

# The Articles of Faith of Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church

**The Bible.** The Bible is God's inspired, inerrant revelation of Himself and of His way and will for mankind.<sup>1</sup> It speaks with final authority about all matters of spiritual faith and moral duty. As God's pattern for human living, it is to be studied, learned, believed and taught to all men everywhere.<sup>2</sup>

**God.** There is only one living and true God<sup>3</sup> who created, preserves and controls the universe.<sup>4</sup> To Him we owe the highest love, reverence and obedience.<sup>5</sup> He is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.<sup>6</sup>

**Jesus Christ.** Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God,<sup>7</sup> the second person of the Trinity,<sup>8</sup> and the Savior of the world.<sup>9</sup> He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, and made in the likeness of men. He is, therefore, both fully God and fully human.<sup>10</sup> He was and is the full and final revelation of God's nature and purpose.<sup>11</sup> He is our example of perfect righteousness.<sup>12</sup> In His death, He made atonement for the sin of the world.<sup>13</sup> Having been bodily resurrected<sup>14</sup>, He is our great High Priest<sup>15</sup>, our living Lord<sup>16</sup>, the all-sufficient Savior.

**The Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit is a person who is one in nature with the Father and the Son.<sup>17</sup> As the divine agent in regeneration<sup>18</sup>, preservation<sup>19</sup> and sanctification<sup>20</sup>, He abides in the hearts of Christians<sup>21</sup>, aids them in prayer<sup>22</sup>, interprets truth<sup>23</sup> and gives power for Christ-like living and witnessing.<sup>24</sup>

**Man.** Man is, from conception,<sup>25</sup> a person, created in the image of God with dignity, and with moral understanding and responsibility.<sup>26</sup> Yet he is a sinner, corrupted in his moral nature by Adam's fall and in bondage to sin.<sup>27</sup> His need and longing for peace with God can only be met through the redemption of Christ.<sup>28</sup>

**Salvation.** Salvation is wholly by the grace of God<sup>29</sup> who takes the initiative in providing for man's redemption through His Son<sup>30</sup> who, by the Holy Spirit, was born of the Virgin Mary and took upon Him our nature<sup>31</sup>, yet without sin<sup>32</sup>, and made atonement for our sins by His death on the cross.<sup>33</sup> In order to be saved, one must repent of sin and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>34</sup>

**Christian Growth.** The Christian experience is both a state and process. The Christian has been justified<sup>35</sup> and is becoming sanctified.<sup>36</sup> By God's grace, therefore, his life should be a continuous growth in knowledge and Christ-likeness through self-discipline, dedication and perseverance.<sup>37</sup>

**Perseverance.** All true believers endure to the end because they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.<sup>38</sup>

**The Church.** A church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel<sup>39</sup> for the purpose of carrying out the commission of our Lord in all the world.<sup>40</sup>

**The Ordinances.** Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two ordinances commanded by Christ. Baptism, which is immersion in water of a believer<sup>41</sup>, celebrates the beginning of the Christian experience as it symbolizes death, burial and resurrection.<sup>42</sup> The Lord's Supper, by the use of bread and the fruit of the vine, commemorates the dying love of Christ.<sup>43</sup>

**The Return of The Lord.** We believe Christ will return to the earth visibly<sup>44</sup>, personally<sup>45</sup> and suddenly<sup>46</sup>. Believers are to live in readiness for His coming by obeying the commands of Christ given after His first coming.<sup>47</sup>

**Evangelism and Missions.** It is the duty of every Christian to seek to win the lost to Christ by personal efforts and also to extend this opportunity to people in other lands through the support of missions.<sup>48</sup>

**Stewardship.** God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual and the rightful owner of all His creation.<sup>49</sup> Man is entrusted with time, talents, and material possessions which are to be used for the glory of God and the service of others.<sup>50</sup> Christians should contribute of their means to advance Christ's work on earth.

**Gender, Marriage, and Sexuality.** Human beings are created by God as either male or female,<sup>51</sup> both sexes being equal in value,<sup>52</sup> but complementary in their respective roles within the family and the church.<sup>53</sup> Further, God's design for marriage is only that of a faithful union between one man and one woman.<sup>54</sup> Sexual intimacy is only appropriate within the bounds of a marriage between one man and one woman.<sup>55</sup>

