

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction;¹ that it has God for its author, salvation for its end;² and truth without any error for its matter;³ that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us;⁴ and therefore is, and shall remain to the ends of the world, the true center of Christian union,⁵ and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed, and opinions should be tried.⁶

- 1) 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21
- 2) 2 Timothy 3:15; John 5:38-39
- 3) Proverbs 30:5-6
- 4) John 12:47-48
- 5) Philippians 3:16; 1 Corinthians 1:10
- 6) 1 John 4:1; Isaiah 8:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Acts 17:11

2. The True God

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is JEHOVAH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth;¹ inexpressibly glorious in holiness;² and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love;³ that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;⁴ equal in every divine perfection;⁵ and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.⁶

- 1) John 4:24; Psalm 83:18; Hebrews 3:4; Jeremiah 10:10
- 2) Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; 1 Peter 15-16; Revelation 4: 6-8
- 3) Mark 12:30; Revelation 4:11
- 4) Matthew 28:19; 1 John 5:7
- 5) John 10:30; Acts 5:3-4; John 1:1-2
- 6) Ephesians 2:18

3. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker;¹ but by voluntary transgression fell from the holy and happy state;² in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners;³ not by constraint but choice;⁴ being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; therefore, under just condemnation to eternal ruin;⁵ without defense or excuse.⁶

- 1) Genesis 1:27, 31; Ecclesiastes 7:29; Acts 17:26; Genesis 2:16-17
- 2) Genesis 3:6-24; Romans 5:12
- 3) John 3:6; Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:15-19
- 4) Isaiah 53:6; Genesis 6:12; Romans 3:9-18
- 5) Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 1:18, 2:1-16; Galatians 3:10
- 6) Romans 3:19; Galatians 3:22

4. The Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace;¹ through the Mediatorial offices of the Son of God;² who according to the will of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin;³ honored the divine law by His personal and perfect obedience,⁴ and by His death made a full atonement for our sins;⁵ that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven;⁶ and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with

divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.⁷

- 1) Ephesians 2:5, 8-10; 1 John 4:10; Acts 15:11
- 2) John 1:1-14; Hebrews 4:14, 12:24; 1 Timothy 2:5
- 3) Philippians 2:6-7; Hebrews 2:14; 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 4) Isaiah 42:21; Philippians 2:8; Galatians 4:4-5; Romans 3:21
- 5) Isaiah 53: 4-5; Matthew 20:28; Romans 4:25, 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10, 2:2; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Hebrews 9:13-15
- 6) Hebrews 8:1; Colossians 3:1-4
- 7) Hebrews 7:25; Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:8, 2:18, 4:15-16, 7:26

5. Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ¹ secures to such as believe in Him is justification;² that justification includes the pardon of sin,³ and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness;⁴ that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood,⁵ by means of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us by God;⁶ that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.⁷

- 1) John 1:16
- 2) Acts 13:39; Romans 8:1
- 3) Acts 10:43; 1 John 2:12; Ephesians 1:7
- 4) 1 John 2:25; Romans 5:21
- 5) Romans 4:4-5, 6:23; Philippians 3:7-9
- 6) Romans 4:23-25, 5:19
- 7) Romans 5:1-3; 1 Corinthians 1:30-31; Matthew 6:33

6. The Freeness of Salvation

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel;¹ that it is in the immediate duty of all to accept them by a sincere penitent, and obedient faith;² and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but his own inherent depravity, and voluntary rejection of the gospel;³ which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.⁴

- 1) Isaiah 55:1; Revelation 22:17
- 2) Mark 1:15; Romans 1:15-17
- 3) John 5:40; Proverbs 1:24; Acts 13:46
- 4) John 3:19; 2 Thessalonians 1:8

7. Regeneration

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again;¹ that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind;² that it is effected in a manner above comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth,³ so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel;⁴ and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith, and newness of life.⁵

- 1) John 3:3, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 2:14
- 2) 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26; Romans 2:28-29
- 3) John 3:8; James 1:16-18; 1 Peter 1:22-25

