

ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 1

God, the Creator of All Things

We believe and confess that there is one God who created, preserves and reigns supreme in all the universe. God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in them, by direct act, in six literal 24 hour days. God revealed Himself in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus referred to this trinity when He gave command to teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 20:11
Matt. 3:16-17
2 Cor. 13:14
Matt. 28:19

A. God, the Father

We believe that God is holy, sovereign, almighty, eternal and infinite. He is perfect and unchangeable in wisdom, justice, goodness and truth. Scripture reveals God as spirit whose nature is love and light.

Rev. 4:8, 11
Psalm 147:5
Mal. 3:6
John 4:24
1 John 4:8
1 John 1:5

B. God, the Son

We confess the deity of the Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, and believe He is the Word who is God, who was in the beginning with God. The Apostle Paul described Jesus Christ as God, exalted and supreme over all, and blessed forever.

We believe the Son is both God and man in one person, born of a virgin. Through the incarnation He became our mediator to reconcile us to God by His blood on the cross.

Through His work of redemption, Jesus Christ revealed Himself as Prophet, Priest and King. As Prophet, he declared the whole counsel of God concerning salvation, substantiating it by signs and miracles. As Priest, he offered one sacrifice for sins forever, then sat down on the right hand of God. For by one sacrifice He hath perfected forever them that are sanctified. As King, he gives commands and judges and protects and rewards His own. Jesus Christ must reign until God hath put all enemies under His feet. He shall come again to rule and judge the world and reign forever and ever.

John 1:1,2,14
Rom. 9:5
Col. 1:15
Col. 2:9
1 Tim. 2:5
John 10:30
Eph. 1:7
Col. 1:20
Rev. 5:12-13

Heb. 10:10-14

1 Cor. 15:25
Psalm 110:1

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C. God, the Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit who is the third person of the trinity, co-equal and eternal with the Father and the Son. Acts 5:4 This deity was declared by Peter who, when Ananias had lied to the Holy Spirit, said, “thou hast not lied unto men but unto God.”

Acts 1:8
1 Cor. 12:7-11
Eph. 4:11-13

We believe the Holy Spirit empowers believers and bestows upon them spiritual gifts. These gifts are distributed to each believer according to His will to equip the saints for ministry so that the body of Christ may be edified.

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 2

The Holy Scriptures

We believe and confess that God has given us the Holy Scriptures as the infallible witness to divine truth. The original manuscripts were verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit as declared by the Apostle Peter: “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”

2 Peter 1:21
2 Tim. 3:16
Matt. 4:3-10
Acts 8:30-35
Acts 13:22
1 Peter 1:9-12

We believe all the books of the Old and New Testaments to be God’s inerrant and trustworthy Word based on eternal truth. This was substantiated by Christ and the Apostles quoting from the Old Testament Scriptures. The New Testament is the fulfillment of the promises of the Old Testament as revealed in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of our Lord.

1 John 4:1
Col. 2:8
Gal. 1:8-9

We further believe that the Word of God is the final authority for faith and conduct and is inerrant in all that it teaches. It is also a guide by which the writings and declarations of men should be examined, and accordingly either accepted or rejected.

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ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 3

The Image of God in Man and Adam's Fall

We believe and confess that in the beginning, God created man in His own image. "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him."

Gen. 1:27

God gave unto man the Garden of Eden as a dwelling place, and also the dominion over the animal creation. But alas, man did not remain in this happy state.

"And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Gen. 2:16-17

When Adam and Eve were tempted by the serpent, who is the Devil, they transgressed God's law by eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. The result of their disobedience was that they and all their posterity fell into sin and death. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned." The death which came upon Adam and his posterity was threefold:

Rom. 5:12

1. The physical death.

2. The spiritual death which consists of man's lost condition and his inability to work out a righteousness acceptable to God.

Rom. 3:10, 23

3. The eternal death which is the eternal separation from God and constitutes eternal damnation.

John 3:18, 36

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 4

Redemption Through Christ

We believe the Gospel is the good news that the Lord God provided the only way of salvation for sinful man by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as the Savior of the world. All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. Man is sinful, condemned, and deserving of death. God is holy and just; therefore He punishes all sin. Because God is merciful, He took our sin with its condemnation on Himself in the

