

Declaration of Faith

SECTION I Doctrine of the Scriptures

We believe in the verbal (every word) and plenary (complete) inspiration of the Scriptures in the original manuscripts; that the Old and new Testaments are equally inspired and without error or contradiction; that they are accurate and reliable in science, history, and every other matter they discuss; that we have the complete and only revelation by God to man in the sixty-six books of the Bible as it now stands; and that anyone who adds to or takes away from this completed revelation is cursed of God. (II Samuel 23:2; Psalms 19:7-11, 119:89, 105, Matthew 5:18; John 10:35, 17:17; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21)

SECTION II Doctrine of God

We believe in the true and living God, eternally existing as one in His essence yet, three in His persons. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalms 90:2; Matthew 28:19; I Corinthians 8:6).

A. God the Father

We believe that God the Father is Father in His relationship within the Trinity and in His relationship with those who receive Jesus Christ as Savior; that He orders all things after the counsel of His own will and in so doing, concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer; that He is omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent; and that He is to be the sole object of my worship and praise. (Psalms 65:2, 139:1-24, 147:5; Matthew 5:45, 6:24-34; John 14:6; I Timothy 2:5).

B. God the Son

The Lord Jesus is coequal and coeternal with the Father; we believe that He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; that He is God manifest in the flesh, very God and very man; that He was sent by the Father for the purpose of being the perfect sinless sacrifice for the sins of mankind; that He died in my stead, was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures gaining victory over death for me; that He is the object of my faith; that He is the only way to the Father; that He is imminently coming for the saints; that He will reign as King of Kings on earth for one thousand years; and that He will judge evil works of darkness at the end of time. (Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1,4; John 3:13-17, 14:6; Acts 16:31; I Corinthians 15:1-4, 55-57; Colossians 1:16-17; I Timothy 2:5; I Thessalonians 4:13, 5:11; Hebrews 4:14-16; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15).

C. God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person equal with the Father and Son of the same nature; that He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment; that He bears witness to the truth; that He is the agent of the new birth; that He baptizes all true believers into the body of Christ indwelling and sanctifying all of them, sealing and thus securing them into the day of redemption; that He endues, guides, teaches and helps believers; and that it is the privilege and duty of the saved to be filled with the Spirit the evidences being love, joy,

peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, not speaking in tongues; that in relation to the evil world He restrains the evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled. (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; John 3:5-7, 14:16, 17, 26; Galatians 5:22-23; I Peter 1:23; John 16:7-15).

SECTION III Doctrine of Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal historical account of the direct immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man (spirit, soul, and body) was created by a direct work of God. (Genesis 1-2:25; John 1:3,10; Colossians 1:16).

SECTION IV Doctrine of Man

We believe that man was created by God in His image, sinless and innocent, but that by disobedience to his creator he incurred both physical and spiritual death; that all men through choice and an inherited evil nature are totally depraved, and if not saved will endure eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7-3:24; II Samuel 12:23; Psalms 51:5; Matthew 18:10-14; Roman 5:12, 6:23, 8:5-8; I Corinthians 15:45; Galatians 5:17; Revelation 20:14-15).

SECTION V Doctrine of Sin

We believe that sin is the transgression of the Law of God; we believe in the universality of sin; that it separates man from God; that there is no remission of sin apart from the shed blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and man's repentance. (Luke 24:46-47; Romans 3:10-26, 6:23, 7:23-24; I John 3:40).

SECTION VI Doctrine of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is only of grace, a free gift of God in the person of Jesus Christ; that salvation is received individually by a repentance from sin and a personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; that the Son of God is the only mediator between God and man, who by the appointment of the Father freely took upon Him human nature, yet without sin, He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by the shedding of His blood in death made a full and vicarious atonement for my sins. He is in every way an all-sufficient Savior. (John 1:12; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; Hebrews 9:24-25, 10:19, 12:24; I Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5).

A. Regeneration

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new 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 its proper evidence appears in holy fruits of repentance and newness of life. (John 3:33; II Peter 1:4; Ephesians 2:1; Romans 6:23; II Corinthians 5:19; Colossians 2:13; John 3:8)

B. Justification

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He makes man to be righteous by his faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness; that it is bestowed, not by any work which I have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood

sacrifice. (Acts 13:3,9; II Corinthians 5:18-25; Romans 5:1, 8-9; Ephesians 1:7; Romans 8:11)

C. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is an act and a process whereby God sets apart all believers unto holiness. He then conforms them to the image of Christ, completing the process of sanctification at the return of Christ for His saints. (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 1:3-4; I John 3:2)

