

# ARTICLES OF FAITH

## 1. **The Scriptures**

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally (every word) and plenary (complete in all aspects) 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. (II Tim.3:16,17; II Peter 1:19, 21)

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

## 3. **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 (Satan) 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 baptizes, seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. (John 14:16-17; Matt. 28:19; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27) We believe His indwelling is evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit in Gal. 5:22-23 rather than speaking in tongues or other spectacular demonstrations; We believe that God is sovereign in the giving of all His gifts; of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; and speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament scriptures were completed and their authority became established (I Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12). We do believe that God hears the prayers of faith for the sick and afflicted but answers in accord with His will (John 15:7; I John 5:14-15).

## 4. **The Devil, or Satan**

We believe in the reality and personhood of the Devil, or Satan; and that he was created by God as the angel Lucifer (Isa. 14:12-15), but through pride and rebellion 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; Isaiah 14:12-15).

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### 5. **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. 3:10-19; Col. 1:16-17; John 1:3)

### 6. **The Fall of Man**

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

### 7. **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 His 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)

### 8. **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, 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 promptly by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith. (Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24, 25 John 3:16)

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### **9. Resurrection and Priesthood of Christ**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and His ascension into heaven, where He now at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest interceding for us. (John 20:27; I Cor.15:4; Heb. 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; I Tim. 2:5)

### **10. Grace and 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 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 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. (2Cor. 5:17; Acts 16:30,31; Eph. 2:8,9; Col. 2:13)

### **11. Justification**

We believe 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 works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the redeemer's shed blood. (Rom. 3:24; 4:5; 5:1; Gal. 2:16)

### **12. 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 proves as the believer yields to the Holy Spirit and applies the Word of God to His life; Third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return. (Heb. 10:10-14; 2 Cor. 3:18; I Cor. 1:30; Jude 24-25)

### **13. 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), and cannot lose their salvation. (Rom. 8:35-39; Jude 1)

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### **14. The Church**

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship in 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 to 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 judge of the measure and method of its cooperation, that on all matters of membership, policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. (I Cor. 11:2; Acts 20:17-28; I Tim. 3:1-3; Acts 2:41,42). We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers in all Church which is the Body of Christ. (Eph. 1:22, 23; Col. 1:18; I Cor. 12:12,13;)

### **15. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem of 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 comes, and should always be preceded by solemn self-examination. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not sacraments having saving merit but ordinances for born again believers, following the Biblical order of baptism first and then the Lord's Supper. (Acts 8:36, 38, 39; Rom. 6:3-5; I Cor. 11:23-28; Acts 2:41,42;) Because it is symbolic of the sinless body and blood of Christ, unfermented grape juice and unleavened bread shall be used.

### **16. Separation**

We believe in obedience to the Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy. (2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 Cor. 7:1; I Thes. 1:9,10; I Tim. 6:3-5; Rom. 16:17; 2 John 9-11)

### **17. 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; Ex. 18:21,22; Mark 12:17)

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### 18. **Israel**

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she has been dispersed because of disobedience and rejection of Christ, and she is being regathered in the Holy Land after the completion of the second advent of Christ. (Gen. 13:14-17; Rom. 11:1-32; Ezek. 37)

### 19. **Rapture and Subsequent Events**

We believe in the premillennial return of Christ, an event which can occur at any moment, and 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 years of Tribulation. (I Thes. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:42-44; 51-54; Phil. 3:20; Rev. 3:10) We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will be culminated by the Revelation of Christian 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; Rev. 20:1-4,5; Isaiah 9:6,7; 11:1-9)

### 20. **The Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the saved and the lost; 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 insentience 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 happiness of the saved and the everlasting conscious torment of the lost in the lake of fire. (Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17,18; Rev. 20:14,15; John 8:21; Luke 16:25)