

MINOOKA BIBLE CHURCH

The ARTICLES OF FAITH

GOD

We believe that there is but one¹ living and true God,² Who is spirit in nature,³ existing eternally⁴ in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.⁵ He is the Creator of the universe,⁶ all creation,⁷ and supreme ruler thereof.⁸

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Bible is the inerrant, authoritative, verbal, plenary, inspired Word of God as represented in the original manuscripts.⁹ The Bible consists of 66 books written by men under the superintendence of the Holy Spirit.¹⁰ God's Word has been delivered once and for all to the saints, and therefore the canon of Scripture is closed.¹¹

¹ Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; Exodus 20:1-3; Psalm 83:18.

² 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Jeremiah 10:10.

³ John 4:24.

⁴ Psalm 90:2; 1 Timothy 1:17; Revelation 22:13.

⁵ Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18.

⁶ Genesis 1:1; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 38:4-7; Psalm 96:5; Isaiah 37:16.

⁷ Colossians 1:16; Isaiah 66:2; Revelation 4:11.

⁸ Psalm 103:19; 2 Chronicles 20:6; 1 Timothy 6:15.

⁹ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18-19, 24:35; John 16:12-13; Psalm 119:89; Isaiah 40:8.

¹⁰ 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; John 16:12-13.

¹¹ Jude 3; Revelation 22:18-19.

MAN

We believe that Adam and Eve were directly and immediately created by God¹² in His image and likeness,¹³ free from sin,¹⁴ with the intent that they should glorify God, enjoy God's fellowship, live in God's will, and by this accomplish God's purpose in the world.¹⁵ Through Adam's sin of disobedience,¹⁶ man lost his innocence, incurred the penalty of physical and spiritual death, became subject to God's wrath, and became corrupt.¹⁷ Man is thus hopelessly lost¹⁸ apart from salvation through the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ.¹⁹

THE PERSON OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Son of the Father,²⁰ Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born unto the virgin Mary as fully God and fully man,²¹ two natures concurring in One Person,²² perfect and without sin.²³ He was crucified,²⁴ arose from the dead bodily on the third day²⁵ and ascended to the right hand of the Father in heaven²⁶ where He is now ministering as our Advocate²⁷ and High Priest.²⁸

¹² Genesis 2:7-25.

¹³ Genesis 1:26.

¹⁴ Genesis 2:7-25, 3:6-24.

¹⁵ Genesis 2:7-25; Matthew 5:16; Psalm 86:12; Philippians 2:10-11.

¹⁶ Genesis 3:6.

¹⁷ Genesis 2:17; Romans 1:18-32, 3:9-18, 3:23, 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; Jeremiah 17:9.

¹⁸ Ephesians 2:1-3.

¹⁹ Ephesians 1:7 Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:14, 20-22; Romans 3:24-26; Titus 2:14.

²⁰ John 1:14, 3:16.

²¹ Luke 1:31-35.

²² Luke 1:35; Colossians 2:9; Romans 9:5; 1 Timothy 3:16.

²³ Hebrews 4:15.

²⁴ Philippians 2:8; Romans 4:25.

²⁵ Luke 24; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.

²⁶ Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 4:14.

²⁷ 1 John 2:1.

²⁸ Hebrews 4:14-15, 5:6, 9:24.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ in all that He does.²⁹ He was sent at Pentecost to initiate and complete the building of the Body of Christ.³⁰ His divine activity includes convicting the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment;³¹ glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ and, by His continual filling, transforming believers into Christ's likeness.³² He baptizes all believers into the Body of Christ at the moment of salvation;³³ indwelling,³⁴ sanctifying,³⁵ instructing,³⁶ and empowering them for service through the giving of spiritual gifts;³⁷ and sealing them unto the day of redemption.³⁸

SALVATION

We believe that salvation of lost mankind is wholly of God by grace,³⁹ through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, by the merit of His shed blood;⁴⁰ not on the basis of human merit, or by works.⁴¹ It is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit⁴² by which we receive eternal life and share in the divine nature⁴³. Repentance which is by faith in the substitutional death of Christ is essential in it.⁴⁴

²⁹ John 16:14.

³⁰ Acts 1:8.

³¹ John 16:7-11.

³² 2 Corinthians 3:6, 18; Titus 3:5.

³³ 1 Corinthians 12:13.

³⁴ John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:9.

³⁵ 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

³⁶ John 14:26, 16:13.

³⁷ 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

³⁸ Ephesians 1:13, 4:30.

³⁹ 2 Timothy 1:9, 2:10; Ephesians 1:4-6, 2:8-10; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Romans 8:29-30.

⁴⁰ Ephesians 1:7; Romans 5:9-10.

⁴¹ Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:9.

⁴² Ephesians 4:30; Titus 3:5-7.

⁴³ 2 Peter 1:4.

⁴⁴ John 1:12, 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Mark 1:15; Matthew 4:17.

On the basis of Christ's substitutionary death which provided propitiation for our sins,⁴⁵ God declares us righteous (justified) in Christ,⁴⁶ having been reconciled to God.⁴⁷ All the redeemed once saved are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever.⁴⁸ The assurance of our salvation is based solely upon the promise of God's Word.⁴⁹

SANCTIFICATION

We believe that every believer is "set apart" i.e., sanctified unto God by the death of the Lord Jesus Christ.⁵⁰ Every believer is therefore declared to be holy and identified as a saint.⁵¹ In yielding to the Spirit in obedience to the Word of God, the believer is able to live a life of increasing holiness,⁵² becoming more and more like the Lord Jesus Christ, though never reaching sinless perfection in this life.⁵³ There is a conflict between the new creation in Christ and the flesh that continues throughout this earthly life,⁵⁴ but the Holy Spirit does provide victory over sin.⁵⁵

⁴⁵ Romans 3:24-25; 1 John 2:2.

