

ARTICLE IV – ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. **The Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible, as originally written, was plenary and verbally inspired and the product of Spirit controlled men, and therefore has truth without admixture of error for its matter. We believe it is the center of Christian union and the only infallible rule for human conduct, creeds and opinions.

By the "Holy Bible" we mean that only the collection of 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament, which, as originally written is the very Word of God. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a way that their writings were supernaturally controlled and free from error as no other writings have ever been or ever will be. 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:19-21

We believe the same Spirit who originally communicated the truth has presided over the translations and versions so that the written record as found particularly in the King James Version is essentially trustworthy and authoritative.

2. **The True God**

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite sovereign 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, the 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; 1 Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11; John 4:24

3. **The Person and Work of Christ**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem man. John 1:14

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical, resurrection from the dead. 1 Peter 2:24; Eph. 1:7

4. **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 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 in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. The gifts of tongues and healing were "sign gifts" until the Scriptures were completed. The gifts ceased at that time. Jn. 14:16,17; Mt. 28:19; Heb.9:14; Gen. 1:1-3; Jn. 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32
Eph. 1:13,14

We believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit takes place at conversion and is that sovereign act by which the individual is placed into the body of Christ. 1 Cor. 12:13

We believe the infilling of the Holy Spirit may occur many times and is essentially a matter of faith and yieldedness, the fruit of which is listed in Gal. 5:22,23.

5. Angels

We believe that there are angelic beings created by God for the purpose of carrying out His divine program; that some of these angels are good in that they perform God's will especially in relation to the saints on earth; and that some are evil, having fallen from their original state under the leadership of Satan and are his ministers of evil in the world. Mt. 13:41; Heb. 1:14; Jude 6; Rev. 14:9,10; Ps 91:11.

We believe that Satan as Lucifer was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty fell and drew with him a host of Angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air and the unholy god of this world; that he is man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all powers of darkness, destined to final defeat at the hands of God and to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire, a place prepared for him and his angels. Is. 14:12-15; Ez. 28:14-17; 2 Peter 2:4; Eph. 6:12; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 10:10; 12:10; 19:20; 20:10

6. Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation as a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process being neither allegory nor myth; that man, spirit, soul, and body, 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. 1 and 2; Col. 1:16,17; Jn. 1:3

7. The Fall of Man

We believe that man is a unique and direct creation of God, created in innocence, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless state, the result of which is that all of mankind are now sinners by nature and by choice, positively inclined to evil and utterly devoid of that righteousness required by the law of God and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

We believe in the everlasting, conscious existence of all who die, and the accountability of every man to God. Gen. 1:27; Eccl. 7:29; Rom. 7:14-17; 5:12; Gen. 3:1-6; Is. 53:6; Rom. 3:9-12,23; Jer. 17:9; Gal. 5:19-21; Is. 64:6,7; Gal. 3:22-24; Rom. 1:19-21; Mt. 25:41,46; Jn. 14:1-3; Heb. 9:27

8. 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 ever be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son; that His two natures remained distinct and yet acted in complete harmony with each other in full subjection to the will of the Father. Gen. 3:15; Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:18-25; Lk. 1:35; Jn. 1:14; Heb. 1:8; Phil. 2:8; 1 Jn. 1:1,2; Jn. 4:34

9. The Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of 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 as 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 cross. Jonah 2:9; Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; Jn. 3:16; Mt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7,8; Heb. 2:14; Is. 53:4-7; 1 Jn. 4:10; 1 Cor. 15:3; 2 Cor. 5:21

10. Resurrection and Priesthood

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest fulfilling the ministry of Intercessor and Advocate. Matt. 28:6,7; Lk. 24:39; Jn. 20:27; 1 Cor. 15:4; Mk. 16:6; Lk. 24:2-6; Acts 1:9-11; Rev. 3:21; Heb. 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; 1 Tim. 2:5; 1 Jn. 2:1; Heb. 2:17; 5:9,10

11. Grace in the New Creation

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 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 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 it's proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life. Jn. 3:3; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 Jn 5:1; Jn 3:6,7; Acts 16:30-33; 2 Peter 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1,5; 2 Cor 5:19; Col. 2:13; Jn 3:8

12. Justification

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby. He declares us to be righteous (guiltless) through faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done but solely through faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ; and that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God. Acts 13:39; Is. 53:11; Zech. 13:1; 2 Cor. 5:18-21; Rom. 5:1,9; 8:1

13. Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance, a change of mind and purpose toward God, is an integral part of saving faith, and that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.

We believe that repentance includes a godly sorrow for sin, as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; a great humiliation in view of one's sin and guilt, sincere hatred of sin, and a persistent turning away from and abandonment of all that is evil and unholy.

We believe that faith includes an assent of the mind and consent of the heart in supplication for God's mercy, consists of unreserved belief and trust in Christ alone for salvation, and that it is the channel whereby eternal life, sonship, and all the blessings of justification are received by the repentant sinner.