John 3:16

Rom. 3:21-26

Rom. 6:23

Rom. 2:5-12

Rom. 12:19

2 Thess. 1:6-10

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- Isa. 53:4-11
Gal. 3:13
Heb. 9:28
- Rom. 4:25
1 Pet. 1:18-19
1 Tim. 1:15
Heb. 9:26
- Heb. 2:14-15
- 1 Cor. 15:3-5
Heb. 9:12
- John 1:12
2 Cor. 5:21
- John 3:18
John 3:36
- Person of His Son who shed His blood for the remission of sin and was raised for our justification. Peter states that Christ redeemed us with His precious blood. The Scriptures further declare, "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." "He hath appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself." "That through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the Devil, and deliver them who through fear of death, were all their lifetime subject to bondage."
- As our sin-bearing substitute and representative, Jesus Christ became man, suffered, died, and was buried; on the third day, He arose from the grave, and forty days after His resurrection, ascended into heaven. Jesus has finished the whole work of reconciliation and has obtained an eternal redemption for believers. His love and grace are proclaimed to us through the Gospel in order that all who believe in Jesus Christ should not perish but have eternal life. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on Him." "For He hath made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."
- But whoever will not receive Jesus Christ as personal Savior is lost because of his unbelief. "He that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 5

The Universal Grace of God and Man's Free Will

- Eph. 2:8-9
John 6:44
Phil 3:9
John 16:13-14
Phil. 1:6
1 Peter 1:5
- We confess that the grace of God revealed in the gift of His Son is universal grace. Grace is the limitless love and mercy of God acting in compliance with the demands of His righteousness, thereby completely ruling out human effort. Since man cannot come to Christ on his own, God, in grace, reaches out to the sinner to draw him to salvation. God's grace bestows upon the believer Christ's righteousness and through the ministry of the Holy Spirit roots and grounds the believer in the Gospel, bringing him to spiritual maturity.

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This grace preserves and keeps the believer until the day of Jesus Christ.

The grace of God is not brought upon mankind by force. God's gift of salvation may be accepted or rejected as man exercises his free will. "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.'"

John 3:16

Acts 16:30-31
Matt. 23:27

God is sovereign, and His purpose will be perfectly completed. "For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." "According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love." "In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will." God works in believers to will and to do His good pleasure and yet appeals to them to yield themselves to Him.

Rom. 8:29

Eph. 1:4

Eph. 1:11

Phil. 2:13

Rom. 12:1-2

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 6

Faith in Christ

We believe it is necessary that every individual, through faith, must come to know and confess Jesus Christ as personal Savior. A purely historical knowledge of Jesus or mere lip service to Him is not sufficient; rather, true saving faith is a faith centered in the Word, deeply embedded in our hearts, and manifested daily in our conduct. "For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name."

Rom. 10:9-10

Eph. 2:8

John 1:12

The Word produces the knowledge of our lost condition and our need of salvation. By faith in Jesus the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, one becomes a new creation in Christ. This change is brought about by God's Word and Spirit through believing faith.

John 1:29

Gal. 3:26

2 Cor. 5:17

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1 John 2:15-17
1 John 5:4
Rom. 6:10-13

Having been forgiven, the believer henceforth does not follow the lusts of the flesh, but yields and surrenders his life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 7

The New Birth and Good Works

Rom. 8:5-8
John 3:3, 6, 7

Man is evil by nature and that which is born of the flesh is flesh; therefore, to enter into the Kingdom of God, a person must be born from above. Christ said to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again."

To be born again is to have God's image renewed in us. It is a change of heart and mind from one that is carnal to one that is spiritual.

James 1:18
James. 2:14, 18,19

The new birth is the work of God. James said, "Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."

Eph. 2:10

Because of the new birth, the Holy Spirit enables us to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. It is through our Christian walk that we manifest the new life in Christ.

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 8

Justification Through Faith

Eph. 2:8-9

God's Word teaches that justification is the work of God appropriated through faith. Good works do not justify. It is by God's grace through faith in Christ's redemption that God declares the sinner just.

Rom. 5:1, 5
Rom. 6:22

The child of God is enabled by the Holy Spirit to love God and his fellow man. This love impels the believer to a God-pleasing walk and conversation that reflects the assurance of holiness.

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ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 9

The Church of God

The Church is a living union between the Lord Jesus Christ and all those who have accepted Him through personal faith. As God's children, we are living stones, built up together into a holy temple, of which Jesus Christ is the corner stone. This church is united with Christ, its Head, as the parts of a body are united with the head. Each member has a need of all other members and has received his gifts for the edification of the entire body. Therefore, it is the duty of all true disciples of Jesus to appear in the congregation and not forsake the assembling of themselves together. It is necessary that believers meet to hear the preaching of God's Word.