D. Security

We believe in the eternal security of the believer. Those whom God saved are kept by His power. At the same time, We must be diligent to make my calling and election sure by obedience to God's Word. Scriptures gives no assurance to those who profess salvation yet whose lives are characterized by continued sin. (John 6:37,39; John 10:27-39; Romans 8:38-39; II Peter 1:10; I John 3:7-10)

E. Glorification

We believe that when Christ comes for the Church, all believers will be changed in the "twinkling of an eye" and will become like Christ at His appearing; that our mortal bodies will become immortal; that our corruptible bodies will become incorruptible. (I Corinthians 15:51-54; I John 3:2)

SECTION VII Doctrine of the Church

We believe that the church exists in two aspects:

A. An Organism

We believe that the church as an organism is the body of the Bride of Christ, His fullness, composed of all the redeemed. We believe that Christ gave Himself for the church; that He is its only true head. (I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:20-23, 3:3-11; Colossians 1:18)

B. An Organization

We believe that the establishment and continuation of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament. We believe that the church as an organization is an assembly of baptized believers, voluntarily associated by covenant in the faith for fellowship, worship, and service; that its missions is the spread of the Gospel to all men, and to earnestly contend for the faith. We believe that its officers are pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that its 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; and that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and methods of its

cooperation. On all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline and benevolence, the will of the local church is final. (Matthew 28:18- 20; Acts 14:27; I Corinthians 3:9-17. 16:19; II Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:2; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11; Revelation 2:3)

SECTION VIII Church Ordinances

We believe that there are two Christian ordinances and that they are symbolical, not sacramental: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

A. Baptism

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit; that it sets forth in picture the essential facts in redemption--the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We believe that it gives testimony to what has taken place in the heart of the believer--dead to sin and resurrected to walk in newness of life. Baptism after salvation is an act of obedience and is a prerequisite for church membership. It should be made clear that there is no saving power in baptism. (Matthew 29:18-20; Romans 6:4)

B. Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death to be observed until He comes; that the elements, the bread and the fruit of the vine, are only symbols of His broken body and shed blood: and that our observance of it is a pictorial testimony of the believer's fellowship with the crucified Savior and should be preceded by solemn heart-searching and self judgment. (Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 10:16-21, 11:17-34).

SECTION IX Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, that old serpent, the devil; that he is the author of sin, and the cause of man's temptation and consequent fall. We believe that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; that his final doom along with his hosts shall be eternal punishment in the lake of fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:1-11, 25:41; Revelation 12:9-10, 20:1-2, 7-10)

SECTION X Doctrine of Spirit Beings

We believe that angels and demons are spirit beings. Angels were created as heavenly hosts, but some through choice are now the hosts of Satan and dishonor and will share in his ultimate doom. The angels of heaven, ministering spirits, are sinless and pure, and are forever seeking to praise God in their ministries for Him and His people. Their ministries, ranks, and orders differ, and their strength, appearance, travel, etc., are not bound by natural human laws. They are immortal and do not marry. Their abode is in heaven. (Matthew 18:10, 22:30; Mark 5:2, 8:38; Colossians 1:16; I Thessalonians 4:16; II Peter 2:4; Jude 6, 9)

SECTION XI Doctrine of Last Things

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the dead--of believers, unto an eternal life of blessedness; of unbelievers, unto eternal punishment. (Daniel 12:2-3; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:5-6, 11-15; II Thessalonians 1:9)

We believe that the return of Jesus Christ is imminent. After the first phase of His coming, in which the Church is taken up to heaven, the great tribulation on earth will be followed by the coming of Christ and the establishment of His millennial reign. Then, the kingdom will be delivered over to the Father for all eternity. (Matthew 25:1-13; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:21; Revelation 19:11-20:6; I Corinthians 15:24-28; II Thessalonians 2:7-12)

SECTION XII Doctrine of Separation

We believe that we are mandated by God in the Scriptures to separate ourselves unto Christ and as much as possible from any participation in or endorsement of sin; from ecclesiastical organizations and religious personalities that deny the faith or compromise its message; from brethren that walk disorderly or who unrepentantly continue in sin or engage in the compromise aforementioned. (Romans 12:1-2; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 2:8-10; II Thessalonians 3:11-12; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-16; II John 9-11)

SECTION XIII Civil Government

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with the understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14)

SECTION XIV Human Sexuality

- A. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).
- B. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23).
- C. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; I Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

SECTION XV Divorce and Remarriage

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the church and be greatly used of God for Christian service, they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon (Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

SECTION XVI Abortion

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the mental well-being of the mother are acceptable (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).