

ARTICLE I - STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe and earnestly contend for the divine inspiration and consequent authority of the whole canonical Scriptures; the trinity of the Godhead; the fall of man, his consequent moral depravity and his need for regeneration; the Deity and virgin birth of Christ; the atonement through the substitutionary death and shed blood of Christ; the bodily resurrection, ascension, and personal, visible, premillennial return of Christ; the Person and work of the Holy Spirit, justification by faith; the baptism of believers by immersion, and the symbolical Lord's Supper as a memorial feast, and the maintenance of good works by the believers as an evidence of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE II - ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six (66) books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plerarily inspired and is the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is infallible and inerrant in all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and opinions shall be tried (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:19-21).

II. 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 Spirit, equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Exo. 20:2,3; I Cor. 8:6, Rev. 4:11).

III. Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all the ages, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through whom all things were made; who for mankind and for our salvation came down from the heavens, and was made flesh of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man, and was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried, and rose again on the third day according to the Scriptures, that He might offer salvation to all who would believe, He ascended into the heavens, and sits on the right hand of the Father, where He intercedes for the believer. At any moment He will come again with glory to rapture His church and to judge living and dead, of whose kingdom there shall be no end (John 1:14, Revelation 1:18; John 1:1-4; John 10:30; Romans 11:36; 1 Corinthians 15: 3,4; John 3:16, Romans 8:34; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Peter 4:5).

IV. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation, that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, and righteousness and judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the active Person of the Godhead in the new birth; that He seals, indwells and baptizes the believer into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation; that He also

endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer (John 14: 16,17; Matt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen. 1: 1-3; John 16: 8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Eph. 1:13, 14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33, Acts 11:16, Luke 24:49; Rom. 8:14,16,26,27).

V. The Devil or Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; and that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Matt. 4:1-11; 2 Cor. 4:4, Rev 20:10).

VI. Creation

We believe the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels and man; that this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race (Gen 1:2; Col. 1:16,17; John 1:3).

VII. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are sinners by nature and by conduct, and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Gen. 3:1-6, Rom. 3:10-19; 5:12, 19; 1:18-32).

VIII. The Virgin Birth

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

IX. Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins 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.

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith (Jonah 2:9, Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil 2:7-8; Heb. 2:14-17; Isa. 53:4-7; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24).

X. Resurrection and Priesthood of Christ

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us (Matt. 28:6-7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; I Cor 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 51; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Heb. 2:17; 5:9-10).

XI. Grace and the New Birth

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 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 by our sovereign God in a manner above our 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; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 John 5:1; Acts 16:20-33; 2 Peter 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1-5; Col 2:13; John 3:8).

XII. Justification

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood (Rom. 3:24; 4:5; 5:1,9; Gal 2:16; Phil. 3:9).

XIII. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner; first, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return (Heb. 10:10-14; 3:1; John 17:17; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 5:25-27; 1 Thess. 4:3,4; 5:23,24; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24, 25; Rev. 22:11).

XIV. 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; Rom. 8:35-39; Jude 1).

XV. The Church

We believe that the local church is an organized 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 in light of Acts 6:3,5; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; and I Peter 5:1-3 that the offices of Pastor and Deacon shall be held by men.

We believe 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 organizations; 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 the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; that on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final (I Cor. 11:2; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Acts 2:41, 42).

We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:12,13; Eph. 1:22,23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23; Col. 1:18; Acts 15:13-18).

XVI. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that the Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church; and that it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He come, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the privilege of born again believers. (Acts 8:36,38,39; John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 11:23-28; Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:41,42).

XVII. Separation

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy (2 Cor. 6:14-7:1; 1 Thess. 1:9,10; I Tim. 6:3-5; Rom. 16:17, 2 John 9-11).

XVIII. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for; conscientiously honored and obeyed; except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ Who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming King of Kings (Rom. 13:1-7; 2 Sam. 23:3; Exod. 18:21,22; Acts 23:5; Matt. 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19,20; Dan. 3:17, 18).

XIV. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be re-gathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ (Gen. 13:14-17; Rom 11:1-32; Ezek. 37).

XX. Rapture and Subsequent Events

We believe in the premillennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven (7) years of the Tribulation (1 Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:42-44; 51-54; Phil. 3:20, 21; Rev. 3:10).

We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial kingdom (Dan. 9:25-27; Matt 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isa. 9:6,7; 11:1-9; Acts. 2:29, 30; Rev. 20:1-4,6).

XXI. The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our 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 in the lake of fire (Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17-18; 1 John 5:19; Rom. 7:6, 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt. 25:34-41; John 8:21; Rev. 20:14, 15).

ARTICLE III - CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized by immersion in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, Angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ;

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit to walk together in Christian love;
To strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness, and comfort;
To promote its prosperity and spirituality: to attend its services regularly;
To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines;
To give it a sacred pre-eminence over all institutions of human origin;
To give faithfully of time and talent in its activities;
To contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.
We also engage to maintain family and private devotion;
To train our children according to the Word of God;
To seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;
To walk circumspectly in the world;
To be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our conduct;
To avoid all gossip, backbiting, and unrighteous anger;
To be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior, and give Him pre-eminence in all things;
To abstain from all forms of activity which destroy our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, which dishonor our Lord Jesus Christ, cause, stumbling to a fellow-believer, or hinder the winning of a soul to Christ;
We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;
To remember each other in prayer;
To aid each other in sickness and distress;
To cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech;
To be slow to take offense but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to seek it without delay;
We moreover engage, that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. If there is no such church, we shall seek, with the Lord's help to establish one.