

BRIARWOOD STATEMENT OF FAITH

LIFESTYLE STATEMENT: B.A.P.T.I.S.T

Bible as Sole Authority

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

Since God's Word is the only completely reliable and truthful authority, we accept the Bible as our manual for living. Our first question when faced with a decision is "What does the Bible say?" We practice daily Bible reading, Bible study, and Bible memorization. The Bible is the basis for all we believe.

Autonomy of Each Local Church

"And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn..." (Colossians 1:18)

Christ is the recognized head of our church, not any person, group, or religious organization. While recognizing the value of association and cooperating with other groups of Christians, we believe every local church should be self-governing and independent from any denominational control. In relating to our "daughter churches" that we sponsor, we encourage each congregation to determine its' own strategy, structure, and style.

Priesthood of Every Believer

"...and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen" (Revelation 1:6);

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

The Bible teaches that every Christian is called to "full time" Christian service, regardless of his or her vocation. We practice the truth that every believer is a minister by encouraging every member to find a place of service and ministry. Every believer has direct access to God through prayer and Bible reading.

Tithing

"A tithe of everything from the land, whether grain from the soil or fruit from the trees, belongs to the Lord; it is holy to the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30).

At Briarwood we practice tithing for the support of Christ's Body, the Church, as God commands. We recognize that giving 10% of our income is the biblical standard of giving.

Immersion

"...having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God..." (Colossians 2:12)

We practice baptism by immersion under water – the way Jesus was baptized, and the way the Bible commands.

Spirit-Led Living

"I [Jesus] am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

We believe the only way possible to live the Christian life is by God's power within us. So we seek to practice a daily dependence on God's Spirit to enable us to do what is right.

Philippians 2:13; Ephesians 5:18

Telling Others About Christ

"...Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have..." (1 Peter 3:15)

It is the responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News with those God brings us into contact with. We practice personal sharing about Christ and inviting friends to church.