

## TEACHING GUIDELINES FOR OUR FAITH AND PRACTICE

First International Baptist Church of Copenhagen, Denmark

- a) **The Scriptures:** The Holy Bible was recorded by divinely inspired writers and thus is the written record of God's revelation of Himself to mankind. It is the central focus of Christian union and is the supreme standard for all human conduct.
- b) **The Triune God:** There is one and only one true and living God. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit with distinct personal attributes but without division of nature essence or being. God as Father reigns with providential care over His created universe. Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God and Saviour of the world who died upon the cross and provided redemption for the sins of all repentant and accepting mankind. His Holy Spirit lives in the hearts of all believers as the very Spirit of Almighty God. He illuminates our understanding of truth and exalts Christ in all things. He enlightens and empowers believers and the whole church in worship, evangelism, missions, and in ministry.
- c) **Mankind:** Humankind was created by the special act of God in His own image and after His likeness, and is the crowning glory of His creation.
- d) **Salvation:** All who accept Jesus Christ as the risen Saviour and Lord are considered Christian believers. Repentance of the sin of unbelief and acceptance of Christ as Redeemer from his or her sin results in reconciliation with God through personal salvation. Each believer is set apart for God's own purposes in this life and for eternal life in Heaven.
- e) **God's Purpose of Grace:** To preserve His creation, mankind, for eternity, and to provide the abundant and full life on earth which man can have under God's plan of love for the obedience, and faithfulness.
- f) **The Church:** The true church of God is composed of all the redeemed of all ages. A local congregation is a representative unit of the whole body of those who believe and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour. This local church is autonomous in nature, functioning under the democratic processes espoused under the Lordship of Jesus Christ for His church. Individual members of the church are equally responsible to God and His church, as they are privileged to be a part of His body.
- g) **The Church Ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.**
  - 1) **Baptism** as is administered by immersion in water as practiced in the New Testament. It is a symbolic rite of obedience to portray the life, death and resurrection of Christ. There is no redemptive value or saving power in this ritual itself, but serves as a visible witness of the newfound faith of the believer. Believer's baptism follows a person's public profession of faith in Christ and repentance of sin. Baptism by immersion in water is a pre-requisite for full membership in FIBC.
  - 2) **The Lord's Supper** is the second ordinance Christ gave to His church. The Lord requested that believers observe this symbolic ritual together as the gathered community of faith. This memorial act helps believers understand the full meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Christ. It also serves to focus our attention on His Second Coming.
- h) **The Lord's Day:** According to the New Testament, Sunday is the new "Lord's Day", the first day of every week. It is set aside for worship and rest. Each Sunday commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead.

- i) The Kingdom of God: God is ruler of the universe and all it entails. He is also the personal, loving Master of individual lives committed to Him through (our) faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.
- j) Last Times: God alone will bring this world to a close in His own way and in His own time. Christ will return to earth to bring all things to completion.
- k) Evangelism and Missions: It is the duty of all believers and all churches to endeavour to make disciples of all peoples, beginning at home and extending to the whole world.
- l) Education: Christian teaching within the church and outside the church is absolutely necessary if the Christian church is to propagate the Gospel as required in God's Word. God has given the church this task to teach the young, the uninformed, and His followers His Gospel message of love and redemption from sin.
- m) Stewardship: God owns all the earth and everything within it. We are trustees, or stewards, of His possessions, not really the owners of anything. We should use all of our God-given resources for His glory and honour, helping others along the way, while maintaining our own well being as God intended. We are commanded to support the church's ministry, outreach, and Pastor.
- n) Cooperation: It is our Christian duty to work together in harmony with all other Christians and churches to fulfill the calling of God upon all of us. We believe in autonomous churches working voluntarily and cooperatively in one accord to achieve the greater good for the Kingdom of God and His church on earth.
- o) Religious Liberty: God alone is Lord of the individual conscience and of every local church congregation. He has left us free from the doctrines and commands of men, which are contrary to His Word