⁴⁶ Romans 5:1, 18; 2 Corinthians 5:21.

⁴⁷ 2 Corinthians 5:19.

⁴⁸ Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30; Romans 8:31-39; John 6:39, 10:27-30.

⁴⁹ 1 John 5:13.

⁵⁰ 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-4, 5:23; Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 10:10.

⁵¹ 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; Jude 3; 1 Peter 1:14-16.

⁵² Romans 6:8.

⁵³ Romans 7:21-25; 1 Tim 1:16; 1 John 1:8-10.

⁵⁴ Colossians 3:9-10; Romans 7:21-23.

⁵⁵ Romans 8:2; Ephesians 6:10-20.

THE CHURCH

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit into one united Body,⁵⁶ the Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head,⁵⁷ and which is His Bride.⁵⁸ We believe the establishment of local churches is clearly taught,⁵⁹ and that the members of this one spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies.⁶⁰

We believe that the Head of the Church is Jesus Christ and those serving as leaders in the Church over the assembly are elders (also called bishops, and pastors); and deacons, both of whom must fit biblical qualifications.⁶¹

We believe the purpose of the Church is to glorify God,⁶² and to build itself up in the faith, by instruction in the Word, by fellowship, by keeping the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper,⁶³ and by advancing and communicating the Gospel to the entire world.⁶⁴

BAPTISM

We believe that Christian baptism is an act of obedience following a person's salvation.⁶⁵ It is the immersion of a believer in water that testifies of their faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, and their union with Him in death to sin, and resurrection to a new life.⁶⁶ It is also a sign of fellowship and identification with the visible Body of Christ.⁶⁷ Baptism is not a saving act of grace nor is it necessary for

⁵⁶ 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23.

⁵⁷ Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:15.

⁵⁸ Ephesians 5:23-32.

⁵⁹ Galatians 1:2; Philippians 1:1.

⁶⁰ Acts 2:38-47; Hebrews 10:25.

⁶¹ Philippians 1:1; Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-5; Hebrews 13:7, 17.

⁶² Ephesians 3:10, 21.

⁶³ Acts 2:1-21, 2:38-47; Romans 12:5-8.

⁶⁴ Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8.

⁶⁵ Acts 2:38-42, 8:36-39, 16:33.

⁶⁶ Romans 6:1-11.

⁶⁷ Acts 2:38-42, 19:1-7.

salvation.⁶⁸ The New Testament Biblical pattern is salvation, baptism, and association with a local Church.⁶⁹

THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that all believers are welcome to share in the Lord's Supper. It is a time of commemoration⁷⁰ and proclamation of His death until He returns,⁷¹ and should be preceded by solemn self-examination.⁷² We also believe that the elements of bread and wine are symbolic of the body and blood of Christ.⁷³ The bread symbolizes His perfect life and the body in which He actually bore our sin on the cross.⁷⁴ The wine represents His blood which was shed for the remission of our sins,⁷⁵ and is also a sign of the New Covenant of grace.⁷⁶

THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ will return personally, visibly and unexpectedly.⁷⁷ The dead will be raised, and Christ will judge all people in righteousness.⁷⁸ The coming of Christ, our Blessed Hope, demands constant expectancy and motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission.⁷⁹

⁶⁸ Acts 16:30-31; Luke 23:39-43.

⁶⁹ Acts 2:38-42, 8:12, 16:33.

⁷⁰ Matthew 26:26-30; 1 Corinthians 11:24-25.

⁷¹ Luke 22:19-20.

⁷² 1 Corinthians 11:28-32.

⁷³ Luke 22:19-20.

⁷⁴ 1 Peter 2:24.

⁷⁵ Matthew 26:28.

⁷⁶ 1 Corinthians 11:24-25.

⁷⁷ Acts 1:11; Matthew 24:36.

⁷⁸ Hebrews 9:27; Romans 14:12.

⁷⁹ 2 Peter 3:11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Corinthians 5:1-11.

DEATH AND THE FINAL JUDGMENT

We believe that physical death yields a separation of body and soul,⁸⁰ with no loss of immaterial consciousness.⁸¹ The souls of the redeemed pass immediately into the presence of Jesus Christ,⁸² and are united with their resurrection bodies at the time of the first resurrection, to be glorified forever with the Lord Jesus.⁸³ The souls of the unsaved descend immediately into Hades⁸⁴ where they are kept under punishment and torment until the second resurrection,⁸⁵ when the soul and resurrected body are united.⁸⁶ They shall appear at the Great White Throne judgment and be cast into the Lake of Fire, cut off from the presence of God forever.⁸⁷

Those who have put their faith in the Lord Jesus will receive their reward and will dwell forever on the New Heaven/Earth with the Lord where we will joyfully continue to serve and worship the triune God.⁸⁸

⁸⁰ Matthew 10:28; Revelation 6:9-11; 2 Corinthians 5:8.

⁸¹ Revelation 6:9-11; Philippians 1:21-24; 2 Corinthians 5:8.

⁸² Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:21-24.

⁸³ 1 Corinthians 15:5-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-17.

⁸⁴ Job 3:11-19; Luke 16:22, 25.

⁸⁵ Revelation 20:10-15; John 5:28-29.

⁸⁶ John 5:28-29; Daniel 12:2.

⁸⁷ Revelation 20:10-15; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.

⁸⁸ Revelation 21:1-27; 1 Corinthians 3:5-15.