



## **Stapleford Baptist Church**

*Registered charity Number 1175549*

### **Statement of Faith**

1. The full inspiration of the Holy Scriptures. They are infallible and authoritative in all matters of belief, life and conduct. They not only contain but also are, in themselves, the Word of God. The New Testament is reliable in its testimony to the character and authorship of the Old Testament. There is a need of the teaching of the Holy Spirit for a true understanding of the whole.
2. There is one God eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit – each of whom is co-equal and co-eternal. There are not three Gods but one. He is the Creator, Sustainer and Judge of the world.
3. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is holy, righteous, full of grace, mercy, compassion and love. In his infinite love and in order that the world might be saved he sent forth the Son. Through faith in Christ the Son of God, and led by the Holy Spirit, we are able to approach him and call him “Father.”
4. Jesus Christ is the incarnate Son of God. By the operation of the Holy Spirit he was conceived and born of a virgin. After living a perfect life, he was slain for our sins on the cross, was raised from the dead, triumphant over Satan, sin and death, and ascended into heaven, where he now sits in glory at the right hand of the Father Almighty. His true humanity and full deity were mysteriously and really joined in the unity of his divine person. Although he was tempted, yet he remained without Sin.
5. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, is not a mere influence or a vague power, but a Person. His work is indispensable to regenerate sinners, to lead them to repentance, to give them faith in Christ, and to sanctify believers in this present life. Both to the individual Christian and to the Church he is entirely necessary for spiritual power and effectiveness.
6. All humans are sinners as a result of the Fall. This sin which so pollutes and controls them, infecting every part of their being, renders them guilty in the sight of a Holy God and subject to the penalty, which in his wrath and condemnation, he has decreed against it.
7. The death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross was a sacrifice in which he offered himself as a perfect oblation and satisfaction for our sins. His death as both penal and substitutionary – that is, he suffered the punishment of sin in our place and on our behalf, and it brings forgiveness of sins to all who approach God in trusting in it. He was not the Son placating an angry Father. Rather, the Father himself, in his love, gave his only begotten Son, who willingly, and under no coercion whatsoever, save that of his eternal desire to do the Father’s will, came into the world and went to the cross as the propitiation for our sins.
8. Through faith (and faith alone) in the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinner is freely justified by God. Thus, God does not reckon our sins to us, but instead reckons Christ’s righteousness to our account. Salvation is therefore by grace and not by human merit. Trust in one’s own good works or in any mediation other than Christ is both alien to the teaching of scripture and damning to the welfare of the soul.
9. The ordinances of Believer’s Baptism and the Lord’s Supper as being instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ – but not Baptism as conveying regenerating grace, nor the Lord’s Supper as being a sacrifice for sin, not involving any change of the substance of the bread and wine.
10. One day the Lord Jesus Christ will return personally, visibly and gloriously to this earth to receive his saints to himself and to be seen of all people.
11. He, as the righteous Judge, will divide people into two, and only two categories – the saved and the lost. Those whose faith is in Christ will be saved eternally, and will enter into the joy of their Lord, sharing with him his inheritance in heaven. The unbelieving will be condemned by him to Hell, where eternally they will be punished for their sins under the righteous judgment of God.