A church cannot, always, by outward regulation, avoid members who are inactive or who pretend to be Christians, of which even the apostolic church was not free. The faithful children of God, however, should not be discouraged, because to the end of time the good and evil will be together. God will, in His own time, divide the good from the evil.

The church is called to be a witness in all the world to Christ and His saving grace, and through this ministry of teaching, baptizing and discipling, the Spirit of God will accomplish God's purpose to build His Church.

1 Pet. 2:4-5
Eph. 2:20-21
Eph. 5:25
1 Cor. 6:15
1 Pet. 4:10
James 1:17
Col. 3:16
Heb. 10:25

Prov. 24:19-20
Rom. 6:23
Ps. 94:14-23

Matt. 28:18-20
Acts 1:8

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 10

The Ministry in the Church

We believe that God has established certain offices in the church for the purpose of equipping and upbuilding the body of Christ. The apostles ordained certain men as elders (ministers) to shepherd the church, and they have commissioned their followers to continue this order.

The office of the minister in the church is a divine institution. The church shall, when necessary, choose such men who have the qualifications for the office as listed in 1 Tim. 3:1-7 and in 1 Peter 5. These men shall proclaim and

Eph. 4:11-12

1 Pet. 5:1-2

Titus 1
Acts 20:27

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Heb. 13:17 teach the church the whole counsel of God which leads to salvation and spiritual maturity. They shall diligently pray for them and watch over their souls as those who shall give an account to God for their ministry.

The office and work of the minister shall be supported by the elders and co-workers according to Acts 6 and 1 Tim. 3:8-13. They shall, by the willing contribution of the church, be enabled to carry on charitable work for those who have needs in the congregation, and extend a helping hand and carry on a spiritual ministry where opportunity affords so that the church may be well taken care of according to the will of God.

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 11

Holy Baptism

Acts 8:36-38
Matt. 3:5-6
Matt. 3:13-17
Matt. 28-19
Rom. 6:3-4
1 Pet. 3:21

We believe that water baptism should be administered to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as their Savior and who have repented and confessed their sins to God. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself was baptized and commanded His disciples saying, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The Apostles followed this command faithfully. We follow their example as they preached repentance to God and faith in the Lord Jesus and baptized only those who received the preaching of the Word and made a confession of their faith. Christian water baptism is a symbol of the baptism of the believer into the death of Christ. The person who is baptized is giving public testimony to the cleansing power of the blood of Christ in his life and to his intention of walking in newness of life by the Spirit. Baptism also symbolizes the believer's union with Christ and His church.

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ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 12

The Lord's Supper

We confess that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted holy communion with His disciples. "...the Lord Jesus, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, Take, eat; this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also He took the cup, when He had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood; this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come."

Matt. 26:26-28

1 Cor. 11:23b-26

The participation of communion embraces many blessings for those who partake worthily. It creates in the believer a sincere love and gratitude to God and Jesus Christ. It also produces a spirit of brotherly love and unity in the body of believers. Those who are to be worthy recipients of communion must exercise a life of faith and repentance and should be at peace with God and their fellow men.

1 Cor. 10:16-17

1 Cor. 11:27-30

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Christian Marriage

We believe God instituted marriage when He presented Eve to Adam, and ordained that there be but one man and one woman in marriage until separated by death.

Gen. 1:27-28a

Gen. 20:20-24

This is affirmed by Christ when He said: "...Have ye not read, He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they two shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more two, but one flesh."

Matt. 19:4-6a

Eph. 5:31

Sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed between a man and a woman within the love and bonds of marriage. Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift.

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Mal. 2:16
(NIV)

Matt. 19:6b
Mark 10:11-12
Luke 16:18
Matt. 5:32
Matt. 19:3-9
1 Cor. 7:10-11

We further believe that divorce grieves God who said, “I hate divorce,” and that it is outside His will as expressed in the words, “What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.” Jesus said, “...whoever shall put away his wife, and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband, and be married to another, she committeth adultery.” Furthermore “...whosoever shall marry her that is divorced committeth adultery.”

2 Cor. 6:14
1 Cor. 7:39

Persons entering matrimony are to do so in harmony with God’s Word. They are not to be close blood relatives as stated in Leviticus 18 and 20. They are both to be “in the Lord”; therefore, the marrying of a believer to an unbeliever is unscriptural.

