

Battle Baptist Church – its principles and values

Battle Baptist Church (“the Church”) would add the following principles to the Baptist Union Declaration of Principle – ie the:

- full inspiration of the Bible. It is the Word of God, and it is the Church’s authoritative guide for faith and practice. Through the Bible God provides the standard for the Church’s values, priorities, and practical experience in daily life. (2 Timothy 3 verses 16 and 17);
- Trinity. There is one God, but in three persons: God the father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit;
- sinfulness of all people, and therefore the need for all people to be born again;
- Lord Jesus Christ who has always existed as a person in the Godhead, but was born of the Virgin Mary and became fully man. He lived a sinless life and died on the cross for the sins of all. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven;
- forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus Christ;
- Holy Spirit who brings a person to faith in Christ and who lives in the Christian believer. The Church also believes in baptism in the Holy Spirit, as a manifestation of God’s power to the Christian. Accomplishing what God has called the Church to do will require the power and direction of the Holy Spirit. The Church’s commitment is to honour Him, to cultivate an intimate relationship with Him, and rely on His gifts and power in our private and corporate lives (Romans 8 verse 14 and Zechariah 4 verse 6);
- Church which comprises believers throughout the world, but which also has numerous local expressions;
- importance of the regular celebration of the Lord’s Supper;
- return of Jesus Christ in glory at some unknown and unknowable future date;
- final judgement, heaven and hell.

Additional features of Battle Baptist Church

There are also certain distinctive features about the Church, which may not be true of all other evangelical churches – ie the Church believes in:

- Jesus as the head of the church, and that His will is ultimately made known through the gathered community in members’ meetings, and through fellowship with other Christians;

- a commitment to Church membership which involves a definite functioning role within the local Church, rather than just being a name on a membership list. This includes attendance at Church meetings, in which the whole membership deal with important matters of policy, and the appointment of paid staff, Elders and Deacons;
- a congregational style of spiritual meetings in which every member is encouraged to make a contribution (1 Corinthians 14 verse 26);
- that all the spiritual gifts listed in different places in the New Testament are present in the Church today, and that they should be eagerly expected by the Church;
- the rejection of a "clergy/laity" style of Church life. The Church is committed to developing shared leadership based on a team of Elders and Deacons who value the contribution of all members;
- the development of leadership from within the local Church where possible, rather than an undue dependence on the importing of professional trained leadership from outside the Church;
- a commitment to pastoral care which seeks to be individual and precise;
- a non-sectarian spirit. Whilst supporting denominational causes, the Church sees itself firstly as a group of Christians;
- the avoidance of inflexible church structures and traditions. Structures must serve current needs.