

ARTICLE III – ARTICLES OF FAITH

Section 1 - Holy Scriptures: We believe that the Holy Bible was verbally inspired by God, without error, and the product of spirit-controlled men. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21).

Section 2 - 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, inexpressively glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; equal in every divine attribute and executes redemption (Exodus 20:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; I John 5:7).

Section 3 - 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, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent of the new birth; that He seals, indwells, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer. We believe that the sign gifts (tongues, healing, words of knowledge, etc.) are no longer operative today (John 14:16-17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5-6; Ephesians 1:13-14; Mark 1:8; John 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14-16, 26-27).

Section 4 - Satan: We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy adversary of this age and the author of all the powers of darkness and is destined to judgment of an eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire (Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

Section 5 - Creation: We believe the Genesis account of creation that God created the heavens and the earth in six literal days. We believe that man came by direct creation of God, made in His image, and not by evolution. We believe that God creates each person as male or female, and that rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. (Genesis 1 and 2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3)

Section 6 - Fall of Man: We believe that man was created in innocence but 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 (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:10-19; 1:18, 32).

Section 7 - Jesus Christ: We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born to the virgin Mary, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son, who was bodily, visibly and personally resurrected and ascended to heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Matthew 28:6-7; John 20:27; I Corinthians 15:4; Mark 16:6, 19; Luke 24:2-6, 39, 51; Acts 1:9, 11; Mark 16:19; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 12:2; Hebrews 8:6; I Timothy 2:5; I John 2:1; Hebrews 2:17, 5:9-10).

Section 8 - Atonement: We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God who in obedience to the Father freely took upon Him our nature yet without sin, honored the divine law by 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 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, in uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathy with divine perfection He is in every way qualified to be a suitable and compassionate and all sufficient Savior (Ephesians 2:8; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24-25; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21).

Section 9 - Salvation: We believe that in order to be saved sinners must be born again, that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus, and 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 comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the divine truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life (John 3:3, 6-8; II Corinthians 5:17,19; I John 5:1; Acts 16:30-33; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13).

Section 10 - Justification: We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification and, (a) that justification includes the pardon of sins and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness and, (b) that it 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; Is. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; Romans 5:1, 9; 8:1).

Section 11 - Faith and Salvation: We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus is the only condition of salvation (Acts 16:31)

Section 12 – Eternal Security: We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6; John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1).

Section 13 - Local Church: We believe that a local church is a congregation of believers united in fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His Word and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges granted by His Word; and that its officers are pastors, elders, deacons and deaconesses whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. 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 interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, and that the one and only Head 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 on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, and that the will of the local church on these matters is final (Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:17; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23-24; Acts 15:13-18).

Section 14 - Baptism and the Lord's Supper: We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life, that it is prerequisite to church membership. 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 8:36-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; I Corinthians 11:23-28).

Section 15 - Righteous and Wicked: We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked, that only such 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 sight, while all such as continue in unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death in the everlasting blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost (Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18, 23; I John 5:19; Romans 7:6; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 6:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21).

Section 16 - Civil Government: We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society, that government leaders are to be prayed for, consciously honored and obeyed except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming prince of the kings of the earth (Romans 13:1-7; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21-22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:20; Acts 4:19-20; Daniel 3:17-18).

Section 17 – Future Events: We believe in the pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church, the seven years of Tribulation, the Second Coming of Christ, the Millennial Reign, and the final Judgment (John 14:3-4; Acts 1:11; James 5:8; Hebrews 9:28; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:25, 42-44; 15:52; Luke 1:32; Isaiah 9:6-7; Acts 2:29-30; I Corinthians 15:25; Isaiah 32:1; 11:4--5; Psalms 72:8; Revelation 20:6, 10-14).

Section 18 - Marriage: We believe that marriage is only between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). The church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. The pastor(s) and staff of the church shall only participate in weddings between one man and one woman, and church facilities shall only host weddings between one man and one woman. We believe that marriage is the only Scripture-approved sexual relationship, and that all intimate sexual activity outside of the marriage of one man and one woman is sinful. (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 5:27-28, Romans 1:26-27).