- 4) 1 Peter 1:22-25
- 5) Romans 8:9; Galatians 5:16-23; Matthew 3:8-10, 7:20; 1 John 5:18; 2 Corinthians 5:17

8. Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in the soul by the regenerating Spirit of God;¹ whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ,² we turn from sin to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy;³ at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.⁴

- 1) Mark 1:15; Acts 11:18; Ephesians 2:8
- 2) John 16:8; Acts 2:37-38, 16:30-31
- 3) Luke 18:13, 15:18-21; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Psalm 51
- 4) Romans 10:9-10; Acts 3:22-23; Hebrews 4:14, 9:25; John 1:12

9. God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners;¹ that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end;² that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness;³ that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility;⁴ that it encourages the use of means;⁵ that it may be ascertained by its effect in all who truly believe the gospel;⁶ that it is the foundation of Christian assurance;⁷ and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.⁸

- 1) 2 Timothy 1:8-9; Ephesians 1:3-14; Romans 11:5-6; John 15:16; 1 John 4:19
- 2) 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; Acts 13:48; John 10:16
- 3) Exodus 33:18-19; Matthew 20:15; Ephesians 1:11; Romans 9:23-24; Jeremiah 31:3; James 1:17-18; 2 Timothy 1:9; Romans 11:28-29, 32-36
- 4) 1 Corinthians 1:26-32, 4:7, 15:10; Romans 3:27; Colossians 3:12
- 5) 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Corinthians 9:22
- 6) 1 Thessalonians 1:4-10
- 7) Romans 6:28-39, 1:29
- 8) 2 Peter 1:10-11; 2 Corinthians 13:5

10. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness;¹ that it is a progressive work;² that it is begun in regeneration;³ that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer;⁴ and in the practice of all godly exercise and duties.⁵

- 1) 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; Ephesians 1:4
- 2) Proverbs 4:18; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Philippians 3:12-16
- 3) 1 John 2:29; Ephesians 1:13-14; Romans 8:5
- 4) Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Corinthians 13:5; Luke 9:23; Matthew 26:41; Ephesians 6:18; Hebrews 12:14
- 5) 1 Timothy 4:7

11. Perseverance of Saints

We believe that such as are truly regenerate, being born of the Spirit, will not utterly fall away and perish, but will endure unto the end;¹ that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors;² that a special providence watches over their welfare;³ and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto Salvation.⁴

- 1) John 8:31, 10:28; 1 John 3:9, 5:8; Romans 5:8-10
- 2) 1 John 2:19; Matthew 13:20-21; Job 17:9
- 3) Romans 8:28; Jeremiah 32:40; Psalm 91:11-12
- 4) Philippians 1:6; Jude 24-25; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 1:3-5

12. The Law and Gospel

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government;¹ that it is holy, just, and good;² and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen mankind to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their sinful nature,³ to deliver them from which, and restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.⁴

- 1) Matthew 5:17; Luke 16:17; Romans 3:20
- 2) Romans 7:12, 14; Galatians 3:21
- 3) Romans 3:10-23, 8:7-8
- 4) 1 Timothy 2:5; Matthew 28:18-20

13. A Gospel Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers,¹ associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel;² observing the ordinances of Christ;³ governed by His law;⁴ and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word;⁵ that its only scriptural officers are pastors (elders, bishops) and deacons,⁶ whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

- 1) Matthew 18:17; Acts 2:41, 47, 5:11, 8:1; 1 Corinthians 12:13, 14:23
- 2) Acts 2:41-47, 4:32-35
- 3) 1 Corinthians 11:2, 23, 26
- 4) Matthew 28:20; John 14:15, 15:12; 1 John 4:21
- 5) Ephesians 4:7; 1 Corinthians 14:12
- 6) Philippians 1:1; Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1

14. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are two ordinances of special significance which our Lord has commanded us to observe.¹ We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ into the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost,² to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem his faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effects, in His death to sin and resurrection to a new life;³ that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation, and to the Lord's Supper.⁴ We believe that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and fruit of the vine, representing Christ's body and blood, partaken of by the members of Christ's church assembled for that purpose;⁵ in commemoration of the death of their Lord,⁶ showing their faith and participation

in the merits of His sacrifice, their dependence on Him for spiritual life and nourishment,⁷ and their hope of life eternal through His resurrection from the dead; its observance to be preceded by solemn self-examination.⁸

- 1) Acts 8:36-39; Mathew 3:5-6; John 4:1-2; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38, 10:48; 1 Corinthians 12:23-26; Matthew 26:26-29, 28:19
- 2) Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:38-39, 10:47-48; John 3:23
- 3) Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12
- 4) Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:19-20
- 5) Luke 22:19-20; Mark 14:20-26; Matthew 26:27-30; 1 Corinthians 10:16
- 6) 1 Corinthians 11:26
- 7) John 6:35, 54-46
- 8) 1 Corinthians 11:28

15. The Lord's Day

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath;¹ and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes² by abstaining from all secular labor, except works of mercy and necessity;³ by devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public;⁴ and by preparation for that rest that remains for the people of God.⁵

- 1) Acts 20:7; John 20:19; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2
- 2) Exodus 20:8; Revelation 1:10
- 3) Isaiah 56: 2-8, 58:13-14; John 5:8-9, 7:21-24, 9:14
- 4) Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 13:44; Leviticus 19:30; Luke 4:16
- 5) Hebrews 4:3-11

16. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society;¹ and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed;² except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ,³ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth; King of Kings and Lord of Lords.⁴

- 1) Romans 13:1-7
- 2) Matthew 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-15; 1 Timothy 2:1-3
- 3) Acts 5:29; Matthew 10:28; Daniel 3:15-18, 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20
- 4) Matthew 23:10; Revelation 1:5, 19:16; Psalm 72:11; Romans 14:9-13

17. Righteous and Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked;¹ that such only as regenerated, being justified through faith in Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in His esteem;² while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are, in His sight, wicked and under the curse;³ and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.⁴

- 1) Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23
- 2) Romans 6:18, 22, 7:6; 1 John 2:29, 3:7
- 3) 1 John 5:19; Galatians 3:10; John 3:36; Isaiah 57:21
- 4) Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 5:28-29, 8:21-24

18. The World to Come

We believe that the end of this world is approaching;¹ that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven,² and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution;³ that a solemn separation will then take place;⁴ that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy;⁵ and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell on principles of righteous.⁶

- 1) 1 Peter 4:7; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31; Hebrews 1:10-12; Matthew 24:35, 28:20, 13:39-40; 1 John 2:1
- 2) Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7; Hebrews 9:28; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- 3) Acts 24:15, 10:42; 1 Corinthians 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29
- 4) Matthew 13:37-43, 49, 24:30-31, 25:31-33
- 5) Matthew 25:31-41; 2 Peter 2:9; Jude 7; Philippians 3:19; Romans 6:22; 2 Corinthians 5:10-11
- 6) 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12; Hebrews 6:1-2; Acts 17:31; Romans 2:2-16; Revelation 20:11-12; 2 Peter 3:11-12

19. Marriage and the Family

God ordained marriage and the family as foundational for society. Marriage is the union of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image.¹ God designed marriage to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to bless humanity through companionship, sexual intimacy, and a means of procreation.² Just as Christ loves the church, a husband is to love his wife by providing for, protecting, and leading her. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband, as the church joyfully submits to the headship of Christ.³ Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to teach their children to love and serve Christ and children are to honor and obey their parents.⁴

- 1) Genesis 1:26-28; Matthew 19:3-9
- 2) Ephesians 5:21-33; Genesis 2:15-25
- 3) 1 Peter 3:1-7; Colossians 3:18-19
- 4) Psalm 127:3; Deuteronomy 6:6-7; Ephesians 6:1-4