

Article III

Articles of Faith

1) The Scriptures - We believe the Old and New Testaments to be verbally inspired by God, without error in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life. (II Tim. 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19, 21) We reject the R.S.V. or the New English Bible as being a true translation of the Word of God and insist that the King James Translation of the Bible be used in both the Pulpit and Sunday School and in all other church-related meetings.

2) The Godhead - We believe the Godhead eternally exists in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; that these are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections. (Gen. 1:1; 1:26; Matt. 3:16,17; 28:19,20; John 10:30; II Cor. 13:14; Rom. 8:9)

3) The Lord Jesus Christ - We believe in 1) His eternal existence as God (Heb. 1:8) 2) His incarnation by means of the virgin birth (Luke 1:35; Isa. 7:14) 3) His death on the cross as the substitutionary atonement for sin (Rom. 3:25; Heb 9:14) 4) His literal bodily resurrection from the dead (Luke 24: 36-43; Acts 10:40,41). 5) His present ministry of intercession in Heaven (Acts 1:9; I John 2:1; Heb. 8:1,2). 6) His personal return to earth (Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:16; Col. 2:9; Matt. 26:64).

4) Holy Spirit - We believe the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead convicts men of sin (John 16:18); regenerates, indwells, seals (I Cor. 3:16; Eph. 1:13-14), and sets believers apart unto a holy life: that He keeps and empowers believers day by day; that He is the teacher of the Word of God and the guide for our daily life. Anyone who does not have the Spirit living in him is not a child of God. (Rom. 8:9)

5) Man - We believe: 1) Man was created innocent and pure (Gen. 1:26). 2) Adam fell through the sin of disobedience (Rom. 5:19). 3) Thereby all men are corrupted in body, mind, and soul (Rom. 5:13). 4) Therefore, all are in need of redemption.

6) Satan - We believe in the reality and personality of Satan. (Job 1:6-9; Job 2:3; Matt. 4:1-11; I Peter 5:8; James 4:7)

7) Salvation - We believe: 1) That salvation is solely by grace through faith in the blood sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Son of God. 2) All who receive Him are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and become children of God. 3) Those who are truly saved are kept forever. 4) However, God cannot overlook sin in His children and will chasten and correct them in love. (Heb. 12:5-8)

8) The Church - We believe: 1) That the local church is composed of regenerated baptized believers, voluntarily united together for the purpose of worship, edification, fellowship of believers, spiritual growth and service. 2) It has been commissioned by Christ to propagate the Gospel unto the uttermost parts of the earth. 3) That the local church has absolute right of self-government, free from interferences of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit. 4) That on all matters of membership, of policy of government, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. (Acts 2:41-47; 4:33-37; 5:1-20)

9) The Ordinances - We believe that Christ gave only two to the Church to be observed “until He comes.”

(1) The Lord’s Supper: It was left to us as an ordinance by the Lord Himself (Matt. 26:26; 27:28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 11:23-25) for a memorial of His death until He comes and should not be taken inadvisably but with the examination of one’s life.

(2) Believers Baptism: We practice baptism because of the example of our Lord Jesus while He was here on earth (Matt. 3:13) and because of the *command given by our Lord for all believers to be baptized (Matt. 28:19). We accept immersion as the scriptural mode of baptism.

It should be made clear that there is no saving power in baptism - it is meant for those who are already saved, giving a clear picture of the fact that believers are dead, buried, and raised spiritually with Jesus Christ by faith in him.

10) The Future - We believe in the personal premillennial return of Jesus Christ to gather His saints unto Himself. After this, He will return with His saints to judge the nations and establish the millennial kingdom. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the unjust unto judgment and everlasting conscious punishment in the lake of fire.

11) Separation - We believe it is our duty to call the attention of believers to the scriptural teaching of separation and that we should abstain from worldly practices and live a life devoted unto the Lord (Rom. 12:1-2).

12) Missions - Because all men everywhere without Christ are lost and bound for the eternal punishment (Rom. 1:18-20), and because men cannot believe in Him of whom they have never heard (Rom 10:14), we believe that we are debtors to all men and have the responsibility of giving them the Gospel. Jesus left us the command that we should all be witnesses for Him (Acts 1:8) and should take the good news of the Gospel to every place where men are to be found (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24: 46-48; John 20:21). We believe that to carry out this command we must ourselves be witnesses by life and word to tell all men about Christ and we must support by prayer and financial aid those who go out under sound missionary agencies to present us in other parts of the world.

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This ends the doctrinal section of this Constitution.