

Baptist Beliefs

The Christian and Social Order, Peace and War, Religious Liberty, The Family

The Christian and Social Order

Christianity should address the truth to the world and make a difference.

- Stand for what is right.
- Stand against what is wrong.

What do we stand for, and what do we stand against? *Romans 13:1-7*

- Opposed to: racism, greed, selfishness, sexual immorality *Revelation 5:9; John 3:16; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:6, 20, 22-23; Romans 1:18-27; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; Hebrews 13:4*
- Provide for: orphaned, needy, abused, elderly, helpless, sick *James 1:27*

We have a responsibility to our nation, our society, our neighborhoods to seek to make the will of God supreme in our own lives and in the lives of those we come in contact with. *Matthew 22:36-40*

The good of the national government, state government, local government is a matter of Christian concern.

- We should oppose sin (individually and culturally) through the motive of Christian love & concern. *Matthew 5:13-16*
 - What is the purpose of salt?
 - Preservation
 - Purification

Christians should take our social responsibility seriously because it affects the way people live and think.

- Should be the voice for those with no voice
 - Abortion
 - Elderly (Euthanasia / Assisted Suicide)
 - Human cloning
- Preservers and protectors of LIFE. *Genesis 1:7; Exodus 20:13; Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:2, 24; Jeremiah 1:5; Ephesians 2:10*

Peace and War

Should strive to have peace with everyone on the principles of righteousness. *Matthew 5:9, 43-48; Romans 12:18-19*

- Pacifist believe war or armed conflict of any kind is the worst possible reality.
- Just-War theory defends the use of arms in justified situations where there is a reasonable chance of a resulting, lasting peace. *Matthew 26:52; Ephesians 6:12*

We serve the Prince of Peace. *Isaiah 9:6, Luke 2:14*

- True peace will not be achieved until the end of this world. *James 4:1-2; Revelation 17:14*

Religious Liberty

- God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. *John 8:32, 36;*
- Church and state should be separate. *Acts 4:19-20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2*
- The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. *Philippians 3:20*
- The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind.
 - Yet, a Christian should have the right to support moral truth. *Matthew 5:13-16*

The Family

- God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society.
- Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. *Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32, 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Hebrews 13:4;*
- The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. *Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, 9:9; Ephesians 5:21-33;*
 - Husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. *Proverbs 18:22*
 - God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. *1 Timothy 5:8*
 - Wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband.
 - Being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him.
- Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. *1 Samuel 1:26-28*
- Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage.
- Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. *Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Proverbs 6:20-22, 22:6; Ephesians 6:1-4*
- Children are to honor and obey their parents. *Exodus 20:12*