

# **WHAT WE BELIEVE**

## **ARTICLES OF FAITH**

### ***Article I – THE SCRIPTURES***

We believe that the very words of the holy Scriptures were given by inspiration of God as holy men were moved by the Holy Spirit. This inspiration extended to every part of all 66 books, and they were, therefore, wholly without error, as originally given by God. The Bible is to be the only authoritative standard for our lives and practice. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

### ***Article II – THE GODHEAD***

We believe in one true, eternal holy God who is sovereign over all things. He is the Creator, Ruler and Sustainer of all life and is worthy of all honor and worship. In the unity of the Godhead there are three Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who are co-equal and co-eternal, carrying out distinct offices, working towards God's eternal glory. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3,4; Hebrews 1:8)

### ***Article III – JESUS CHRIST***

We believe that Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Godhead, and as such is eternally existent; that He was born of a virgin, taking on Him a body of flesh, and thereby became the God-Man; that He lived a sinless life; that He voluntarily suffered and died on the cross as a substitute for us and made full and complete satisfaction to God for our sins; that He rose from the dead on the third day and ascended into heaven to the right hand of God, the Father, where He is now seated as our High Priest making intercession for the saints. (Hebrews 1:8; Matthew 1:22, 23; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 7:14-16)

### ***Article IV – HOLY SPIRIT***

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead possessing all the attributes of deity, that He was active in creation; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He is the agent of the new birth and the seal of salvation; that He indwells, sanctifies, helps, teaches, imparts spiritual gifts, and produces spiritual fruit in the lives of believers. We believe that believers are spiritually baptized into the body of Christ once, at the moment of salvation. (Acts 5:3, 4; John 16:7-11; John 3:5, 6; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Romans 8:14, 16, 26, 27; John 14:26; 1 Corinthians 12:3, 13; Galatians 5:22, 23)

### ***Article V – ANGELS***

We believe that angels are spirit beings created by God to serve and worship Him; and that they are active in the lives of His children. (Psalm 148:2, 5; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:14)

### ***Article VI – SATAN***

We believe that Satan is an angel who was created by God; that he sinned by prideful rebellion against the Creator and was cast from heaven; that he became the unholy ruler of the powers of darkness; and that he will be one day cast into the lake of fire with the other angels that fell into sin to receive everlasting punishment for his sin. (Isaiah 14; Ezekiel 28; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10)

### ***Article VII – CREATION***

We believe the biblical account of the creation of the universe, angels, and man; that this is a literal, historical record of the direct, immediate acts of the Godhead without any evolutionary process; that man was created in the image and likeness of God 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. (Genesis 1-4; Colossians 1:16-17)

### ***Article VIII – THE FALL OF MAN***

We believe that sin entered the human race through the voluntary transgression of Adam when he rebelled against God's standard in the Garden; that all men sinned in him; that all are, therefore, totally depraved as the partakers of his fallen nature and are sinners by nature and conduct, and are, therefore, under God's just condemnation. (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19; 5:12; 1:18)

### ***Article IX – SALVATION***

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace through Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and fulfilled 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 was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in heaven, and He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Mediator between God and man. We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition for salvation. Repentance is a manifestation of this faith and is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit through hearing the Word of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 3:21-26; Hebrews 7:25; Romans 10:9-15)

### ***Article X – NEW BIRTH***

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again, that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life as a gift of God; that the birth is brought about solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with the Word of God, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel, that all who are truly born again are kept by the power of God until they are received into heaven. (John 3:3; 2 Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; 2 Corinthians 5:9; Philippians 1:6; John 10:28)

### ***Article XI – THE CHURCH***

We believe the universal church or Body of Christ consists of those who have believed in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Ephesians 1:22-23; Matthew 16:18) We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers associated by fellowship in the gospel and a covenant of faith, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws; that its officers are pastors (elders) and deacons, whose qualifications are defined in the New Testament; that the mission of the church is found in the great commission; that the local church has absolute right of self-government apart from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organization. (Acts 2:41, 42; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 15:22)

### ***Article XII – BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER***

We believe that Christian baptism is the single immersion in water of a believer to show forth his identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, through whom we died to sin and rose to new life. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of Christ's death and should be practiced until He comes again; that it is only for those believers who have done solemn self-examination before participating. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:12; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28)

### ***Article XIII – SEPARATION***

We believe in obedience to the biblical commands to separate ourselves to God from sinful practices and ecclesiastical apostasy. (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; Romans 16:17; 2 John 9-11)

### ***Article XIV – CIVIL GOVERNMENT***

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of human society, that the authorities are to be prayed for and 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.

(Romans 13:1-7; Acts 5:29; 1 Timothy 2:1-3)