

# ARTICLES OF FAITH

## 1) The Bible

We believe that the Bible is God's Story consisting of 66 books of the Old and New Testament, Though written by men, it was inspired (breathed out) by God, so that it is the complete written revelation of God. Therefore, it is without error as originally given and is the supreme authority for Christian belief and behavior. It is to be understood by all through the illumination of the Holy Spirit; its meaning determined by the historical, grammatical, and literal use of the author's language.

Psalm 19:7-11; 119;      Matthew 5:17-18;      John 16:13;  
2 Timothy 3:16-17;      Hebrews 4:12;      2 Peter 1:19-21

## 2) The Godhead

We believe in the one and only Creator God, ruler of Heaven and Earth, always existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While equally God, each is distinct in personality and function, having such attributes as absolute holiness, complete perfection, and unlimited power. Able to exist above and apart from His creation, yet God has graciously chosen to relate himself personally to mankind. An innate, though imperfect and blurred, knowledge of God exists in all people by virtue of bearing His image and living in His divinely-designed creation.

Genesis 1:1; 1:26-27;      Deuteronomy 6:4;      Job 38; 39;  
Psalm 139;      Malachi 3:6;      Matthew 28:19;  
1 Corinthians 8:6;      1 Peter 1:15-16;      1 John 5:7      Romans 1

## 3) God the Father

We believe that God the Father in His role as executive Head of the trinity, is the Author of salvation. He is Spirit, never seen by face to face encounter, but by glimpses of His glory. As the Father of all who believe in Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord, He lovingly disciplines His children and is the one to whom prayer is addressed.

Exodus 33:18-23;      Matthew 6:6-9;      John 3:16; 4:23-24;  
Ephesians 1:3-6;      Hebrews 12:5-11;      James 1:17

## 4) God the Son

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ always existed with the Father, and was the primary agent of creation. By incarnation, He perfectly blended Deity with humanity by being miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, thus being born into the world as the unique God-Man. He lived a sinless life, died on the cross as man's substitute, satisfied God's holy wrath against sin by penal sacrifice, rose bodily from the dead, and ascended back to Heaven. There, seated in Heavenly glory, he intercedes for His own and awaits His return to receive His Body the Church, judge the world, and consummate His redemptive plan to renew His creation and rule as King of kings and Lord of lords.

Isaiah 9:6-7; 53;            Matthew 1:18-25;            Mark 10:45;  
Luke 1:26-35;            John 1:1-5,14-18; 8:58-59; Acts 1:9-11;  
Ephesians 1:7-12;    Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-18; Hebrews 1:1-3; 13:8

## 5) God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, and that He eternally existed as an equal part of the trinity with the Father and the Son. He was active in creation and the giving (inspiration) of the Word. He was also involved in the birth, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As the agent of spiritual birth, He convicts, regenerates, seals, indwells, and baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ at the moment of conversion. The Holy Spirit fills, empowers, and distributes service gifts to believers, but sign gifts were normative for the infant age of the church under the leadership of the Apostles.

Genesis 1:2;            Matthew 1:18; 3:16-17; 4:1; 28:19; John 3:5; 14:16-17; 16:5-15;  
Acts 5:3-4;            Romans 8:9,11            1 Corinthians 12; 13:8-13;  
Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18-21;    Hebrews 9:14;            2 Peter 1:19-21

## 6) Creation

We believe that God created the universe and all it contains in six literal days. He did so without the use of pre-existing material, and apart from any process of evolution, as revealed in the Genesis account in Scripture. Thus creation and its physical and material aspects exist in honorable esteem alongside the spiritual and immaterial. All creation is included in the redemptive work of Christ who will rescue and restore it to unassailable perfection.

Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11; Psalm 19:1-6; John 1:3, Romans 1:20; Hebrews 11:3

## 7) Angels

We believe angels are finite spirit beings created by God in a holy state with rank and responsibility. Some rebelled under the leadership of Satan, once being "lucifer" who sinned through pride and became the enemy of God, incurring God's judgment and thus condemning themselves to eternal punishment. These angels influence men toward evil and incite hostility, opposition and persecution against believers. The angels who remained holy are agents of God, protecting His people, advancing His kingdom, and opposing evil in the world.