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 14

The Office of Government

Acts 4:19
Rom. 13:1-7
Gen. 9:6
Matt. 22:15-22
1 Tim. 2:1-3
Luke 22:25-27

We confess that the government is a divine institution to which we should be subject and obedient in all things that do not oppose the law of God. God has placed upon government the responsibility to reward those who do good and punish those who do evil. We should honor and respect those in authority and faithfully and willingly pay our taxes. In this way we follow the command of our Savior to pay tribute money. We are also exhorted to pray to God for Kings, and for all who are in authority. We can accept a government position if such position does not conflict with our obligations to God. We should strive to live as the meek and lowly in the world.

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ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 15

Vengeance, Non-resistance and Suffering

We confess that the Lord Jesus said: “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, do good to them that hate you, bless them that curse you, and pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in Heaven.” Paul also taught: “Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Avenge not yourselves, dearly beloved: but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink; for in so doing, thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.” From these words we see that all vengeance is forbidden us.

Matt. 5:43-45

Rom. 12:17-21

We believe that all human life, including the unborn, is sacred, being created in the image of God. The Apostle John said, “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer; And ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.” The attitude of our heart and the words we speak should demonstrate a life of peace. We follow the Lamb where He goes, not rendering evil for evil or railing for railing, but in quietness, bless, if we want to merit a blessing.

Gen. 1:26-27

1 John 3:11-16

1 Peter 2:21-23

1 Peter 3:8-9

Matt. 5:21-24

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 16

Church Discipline

We believe and teach that church members who live in sin and willful disobedience become subject to the discipline of the church. The goal of Church Discipline is always restoration. The Lord Jesus gave instruction on discipline

Matt. 12:36

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Matt. 18:15-17
1 Cor. 5:11
1 Cor. 6:9-10
Gal. 5:19-21
2 Thess. 3:14-15
2 Cor. 2:6-8

when He said, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” If a member who is practicing sin does not respond to the steps of Matthew 18, then the individual is to be excluded from the congregational membership that the seriousness of sin may be seen. Although this instruction applies to sins between believers, it is possible that this individual has never experienced salvation, for the Apostle Paul teaches that anyone who practices continual, willful disobedience to God will not inherit the kingdom of God. This person should not be considered to be an enemy but one who needs to be saved or restored to fellowship with God and with the church. The members should be in prayer and supplication to God on behalf of this excluded person. If this individual acknowledges and confesses the sins which he committed and shows genuine fruits of repentance and properly applies for readmission into the church, then the members are to forgive him and receive him back into the church.

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 17

The Resurrection of the Dead

Job 19:25-27
Isa. 26:19
Dan. 12:2
1 Cor. 15:3-4
1 Cor. 15:12-58
Rev. 20:5-6

We believe that everyone who dies shall live again and be raised from the dead. This is clearly taught in the Old and New Testaments. Daniel, the prophet, spoke of a resurrection of the just and a resurrection of the unjust. In John 5:28-29, Christ spoke of two separate resurrections. There will be a resurrection to life for those who believe in Christ and a resurrection to judgment for those who reject Him. The resurrection for the believer will take place when Christ returns for His church as Paul states in 1 Thess. 4:13-18. The unbeliever will be resurrected a thousand years later and

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brought to the great white throne of judgment and then cast into the lake of fire to be forever separated from God.

ARTICLE OF FAITH NO. 18

The Judgments

We believe that, according to the Scriptures, judgment is necessary in order that the righteousness of God be vindicated, and that all righteousness be rewarded and that all evil be exposed to receive its just recompense. “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts; and then shall every man have praise of God.” “But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deed.”

We believe that the believer’s judgment for sin is found at the cross. The Scriptures teach that there will be no judgment for those in Christ. Believers will appear before the judgment seat of Christ so that their works may be made manifest. This examination is to determine the inner character and motivation of the believer to prove whether his works are acceptable or unacceptable and to be rewarded accordingly.

We also believe in other judgments.

1. The judgment of the nations

“When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations: and He shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.”

2. The judgment of the dead

“And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great stand before God; and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in

Ps. 103:6
1 Tim. 5:24-25
Matt. 12:20

1 Cor. 4:5

Rom. 2:5-6

Isa. 53:6
Rom. 8:1
Gal. 3:13
Col. 2:14
1 Cor. 3:9-15
2 Cor. 5:10
2 Tim. 4:7-8
Rom. 14:10

Ps. 2:8
Dan. 7:13-14
Rev. 11:15
Rev. 19:11-21

Matt. 25:31-32
John 5:28-29
2 Thess. 1:5-10

Rev. 11:18

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Rev. 20:11-15

the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”