

# Articles of Faith

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## 1. The Scriptures

We believe in the authority and sufficiency of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, as originally written; that it was verbally and plenary inspired and is the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore inerrant on all matters of which it speaks.

We believe the Bible to be the true centre of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and actions shall be tried.

(2 Tim 3:16, 17; 2 Pet 1:19-21)

## 2. The One True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite Spirit, the Maker and supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honour, 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.

(Exod 20:2, 3; 1 Cor 8:6; Rev 4:11)

### 3a. God the Father

We believe that God the Father, the first person of the Trinity, is eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient and immutable.

(Rom 1:7, John 6:27, Gal 1:1)

### 3b. The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity is the eternal Jehovah God, equal in every aspect to God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. The Lord Jesus Christ was the creator of the universe and upholds all things by the Word of His power. Fulfilling every Messianic prophecy in the Old Testament regarding His first coming, the Lord Jesus Christ left the glory of heaven and was incarnated in human flesh. Throughout His life as a man He fulfilled the Mosaic Law perfectly and in doing so was able to offer Himself as the legal substitute for the sins of mankind, and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father. The Lord Jesus is the only mediator between God and man.

(John 1:1-5, Titus 2:13, 2 Pet 1:1, Heb 1:1-3; 4:15, Matt 5:17, Is 9:6; 53:1-12, 1 Tim 2:5, Luke 19:10; 1:35, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Pet 1:19-21)

## 3. The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is a divine person who indwells the believer from the instant of salvation, who is equal with God the Father and the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgement; and that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony.

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The Holy Spirit is the Agent in the new birth where He at salvation spiritually baptises and seals an individual into the body of Christ. He endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer.

(John 14:16, 17; Matt 28:19; Heb 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Gen 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5, 6; Eph 1:13, 14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Rom 8:14, 16, 26, 27)

### **4. Angels**

Scripture clearly states that angels exist. Angels are not physical but spiritual; they have a greater knowledge than man but are not omniscient. Scripture clearly states that there was a fall among the host of angels and now there exist both good and evil angels.

Good angels:

There are several different kinds of good angels given in scripture, namely the angels, cherubim, seraphim, the living creatures, the archangels, messengers and the watchers.

The evil angels:

Just as there are different classes of good angels the scripture also states that there are different classes of wicked angels, namely the Devil and demons.

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, the Devil; and that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator; that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgement of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire.

(Mark 4:1-11; 2 Cor 4:4; Rev 20:10, Heb 1:7, 2 Sam 14:20, Matt 24:36, Is 14:12-15, Ez 28:15-17, Lk 7:24, Gen 3:24, Is 6:2&6, Rev 4:6-9, 1 Thess 4:16, Jude 9, Dan 4:13,)

### **5. Creation**

We believe the Biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels and man; that this account is neither allegory or myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race.

(Gen 1:2; Col 1:16, 17; John 1:3)

### **6. The Fall of Man**

We believe that man was created in innocence (in the image and likeness of God) under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved and are partakers of Adam's fallen nature and conduct, and therefore are under condemnation without defence or excuse.

(Gen 3:1-6; Rom 3:10-19; 5:15, 19; 1:18, 32)

### **7. The Virgin Birth**

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can be born of woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son.

(Gen 3:15; Isa 7:14; Matt 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14)

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## **8. Salvation**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatory offices of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honoured the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Saviour; that by the shedding of His blood in His death He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin; that His sacrifice consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in each sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the most tender sympathies with divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be the suitable, compassionate and an all-sufficient Saviour.

We believe that faith in the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only conduit of salvation for every individual. Repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God initiated by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith.

(Jonah 2:9; Eph 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom 3:24, 25; John 3:16; John 3:36; Matt 18:11; Phil 2:7, 8; Heb 2:14-17; Isa 53:4-7; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor 15:3; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 Timothy 2:4; 1 Pet 2:24; 1 John 2:2)

## **9. Resurrection and Priesthood of Christ**

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ and in His ascension into Heaven where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest and interceding for us.