Psalm 91:12; 148:1-6;    Isaiah 14:12-15;    Ezekiel 28:11-19;            Daniel 10;  
Matthew 25:41;            Mark 1:13;            2 Corinthians 4:3-4;            Ephesians 6:11-12;  
Hebrews 1:13-14;            Revelation 12:9-10; 20:10

## 8) Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God with a positive but untested righteousness. When tested, Adam the first man chose autonomy and fell from this state of perfect fellowship, resulting in alienation with His Creator, creation and fellow man. The consequence of the Fall is that all men are sinners both by nature and personal choice, affected at every level of being. All are therefore condemned to endless separation from God and eternal punishment, totally unable to please God or

have fellowship with Him apart from forgiveness, salvation and renewal in Christ. In his willful pursuit of autonomy and suppression of awareness of God, mankind has no excuse before Him.

Genesis 1:26-27; 2:16-17; 3; Psalm 139:13-16; Isaiah 59:2; 64:6-7  
Romans 3:10-18,23; 5:12,19; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 1:15-16 Romans 1

## 9) Salvation

We believe that because of man's condition all that is necessary for his salvation must come from God. Therefore, those who are saved by God's grace alone have been chosen by God in eternity past without view to any self-merit in them. We do not accept the logical converse, that God thereby chooses and determines the remainder of men for damnation; rather, that He sovereignly determines to overrule the resistance of some rebels against Him, winning them to His grace, while allowing others to continue their self-determined rebellion of indifference to its obvious end. Those who respond to God's gracious call do so by actively repenting of sin and placing their faith in the saving work of Jesus Christ alone.

We believe that Jesus Christ transacted Redemption of humanity and creation in willingly dying on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for all men. The blood atonement He made was unlimited in its potential. It is limited only in its application, effectively saving those who are brought by the Holy Spirit to the point of repentance and personal faith. This salvation is the believer's release from the penalty, the power, and ultimately the presence of sin with all its consequences. When truly experienced, this salvation will be progressively demonstrated by outward works consistent with this inward change.

Finally, we believe when people are saved, they will give evidence of salvation through "fruitfulness," that they will be kept by God's power eternally secure, that it is impossible for one born into the family of God ever to lose his salvation because he in his new nature is adopted, forever kept by the power of God, and that being so united to Christ, saved people are enabled to persevere and are ultimately glorified.

Isaiah 53:4-11; John 3:3-8,16-17; 6:37,44; 10:27-29; Acts 4:12; 16:31;  
Romans 1:18-32; 5:8; 6; 8:35-39; 10:9-13; 2 Corinthians 5:14-21;  
Ephesians 1:3-6; 2:4-10; 1 Timothy 4:10; Titus 3:5-7;  
1 Peter 1:3-5; 2 Peter 1:2-11; 1 John 2:1-2

## 10) Christian Life

We believe each Christian is called to live out the very life of Christ in choosing a pure life in thought, conversation, and conduct as a response of love and devotion to Jesus Christ and out of respectful fear for God the Father. The Christian does this under the enablement of the Holy Spirit and according to the instruction of God's Word. We believe that the supreme task of every believer is to glorify God by every means; and that he should be a faithful steward of his life, possessions and spiritual gifts.

We believe that the normal Christian experience is to that of progressive sanctification, growth in grace and conformity to Jesus Christ, overcoming any and all sin by the power of the Word and Spirit.

Every believer should grow spiritually through the means of grace which God has ordained and provided, that is, the indwelling Holy Spirit; the Word of God, prayer, the ordinances, the church in community and accountability, and the Lord's Day.

Romans 12:1-2; 6:11-13;	1 Corinthians 6:19,20;	2 Corinthians 7:1;
Galatians 2:20;	Ephesians 5:18-21;	Philippians 2:1-11;
Phil.4:8-9;	2 Timothy 3:16-17;	1 Peter 1:15-16;
1 John 2:15-17	Ephesians 2:23-24;	2 Corinthians 3:18;
Romans 12:28-29, 37		

## **11) Church - Universal Body of Christ**

We believe that the true universal church is a distinct and new multiracial people consisting of all believers in Christ during the New Testament age (from the Day of Pentecost to the Rapture). It is the Body and Bride of Christ of great worth purchased by His blood, and of which He is the Living Head and Sovereign Lord. It is the organism invested with the privilege of representing Christ, declaring His Truth, extending His Kingdom, and exhibiting His way and life in the world.

1 Corinthians 12:13,27;	Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-20; 4:4-6;
Revelation 19:7-9; 21:9	Acts 1-2; 20:28

## **12) Church - Local Body of Believers**

We believe the individual church is a local manifestation of the universal church. It is an organized body of baptized believers having two offices (Pastor/Elder and Deacon), and is congregational and independent in its government. Its duties and privileges include living out a counter-cultural kingdom lifestyle including worship, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship, edification, prayer and service. These are accomplished through the teaching and preaching of God's Word, the exercising of spiritual gifts, the daily walk of its members in the community, and the faithful stewardship of its resources. All members have a ministry by virtue of their spiritual gift(s), and the local church is responsible for disciplining of willfully sinning members.

