

Distinctives

Samaria Baptist Church

Samaria Baptist Church is part of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC). The SBC is a convention of autonomous churches that share a set of essential beliefs. Those shared essential beliefs can be found in the *Baptist Faith and Message 2000*. Each church may have beliefs that are distinctive from those of other S.B.C. churches. Even though these beliefs may differ, they are not essential for fellowship.

Pastors and Deacons

Samaria Baptist Church believes that the Bible teaches that both men and women are equal before God in all respects, but that they have different roles in the home and the church. The roles of Elder/Pastor/Overseer and that of Deacon are to be held by qualified men.

The Rapture of the Church

We believe the church will be raptured into the presence of Jesus before the seven-year tribulation.

Millennial Kingdom

We believe in a literal one-thousand-year reign of Christ on earth following His second coming at the end of the seven-year tribulation.

Age of the Earth

We believe the creation account in the Bible occurred over a literal span of six days and that the earth is somewhere between six thousand and nine thousand years old.

Worldwide Flood

We believe the biblical flood of *Genesis 6–9* was a worldwide event.

Lord's Supper

Samaria Baptist Church has an open communion table. Everyone who has placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and has examined their heart in accordance with *1 Corinthians 11* is welcome to take communion at Samaria Baptist Church.

Spiritual Gifts

Samaria Baptist Church believes that God continues to perform miracles as found throughout the Bible. We also believe that God continues to gift believers through the power and indwelling of the Holy Spirit for the edification of the church. We are also cautious, as there have been many false teachers and false believers who have abused believers by using fake and fraudulent displays of man-made trickery and faux spiritual gifts. At this moment in redemptive history, we do not see these gifts still in use today: healing, prophecy, miracles, speaking in tongues, and interpreting tongues.

Divorce

Samaria Baptist Church believes that the Scriptures are clear that every divorce is sinful, but that not all involved in a divorce are in sin. We believe that the Scriptures give two provisions for divorce: adultery and abandonment.

Each divorce must be examined on a case-by-case basis, and through Bible study and prayer, the leadership of Samaria will be able to counsel on the next steps when dealing with a divorce.