**The Kingdom Of God.** The kingdom of God is the reign of God in the lives of believers everywhere.<sup>56</sup> Our chief means for promoting God's kingdom on earth are the churches<sup>57</sup> through which we teach and preach and pray for God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 19.7, 2 Timothy 3.16-17, 2 Peter 1.20-21  
<sup>2</sup> Matthew 28.18-20, 2 Timothy 2.2  
<sup>3</sup> Deuteronomy 6.4, Ephesians 4.6  
<sup>4</sup> Genesis 1.1, Psalm 115.3, Isaiah 40.21-26, Matthew 10.29, Romans 11.36  
<sup>5</sup> Exodus 20.1-3, Mark 12.30  
<sup>6</sup> Genesis 1.26, Deuteronomy 6.4, Isaiah 9.2-7, Matthew 28.19, Mark 1.9-11, John 5.18, John 14.12-18, Colossians 1.15-20, Colossians 2.9, Hebrews 1.3, 1 Peter 1.1-2, 2 Peter 1.21  
<sup>7</sup> Proverbs 30.4, John 1.1  
<sup>8</sup> John 1.1, Colossians 2.9  
<sup>9</sup> Luke 1.36, John 3.16, 1 John 2.2  
<sup>10</sup> Matthew 1.20-25, Luke 1.36-37, John 1.14, Colossians 2.9, Philippians 2.7-8  
<sup>11</sup> Luke 24.27, John 14.9, Hebrews 1.1-2  
<sup>12</sup> 1 Peter 2.21-22  
<sup>13</sup> Isaiah 53.4-6, Mark 10.45, 2 Corinthians 5.21, 1 Peter 3.18, 1 John 2.2  
<sup>14</sup> Isaiah 53.10-12, Matthew 28.1-20, Mark 16.1-8, Luke 24.1-25, John 20.1-31, 1 Corinthians 15.12-21  
<sup>15</sup> Hebrews 4.14-16, Hebrews 7.23-28  
<sup>16</sup> Acts 2.32-36, Revelation 2.17-20  
<sup>17</sup> Matthew 28.18-20, John 14.12-18, 1 Peter 1.1-2  
<sup>18</sup> John 3.1-8, Titus 3.5  
<sup>19</sup> 2 Corinthians 1.21-22, Ephesians 1.13-14  
<sup>20</sup> Romans 8.12-13  
<sup>21</sup> John 14.17, Romans 8.9  
<sup>22</sup> Romans 8.26-27  
<sup>23</sup> John 14.26, 1 Corinthians 2.12  
<sup>24</sup> Acts 4.31, Ephesians 3.16  
<sup>25</sup> Psalm 139.13-14  
<sup>26</sup> Genesis 1.26-31  
<sup>27</sup> Isaiah 64.6-7, Luke 11.13, Romans 1.18-21, Romans 3.10, Romans 7.14  
<sup>28</sup> John 14.6, Acts 4.12  
<sup>29</sup> Romans 3.19-26, Ephesians 2.8-9, Titus 3.5  
<sup>30</sup> Romans 3.23-25, Romans 5.6-8  
<sup>31</sup> Matthew 1.23-25, Luke 1.36-37, John 1.14, Philippians 2.7-8  
<sup>32</sup> Isaiah 53.8, John 8.46, Hebrews 4.15  
<sup>33</sup> Romans 3.23-25, 1 Peter 3.18, 1 John 2.2  
<sup>34</sup> Mark 1.14-15, Luke 13.15, John 3.16, Acts 16.31, Acts 17.20, Acts 26.20, Ephesians 2.8  
<sup>35</sup> Romans 3.23-24, Philippians 3.7-9,  
<sup>36</sup> Romans 6.19, Romans 8.5-14, Colossians 1.22-23  
<sup>37</sup> 1 Corinthians 9.24-27, Philippians 2.12-13  
<sup>38</sup> John 6.37-40, John 8.31, John 10.27-29, Romans 8.29-30, Philippians 1.6, Colossians 1.22-23, Hebrews 3.6, Hebrews 3.14  
<sup>39</sup> Acts 2.41-47, 1 Timothy 3.14-15  
<sup>40</sup> Matthew 28.18-20, 1 Timothy 3.14-15  
<sup>41</sup> Acts 2.41, Acts 8.36-38  
<sup>42</sup> Romans 6.4  
<sup>43</sup> Luke 22.14-20, 1 Corinthians 11.23-26  
<sup>44</sup> Revelation 1.7  
<sup>45</sup> Acts 1.11, 1 Thessalonians 4.16  
<sup>46</sup> Mark 13.32, Luke 12.40, 1 Thessalonians 5.2  
<sup>47</sup> Mark 13.33-37, 2 Peter 3.10-12  
<sup>48</sup> Psalm 67, Matthew 28.18-20, Luke 14.23, 3 John 5-8  
<sup>49</sup> Psalm 50.10-12, 1 Corinthians 4.7, James 1.17  
<sup>50</sup> Psalm 67, Malachi 3.10, Matthew 5.19-24, Matthew 25.14-30, 1 Corinthians 16.2  
<sup>51</sup> Genesis 1.27, Matthew 19.4, Deuteronomy 22.5  
<sup>52</sup> 1 Peter 3.7  
<sup>53</sup> 1 Peter 3.1-7, Ephesians 5.22-33, Colossians 3.18-19, 1 Timothy 2.11-15  
<sup>54</sup> Genesis 2.18-25, Matthew 19.4-6, Ephesians 5.22-33  
<sup>55</sup> 1 Corinthians 6.9, Hebrews 13.4, Romans 1.26-27  
<sup>56</sup> Colossians 1.13, Revelation 1.6  
<sup>57</sup> 1 Timothy 3.14-15  
<sup>58</sup> Matthew 6.10