We believe that the two Biblical ordinances administered by the local church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion in water of believers as a picture and testimony of their belief in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and a public declaration of their spiritual rebirth and commitment to Christ. The Lord's Supper is the commemoration by believers of Christ's death until He comes and should always be preceded by self-examination and confession of known sin.

We believe the local church should not associate itself with any effort to compromise God's truth, and must remain free from interference by an ecclesiastical or political authority.

Matthew 28:18-20;	Acts 2:41-47; 8:36-38;	Romans 6:3-5;
1 Corinthians 11:23-32; 5:11,13;	2 Corinthians 6:14-18;	Ephesians 4:11-16;
1 Timothy 3:1-13;	2 John 9-11	

### 13) Future Events

We believe in the personal, pretribulational, and imminent return of Christ to meet His church in the air, commonly called the Rapture. This will involve the resurrection of the bodies of all those who have died in true faith in Him. This will unleash a seven-year tribulation period to come upon the earth as a direct judgment from God and with the intent and purpose of regathering and redeeming Israel as a nation. This will be brought to a conclusion by Christ's physical return to earth with His church to judge the living nations and to establish His personal thousand-year earthly reign. At the end of this reign there will be one final rebellion against Christ led by Satan and his followers. They will be defeated and their defeat will be followed by Satan being cast into the lake of fire, and the bodily resurrection of all unbelievers to face their final judgment at the great white throne. After this they will be sent to everlasting punishment in the lake of fire.

We believe that following this judgment God will consummate His Story of Redemption in creating a new heaven and a new earth to be inhabited, enjoyed and developed eternally by resurrected and glorified believers of all ages.

Jeremiah 16:14-15; 30:4-11;	Daniel 7-12;	Matthew 25:31-36;
John 5:21-30; 14:1-3;	Romans 11;	1 Corinthians 15:35-58;
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18;	Titus 2:11-13;	Revelation 4-22

### 14) Marriage and Family

We believe that marriage and the family unit are ordained of God and basic to social order. We believe the Scriptures define illicit sexual activity, including prohibition of homosexuality, and sexual union and cohabitation outside of marriage. We believe that God's design is for marriage to last until death, and that believers should marry only believers.

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18-25	Genesis 5:1-2; 19:5-7;	Exodus 20:14,17
Leviticus 7:3-4; 18; 22:5	Proverbs 5-7	Proverbs 18:22
Malachi 2:16	Matthew 5:31	Matthew 19:4-9
Romans 1:24-28	1 Corinthians 6:9-10	1 Corinthians 7:9-17, 39
2 Corinthians 6:14-16	Hebrews 13:4	

### 15) Human Government

We believe that human government is ordained by God for the good purpose of order in a fallen world, that leaders are to be prayed for, honored and obeyed in all things not opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ as stated in Scripture.

Matthew 22:17-21	Romans 13:1-7	1 Timothy 2:1-4
1 Peter 2:13-17	Acts 4:18-20	

## 16) Sanctity of Life

We believe that man is made "in the image of God," and that the special life principle exists in both regenerate and unregenerate people; that human life begins at the moment of conception and is worthy of esteem and protection before and after birth; that abortion is the willful taking of human life and an affront to God; and that lawful and peaceful means can and should be taken to confront the assault on life.

We believe that the movement toward eugenics and euthanasia stands contrary to the Word of God, and believe that life should be respected because of its Source and Sustainer, not its relative appearance or quality.

Genesis 1:26-27;5:1;9:4-7  
Leviticus 17; 19:14-16  
Psalm 51:5; 139:13-16  
Matthew 10:11

Exodus 20:13      Exodus 21:22-25  
Leviticus 20:4-5      Leviticus 25:35  
Proverbs 31:6-9      Jeremiah 1:5  
Luke 1:41-44      Luke 10:30-37

## 17) Evangelism

We believe that obedience to Christ includes the world-wide proclamation of the gospel, that evangelism is totally consistent with God's sovereignty in salvation and that the use of appropriate means in reaching the lost is proper.

Proverbs 11:30  
Mark 16:15  
Acts 22:21; 26:17-18  
Ephesians 1:3-14

Ezekiel 33:1-11  
Acts 1:8; 10:42-43  
Romans 10:1,9-15;15:20  
2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Matthew 29:19-20  
Acts 20:24  
1 Corinthians 1:18