

Membership Covenant for Riverlife Baptist Church

We desire to be "a family embracing the Father's presence, releasing empowered people who declare and demonstrate Christ's kingdom".

Having received Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, we believe that God calls us to live out our faith in relationship with Him and others in community. Our family gathers around shared beliefs (set out in our Statement of Faith) as we seek to worship God authentically and encourage each other in our relationship with Him.

As a church family we commit to:

- Providing safe environments where you can be cared for, grow and be discipled;
- Providing equipping and training so you can serve and witness effectively; and
- Providing opportunities to worship and pray together.

Together as members of Riverlife Baptist Church:

- We affirm our commitment to love God by:
 - Regularly spending time in God's Word and in prayer;
 - Seeking His manifest presence;
 - Regular participation in Sunday Services; and
 - Being led by the Holy Spirit, seeking His guidance for our lives and our church.
- We affirm our commitment to love one another by:
 - Caring for those in need with grace and mercy;
 - Serving one another; and
 - Building up the body and the integrity of our church and our leaders.
- We affirm our commitment to live for Jesus by:
 - Bringing our lives into alignment with Jesus' teaching and example;
 - Giving generously of our time, gifts and finances to see Riverlife's vision become a reality; and
 - Declaring and demonstrating Christ's kingdom with those we meet in our community, nation, and our world.

We the members of Riverlife Baptist Church affirm our commitment to live for God's glory as we worship, fellowship and share His love.

The Statement of Faith of Riverlife (set out in clause 6 of the Constitution) is as follows:

God is the creator of everything and ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three personalities: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one.

God the Father is co-equal with the Son and the Holy Spirit. He directed creation through the word of the Son and the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Father sent the Son to restore humanity to Him because of His great love for His creation. He is spirit, and so invisible, yet is the perfect expression of love. He sets the standard of love, family and identity, and offers it freely to those made in His image. While humanity was in sin and rebellion, He sent the Son to die for us.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father and the Spirit. He has eternally existed. Jesus was born of a virgin, lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by suffering and dying on a cross. He rose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to the Father's side and will return again to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make humankind aware of their need for Jesus. He is God and is in the in-dwelling presence of God that resides in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He empowers each Christian for supernatural living, understanding of spiritual truth, conviction of sin and righteousness, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts to be used in service for God. As Christians we seek to live in His presence daily.

The Bible is God's living and active word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the truth without any mixture of error as originally given. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

People are made in the image of God, to be like Him in character and activity. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all are marred by disobedience toward God, called "sin". This attitude separates people from God and causes many problems in life.

Salvation is an expression of God's grace and is His free gift to us, but we must personally accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty: eternal separation from God. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. The moment one receives Jesus into their life by faith, God lavishes His love and eternal life on those He now calls His children.

Eternal life is a free gift of God as a result of Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and available through faith in Him. People were created to exist eternally. They will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or together with God as a result of forgiveness and salvation. At the culmination of all things, the new heaven, earth and hell are real places of eternal existence. The place of eternal security with God is the restored heaven and earth. People who choose to reject Jesus and His offer of salvation and eternal life choose separation from God. The place of eternal separation from God is hell. Any person who has been genuinely saved, is trusting Jesus to sustain and sanctify them through the work of His Spirit, who continues to seek after God, and who is responsive to the discipline of God, can be totally confident of their eternal security. The very heart of God is that people who He created and loves, would be welcomed into His Kingdom, place Him as

King and enjoy the benefits of living under His reign. He always intended that if we experienced this for ourselves, we would now reach others as we represent His Kingdom and be Kingdom bringers. God desires everyone to have the opportunity to trust in Him and He has called us to take the good news of His Kingdom to all nations, every tribe and tongue.

Jesus instructed His disciples to make disciples, teaching these disciples everything He had taught them. Our journey of discipleship is our journey into being like Jesus, doing what He showed us to do and loving God and others the way he taught us.

Baptism and communion are two essential instructions of Jesus in Scripture. We hold baptism to be the immersion of believers upon their profession of faith in Jesus and is symbolic of the fellowship of the regenerate in His death, burial and resurrection. We hold communion to be a celebration and remembrance of the sacrifice of the body and blood of Jesus that was made on our behalf.

Worship is the only eternal activity. When God sets the world right in the new creation, we will no longer need to reach others or disciple others, as God will be directly present with His people. Worship means “to give worth” and as we give worth to God, we acknowledge His supremacy over all of creation and created things. God is present with us when we worship, and as dwelling places of the Holy Spirit, we are each able to lead ourselves into God’s presence in worship. Prayer is an expression of worship, just as worship is an expression of prayer. As we worship God and as we talk with Him, we become like Him, being transformed into His likeness.