

Our Beliefs

Westerville Free Will Baptist Church

1. **The Bible.** The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God, and are our infallible rule of faith and practice.
2. **God.** There is one living and true God, revealed in nature as the Creator, Preserver, and Righteous Governor of the universe; and in the Scriptures as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; yet as one God, infinitely wise and good, whom all intelligent creatures are supremely to love, adore, and obey.
3. **Christ.** Christ is God manifest in the flesh; in His divine nature truly God, in His human nature truly man. The mediator between God and man, once crucified, He is now risen and glorified, and is our ever present Savior and Lord.
4. **The Holy Spirit.** The Scriptures assign to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.
5. **The Government of God.** God exercises a wise and benevolent providence over all beings and all things by maintaining the constitution and laws of nature. He also performs special acts, not otherwise provided for, as the highest welfare of men requires.
6. **The Sinfulness of Man.** Man was created innocent, but by disobedience fell into a state of sin and condemnation. His posterity, therefore, inherits a fallen nature of such tendencies that all who come to years of accountability, sin and become guilty before God.
7. **The Work of Christ.** The Son of God, by His incarnation, life, sufferings, death, resurrection, and ascension fully and freely redeemed us from sin, and is the ground of salvation by faith.
8. **The Terms of Salvation.** The conditions of salvation and means for right-living are:
 - (1) Repentance or sincere sorrow for sin and hearty renunciation of it;
 - (2) Faith or the unreserved committal of one's self to Christ as Savior and Lord with purpose to love and obey Him in all things. In the exercise of saving faith, the soul is renewed by the Holy Spirit, freed from the dominion of sin, and becomes a child of God, and;
 - (3) Continuance of faith and obedience unto death.
9. **Election.** God determined from the beginning to save all who should comply with the conditions of salvation. Hence, by faith in Christ men become His elect.
10. **Freedom of Will.** The human will is free and self-controlled, having power to yield to the influence of the truth and the Spirit, or to resist them and perish.
11. **Salvation Free.** God desires the salvation of all; the gospel invites all, the Holy Spirit strives with all and whosoever will may come and take of the water of life freely.
12. **Perseverance.** All believers in Christ, who through grace persevere in holiness to the end of life, have promise of eternal salvation.
13. **Gospel Ordinances.** BAPTISM, or the immersion of believers in water, and the LORD'S SUPPER, are the ordinances to be practiced according to the gospel. FEET WASHING, an ordinance teaching humility, is of universal obligation, and is to be ministered to all true believers.

14. **Tithing.** God commanded tithes and offerings in the Old Testament; Jesus Christ endorsed it in the gospel (Matt. 23:23), and the apostle Paul said, “Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him” (1 Cor. 16:2a).

15. **The Christian Sabbath.** The divine law requires that one day in seven be set apart from secular employments and amusements; for rest, worship, holy works and activities, and for personal communion with God.

16. **Resurrection, Judgment, and Final Retribution.** The Scriptures teach the resurrection of all men at the last day. Those who have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation; then the wicked will “go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

17. **Human Sexuality.** First Corinthians 6:9-11 condemns a variety of lifestyles including those associated with adultery, fornication, prostitution, and homosexuality. Indeed, the Bible condemns as sexual immorality, all sexual intercourse outside of marriage as defined above. It also encourages Christians to flee from sexual immorality because of its destructive effects and because the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 1:18-32 makes clear that is not only sinful to engage in homosexual union, but also to approve of such sins in others or to encourage their practice. As a result, in order to maintain our consistent Christian witness, we cannot sanction, approve, or promote in any way adultery or any other form of sexual immorality—including, but not limited to, pornography, pedophilia, polygamy, bestiality, or homosexual unions. Sexual activities outside of marriage, including but not limited to those named above, are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and the church. Lewd conduct, transgender behavior; and the creation, distribution, or viewing of pornography is incompatible with God’s purpose for human sexuality.

18. **Family Relationships.** We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, however God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home, and men are to be the leaders (pastors, elders, and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for ordination by WFWBC. We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and for leading them by way of consistent lifestyle examples and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction.

19. **Marriage.** Both Scripture and nature as designed by God affirm the life-long, covenantal union of one man, being male as created by God, and one woman, being female as created by God, in a one-flesh relationship. This one-flesh relationship is emblematic of the union of Christ and His church. It is the sole and beautiful context of the divine plan for the Biblical marriage of man and woman as image-bearers of God, as well as the foundation for the family as the basic, divinely ordained unit of human society. Violations of this one-flesh union, whether heterosexual or homosexual, premarital or extramarital, contradict the divine plan for the family and for the conception and rearing of children, bringing spiritual despair, guilt and death to individuals and cultures.

20. **World Missions.** We believe that God has given the church, as ambassadors of Christ, a great commission to proclaim the gospel to all people so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

21. **Abortion.** We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well-being of the mother are acceptable.

22. **Euthanasia.** We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of it, or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering constitutes a murder contrary to the will of God.

23. **Man.** We believe mankind is God's special creation. God created mankind in His own image giving to every human being intrinsic value and dignity. Mankind, consisting of two genders (male and female), is created in the image of God. Each of these two distinct, complementary genders reflects the image of God. Gender and biological sex are equivalent and cannot be separated. A person's gender is determined at conception (fertilization), determined by one's DNA, and cannot be changed by drugs, hormones, or surgery. (Genesis 1:26–27, 5:2, 9:6; Matthew 19:4–6; Mark 10:6; 1 Corinthians 11:7; James 3:9–10).

In addition to the above statements of our faith we accept and adopt [*A Treatise of the Faith and Practices of the National Association of Free Will Baptists*](#), as adopted by the National Association in 1935.