may be called home to heaven.
- They may withdraw voluntarily.
- They may be asked to withdraw as a matter of discipline for moral sin or doctrinal error. (1 Cor. 5:7 – 13, Rom. 16:17 – 18).
- They may be absent for a prolonged period, in which case, active fellowship has ceased.

When someone leaves the fellowship of the assembly, the elders will notify the assembly at the Lord’s Supper.