(Matt 28:6, 7; Luke 24:39; John 20:27; 1 Cor 15:4; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:2-6, 51; Acts 1:9-11; Rev 3:21; Heb 8:6; 12:2; 7:25; 1 Tim 2:5; 1 John 2:1; Heb 2:17; 5:9,10)

## **10. Grace and the New Birth**

We believe that God's desire is that all men would repent of their sin and in faith turn to Him to be saved. God's plan of salvation is also known as being born again, the new birth or conversion. All of these terms talk about the instant in a sinner's life when the Holy Spirit opens his eyes to his sinful condition and God's provision in the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus Christ. The only sacrifice acceptable to pay for the sin of man was the blood atonement of the sinless Son of God. God's offer is open for all men to repent of their sin and in faith trust God's provision of the Lord Jesus Christ. At the point of salvation a sinner is cleansed of their sin and adopted into the family of God, given the righteousness of Christ and made a partaker of the divine nature. There is no act that a sinner can do to try to save himself; it is only by God's grace through faith in Christ alone that can save the sinner.

(John 3:3; 2 Cor 5:17; 1 John 5:1; Acts 16:20-33; 2 Pet 1:4; Rom 6:23,10:9-13; Eph 2:1, 5,8-10; Col 2:13; John 3:8)

## **11. Justification**

We believe that justification is that judicial act of God whereby He declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood.

(Rom 3:24; 4:5-7; 5:1, 9; 2 Cor 5:21; Gal 2:16; Phil 3:9; Titus 3:7; 1 Pet 2:24)

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### **12. Sanctification**

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God.

This setting apart in the believer's life starts from the point of being born again and continues until the believer's glorification (going to be with the Lord). God's purpose in the sanctifying process is to conform the Christian into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ. Sanctification is achieved in the saint's life on a daily basis as sin is rejected and God is allowed to apply the Word of God and guide the believer through life. (John 17:17; 2 Cor 3:18; 1 Cor 1:30; Eph 5:25-27; 1 Thess 4:3, 4,7; 5:23, 24; Heb 12:14,13:21; 1 Pet 1:15 1 John 3:2; Jude 1, 25; Rev 22:11)

### **13. The Security of the Saints**

We believe that all who are born again are kept by the power of God the Father for Jesus Christ. This occurs at the point of salvation where the Holy Spirit eternally seals the believer into the body of Christ, this salvation can never be lost as it rests in God not man.

(Phil 1:6; John 10:27-30; Rom 8:35-39; 2 Tim 1:12; Jude 1, 24)

### **14. The Church**

We believe that a local church is an organised congregation of baptised believers, associated by covenant of 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; that its officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organisations; and that the one and 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; that each local church is the sole judge of the method and measure of its cooperation; that on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

(1 Cor 11:2; Acts 20:17-28; 1 Tim 3:1-13; Acts 2:41, 42)

We believe in the unity of New Testament believers which is the Body of Christ.

(1 Cor 12:12, 13; Eph 1:22, 23; 3:1-6; 4:11; 5:23; Col 1:18; Acts 15:13-18)

### **15. Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

We believe that Biblical baptism is the single full immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried and risen Saviour, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life; that baptism is to be performed under the authority of the local church; and that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership.

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination.

(Acts 8:36, 38, 39; John 3:23; Rom 6:3-5; Matt 3:16; Col 2:12; 1 Cor 11:23-28; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:41, 42)

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### **16. Separation**

We believe in obedience to Biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness and ecclesiastical apostasy.

(2 Cor 6:14- 7:1; 1 Thess 1:9, 10; 1 Tim 6:3-5; Rom 16:17; 2 John 9-11)

### **17. Civil Government**

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed; except in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ as revealed in the Holy Scriptures.

(Rom 13:1-7; 2 Sam 23:3; Exod 18:21, 22; Acts 23:5; Matt 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19, 20; Dan 3:17, 18).

### **18. Israel**

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church age, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ.

(Gen 13:14-17; Rom 11:1-32; Ezek 37).

### **19. Rapture and Subsequent Events**

We believe in the imminent premillennial return of Christ, when the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air.

(1 Thess 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:42-44, 51-54; Phil 3:20, 21; Rev 3:10)

We believe that the Great Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church, will culminate in the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial kingdom.

(Dan 9:25-27; Matt 24:29-31; Luke 1:30-33; Isa 9:6, 7; 11:1-9; Acts 2:29, 30; Rev 20"1-4. 6).

### **20. The Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only those who are justified by faith in our Lord Jesus Christ 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 this life and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost in the Lake of Fire.

(Mal 3:18; Gen 18:23; Rom 6:17, 18; 1 John 5:19; Rom 7:6; 6:23; Prov 14:32; Luke 16:25; Matt 25:34-41; John 8:21; Rev 20:14, 15).