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## WHAT WE BELIEVE

As part of the American Baptist Churches USA, we at Community Baptist Church, San Mateo believe:

1. **THAT THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD**, written by men divinely and uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit and it is the final authority on matters of faith and conduct. (**Psalm 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Peter 1:20, 21**)
2. **THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD**, the Creator who exists in three persons: Father, Son & Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2; 1 John 4:13-16**)
3. **IN JESUS CHRIST**, the Son of God, the only Savior of the world; in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles, death, burial, bodily resurrection, ascension to Heaven at the right hand of the Father, and personal return to reign in power and glory. (**John 3:16, 5:8-9; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Hebrews 4:14, 15, 7:25; Titus 2:13**)
4. **THAT MAN IS SINFUL** and can only be redeemed by the death and shed blood of Christ upon the cross. (**John 14:6; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 1:3-5**)
5. **IN THE RESURRECTION** of both saved and lost; the believer to life everlasting and the nonbeliever to the resurrection of condemnation. (**John 3:36; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15**)
6. **IN THE PRESENT MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** indwelling, empowering, and guiding the believer. (**John 14:16-17, 26; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Galatians 5:25; 1 John 4:13**)
7. **IN BAPTISM OF BELIEVERS** upon confession of faith. (**Matthew 28:19; Mark 10:39; Romans 6:4; 1 Peter 3:21**)

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF DEACONS: 2/25/1999**

**APPROVED BY CBC MEMBERSHIP: 2/28/1999**

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## OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

### IN ESSENTIAL BELIEFS – WE HAVE UNITY.

*"There is one body and one Spirit. . . there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father of us all..."*  
**(Ephesians 4:4-6)**

### IN NON-ESSENTIAL BELIEFS – WE HAVE LIBERTY.

*"Accept him whose faith is weak, without passing judgment on disputable matters...Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To his own master he stands or falls...So then each of us will give an account of himself to God... So whatever you believe about these things keep between yourself and God."* **(Romans 14:1, 4, 12, 22)**

### IN ALL OUR BELIEFS – WE SHOW CHARITY.

*"...If I hold in my mind not only all human knowledge but also the very secrets of God, and if I have the faith that can move mountains – but have no love, I amount to nothing at all."* **(1 Corinthians 13:2 [Ph])**

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## THE ESSENTIALS WE BELIEVE

### ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator 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. **(Genesis 1:1, 26, 27, 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2)**

### ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. **(Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22, 23; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; 1 Timothy 6:14, 15; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14, 15)**

### ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer a spiritual gift when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under his control daily. **(John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13, 5:18)**

### ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's 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. **(Psalm 12:6, 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5; 2 Timothy 1:13, 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21)**

## ABOUT HUMAN BEINGS

People are made in the spiritual image of God, to be like Him in character. People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude that separates people from God and causes many problems in life. **(Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a, 59:1, 2; Romans 3:23)**

## ABOUT SALVATION

Salvation is God's free gift to us but we must accept it. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ as God's offer of forgiveness can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into his life by faith. **(John 14:6, 1:12; Romans 5:1, 6:23; Galatians 3:26; Ephesians 2:8, 9; Titus 3:5)**

## ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY

Because God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, the true believer is secure in that salvation is for eternity. If you have been genuinely saved, you cannot "loose" it. Salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian. It is the grace and keeping power of God that gives us this security. **(John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10, 14; 1 Peter 1:3-5)**

## ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. **(Matthew 1:8, 2:44, 46; John 2:25, 3:16, 5:11-13; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15)**