

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; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore, is and shall remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conducts, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

2. The True God

We believe that there is one and only living and true God, an infinite, intelligent, Spirit whose name is Jehovah, 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.

3. The Fall of Man

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

4. The Way of Salvation

We believe that salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial office 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 atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven; and, uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.

5. Justification

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of righteousness of all sinners who believe in Christ. This blessing is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but through the redemption that is in and through Jesus Christ. It brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other needed blessing.

6. The Freeness of Salvation

The blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel. It is the duty of all to accept them by penitent and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner except his own voluntary refusal to accept Jesus Christ as Teacher, Savior, and Lord.

7. The Grace of Regeneration

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

8. Repentance and Faith

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

9. God's Purpose of Grace

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners. It is perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. It encourages the use of means of the highest degree.

10. Sanctification

Sanctification is the process by which the regenerate gradually attain to moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts. It continues throughout the earthly life, and is accomplished by the use of all the ordinary means of grace, and particularly the Word of God.

11. Perseverance

All real believers endure to the end. Their continuance in well-doing is the mark which distinguishes them from mere professors. A special providence care for them and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

12. The Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

We believe that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that is holy and just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to 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.

13. A Gospel Church

A Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word and seeking to extend the Gospel to the end of the earth. Its Scriptural officers are pastors and deacons.

14. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The act is a symbol of our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. It is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the use of bread and fruit of the vine, commemorate the dying love of Christ.

15. The Lord's Day

The first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and resting from secular employment, works of necessity and mercy only excepted.

16. Civil Government

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

17. The Righteous and Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, 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.

18. The Virgin Birth of Christ

We believe in the virgin birth of Christ according to the Scriptural account.

19. The World to Come

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