We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations, wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God in conjunction with the proclamation of the Gospel of Christ.

Mk. 1:15; Lk. 13:3,5; Acts 3:19;17:30; Jn. 1:12; 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:24,28; 5:1-9; Gal. 2:16; Jn 6:44; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 1:18; Eph. 2:8,9

14. 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 process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to their life; third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return.

Heb. 10:10-14; 3:1; Jn. 17:17; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Cor. 1:30; Eph. 5:25,26; 1 Thess. 4:3,4; 5:23,24; Eph. 5:27; 1 Jn 3:2; Jude 24,25; Rev. 22:11

15. Election

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God according to which He graciously regenerates and saves sinners; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, and trust in God; that it encourages the use of means; and that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the gospel. Mt. 22:14; Jn. 15:16; Rom. 8:33; 9:16,20-24; 16:13; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; 2 Tim. 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:2; 2:9

16. Adoption

We believe that adoption is the gracious act whereby the Father, for the sake of Christ, places new believers into the honored position of mature sons, in contrast with regeneration, whereby, the believer receives the nature of God and becomes a child of God. The full benefit of the position accorded by adoption as the sons of God awaits the glorification of the believer at the coming of the Lord. Eph. 1:5; Gal. 4:1-7; Eph. 1:13,14; 1 Jn. 3:1-2

17. The Security and Perseverance of the Saints

We believe that all who are truly born again are eternally secure in God's salvation, and that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by God through faith unto salvation Phil. 1:6; Jn. 10:28,29; Rom. 8:35-39; Jude 1; 2 Tim 1:12; Ps. 89:30-34; Mt. 16:18; Jn. 5:24; 6:37; 14:19; 17:2; Rom. 8:1,29-31; 1 Cor. 1:8; 2 Tim. 2:13; 1 Jn. 5:13

18. The Church

We believe in the unity of all true believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ, which was established on the Day of Pentecost, and that all believers, from Pentecost to the Rapture, both Jews and Gentiles are added to this Church by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that this Church is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ which are two (Baptism and the Lord's Supper); governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; and that its officers are pastors and deacons, 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 the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organization; 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 sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; and that on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence the will of the local church is final. Eph. 3:1-6; 1 Cor. 12:12,13; Acts 2:41,42; 1 Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22,23; 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23,24; Acts 15:13-18

19. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, under the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is a prerequisite to the privilege of 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. We believe the natural Biblical order of ordinances is baptism first then the Lord's Supper, and that participants should be immersed believers. Acts 8:36,38,39; Jn. 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; Mt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; 1 Cor. 11:23-28; Mt. 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42

20. Separation from the World

We believe in personal separation from the world; that since our citizenship is in heaven, as the children of God, we should walk in separation from the present world, abstaining from all worldly amusements and unclean habits which defile mind and body, from membership in secret societies, from the use of unbelieving courts for the settlement of disputes between Christians, and from taking personal vengeance in carnal strife.

We believe in separation from apostate persons and organizations as those associated with the charismatic movement, neo-evangelicalism, modernism or anyone who does not take a full view of Scripture whether by proclamation or practice. 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 1 Cor. 6:1-9; 1 Thess. 5:22; Rom. 12:18-21; 2 Thess 3:6

21. Civil Government

We believe that human government is ordained of God for the good of the race of man, and that believers are to submit to civil law unless such law contradicts the commands of the Word of God. In the event of such conflict, we believe that we must obey God rather than man, and that we must not renounce our profession or Christian practice, even in the face of trials, afflictions, persecutions or imprisonment.

We further believe that the affairs of the Church must be kept distinct from the civil government. We maintain that the true Churches of Jesus Christ have their sufficiency in Him, and that they must not accept aid from civil authority in preaching the gospel or in enforcing Christian behavior upon unbelievers through state-church combination. Ex. 18:21,22; Mt. 22:21; Rom. 13:1-7; 1 Tim. 2:1-3; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-17; Dan. 3:17,18; Acts 4:19,20; 5:17-20,29; Zech. 4:6

22. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be re-gathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ. Gen. 13:14-17; Rom. 11:1-32; Ezek. 37

23. The Rapture and Subsequent Events

We believe in the imminent, premillennial return of Christ for His Church, and that 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 great tribulation. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:42-44, 51-54; Phil. 3:20,21; Rev. 3:10

We believe that the great tribulation, which follows the rapture of the church, will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial Kingdom. Dan. 9:25-27; Mt. 24:29-31; Lk. 1:30-33; Is. 9:6,7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29,30; Rev. 20:1-4;6

24. The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; 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 impenitence 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 blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the Lake of Fire. Mal. 3:18; Gen. 18:23; Rom. 6:17,18; 1 Jn. 5:19 Rom. 7:6; 6:23; Prov. 14:32; Lk. 16:25; Mt. 25:34-41; Jn. 8:21; Rev. 20:14,15