

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ELMER

Statement and Policy On Ecumenism

Statement of Policy on Ecumenism

The First Baptist Church of Elmer is an independent, fundamental Baptist Church. We endeavor to be free from compromise. We give no endorsement in any way to liberals, apostates, or non-Biblical ecumenical programs. We love the Lord and His Word and are desirous of pleasing Him by living godly lives and by reaching the lost with the Gospel.

Policy of Ecumenism

(Adopted 2/19/64)

Believing that the Lord has revealed His will that we should be one with our fellow believers even as He is one with the Father, we may cooperate and fellowship with our brethren in Christ of other churches on the basis of the principles listed below. It is upon this basis that we believe the Son was one with the Father.

- A. Doctrinally - We may fellowship and cooperate in service with any one or group that can without reservation subscribe to the following doctrinal statement:
1. The divine inspiration of the Bible which is inerrant in the original writings, and that it is of supreme and final authority in faith and practice.
 2. One God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 3. The creation of man in the divine image; his subsequent fall through sin, resulting in universal guilt and total depravity; and the necessity of redemption and restoration.
 4. The deity of Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, perfect life, redeeming death, bodily resurrection, heavenly intercession and His personal return.
 5. The personality of the Holy Spirit, by whose regenerative work sinful man is born again, and by whose indwelling regenerate man is enabled to live a godly life.
 6. The bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; the everlasting punishment of the lost.
 7. The spiritual unity of all believers as comprising the true Church, which has the duty to preach the Gospel to every creature.
- B. Purpose - We may fellowship and cooperate in service with anyone or group whose purpose is in accord with our purpose and that such purpose will be determined to further the cause of Christ and be the most advantageous to the advancement of the Church of Jesus Christ.
- C. Love - In Acts 4:32, the church is described as being of one heart and of one soul. Our desire for closer unity springs from love which has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit for our brethren in Christ. In order to have genuine cooperation, this same dynamic love must be present and discernable between those who are involved. We may cooperate when it is evident that this love, generated by the Holy Spirit, is present in the parties or groups cooperating.

Each opportunity to cooperate will be given prayerful and deliberate consideration in the light of the above given policies.