

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Section 1. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore has truth without admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human opinions shall be tried. II Tim. 3:16,17; II Peter 2:19,20.

Section 2. Of the True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; Inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2,3; Rev. 4:11; I Cor. 8:6; I John 5:7.

Section 3. Of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine person, with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation, that in His relationship to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin. of righteousness, and testimony, that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. John 14:16,17; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5,6; Eph. 1:13,14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14,16,26,27.

Section 4. Of the Devil or Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgement of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matt. 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10.

Section 5. Of Creation

We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. Gen. 1,2; John 1:3; Col. 1:16,17.

Section 6. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of

his Maker, by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Gen. 3:1-6,24; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 5:10-19.

Section 7. Of the Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God the Son. Gen. 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4.

Section 8. Of the Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God. Who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but as a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's [lace, the just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord bearing our sin in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior. Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24,25; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 2:14,17; Isaiah 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; I Peter 2:24.

Section 9. Of Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus, that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our own comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life. John 3:3; II Cor. 5:17 I John 5:1; John 3:6,7; Acts 16:32; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 3:8.

Section 10. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him, is justification: (a) that

justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life, on principles of righteousness; (b) that is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; His righteousness is imputed to us. Acts 13;39; Isaiah 53;11; Zech. 13:1; Romans 8:1; Romans 5:9; Romans 5:1.

Section 11. Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31

Section 12. Of the Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its officers are pastors, and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties, are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that the true Mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organization; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit, that it is Scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is final. Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:17; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22,23; Eph 4:11; I Tim. 3:17; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23,24; Acts 15:13-18.

Section 13. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of church relation. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. Acts 8: 26-39; John 3:3; Romans 6:3-5; Matt. 3;16; Col. 2:12; I Cor. 11:23-28.

Section 14. Of the Security of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Phil. 1:6; John 10:28,29; Romans. 8:35-39; Jude 1 (RV).

Section 15. Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem, while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Romans 6:17,18; I John 5:19; Romans 6:23; Romans 7:6; Prov. 14:23; Luke 6:25; Matt. 25:34-41; John 8:21.

Section 16. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and coming Prince of the Kings of the earth. Romans 13:1-7; II Sam. 23:3, Ex. 18:22; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:20; Acts 4:19,20; Acts 23:5; Daniel 3:17,18.

Section 17. Of the Resurrection, Personal, Visible, Pre-millennial Return of Christ and Related Events

We believe in:

- a. The Bodily Resurrection. Matt. 28:6,7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; Mark 16:6; I Cor. 15:4; Luke 24:2-6.
- b. The Ascension. Acts 1:9-11; Luke 24:51; Mark 16:19; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 12:2.
- c. The High Priesthood. Heb 2:17; Heb. 5:9,10; Heb.8:6; I Tim. 2:5; I John 2:1.
- d. The Second Coming. John 14:3; Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16; James 5:8; Heb. 9:28.
- e. The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead. I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:42-44,52.
- f. The Change of the Living in Christ. I Cor. 15:51-53; I Thess. 4:13-18; Phil. 3:20,21.
- g. The Throne of David. Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6,7; Acts 2:29,30.
- h. The Millennial Reign. I Cor. 15:25; Isaiah 11:4; Isaiah 32:1; Psalm 72:8; Rev. 20:14; Rev 20:6.