

I. ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. We believe in the absolute authority and accuracy of the 66 canonical books of the Bible; its full verbal inspiration in the original manuscripts and its all sufficiency as the Christians' rule of faith and practice (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21);
2. We believe that there is but one God, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things, who is perfect in holiness, and in love, infinite in wisdom and measureless in power and who reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Nehemiah 9:6; I Chronicles 29:11-12; Exodus 15:11; Matthew 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 1:2);
3. We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is true God and true man, and is the only and sufficient mediator between God and man (Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:35; John 1:1,2,14; John 12:45; John 14:9; I Timothy 2:5);
4. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, whose ministry is to reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness and of judgment; to regenerate the unbelieving and to heal, wash, sanctify, teach, justify and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ as well as control and intercede for those same believers producing righteousness, peace and joy in their lives. We believe that the Holy Spirit regenerates and baptizes believers into the body of Christ, that He seals and indwells every believer unto the day of redemption; (John 16:8-11; John 3:3-8; John 14:26; Romans 8:9,26, Ephesians 1:13, I Cor. 6:11; Rom 8:11, I Cor 3:16, 6:19, II Tim 1:1, Eph 1:13-14, 30, I Cor 12:13);
5. We believe that man was created in the Image of God by direct creation and that he sinned and thereby incurred both physical and spiritual death. Thus, we believe that all men by nature and by choice are sinners, and apart from Christ, shall be forever separated from God (Genesis 1:26; 2:17; Ezekiel 18:20a; Romans 3:23, 6:23);
6. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, that all who believe on Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood (I Corinthians 15:3-4; I Peter 2:24; Rom 4:25);
7. We believe that salvation is by grace through faith, not of works, and that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are born again of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming children of God. We believe in eternal security of the believer (Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:3,7; 1:12; 10:27-29);

8. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven and in His present ministry there for us as High Priest and Advocate. We believe in the personal, visible, imminent return of the Lord Jesus Christ for His church, in His coming in glory, with all the believers to set up His kingdom upon earth (I Corinthians 15:4; Acts 1:8-11; Hebrews 4:14-16; I John 2:1-2; I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Revelation 19:11-16; 20:1-15);
9. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just, the bodily resurrection of the unjust, the everlasting conscious blessedness of the saved and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost (Mat. 25:30, 41, 46; I Corinthians 15:20-24; Revelation 20:12-15; II Corinthians 5:8);
10. We believe the local church is a voluntary association of baptized believers equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God, and independent of any external ecclesiastical control whatsoever. We believe that God's Word commands every believer to be baptized by immersion in water. Though baptism has no saving merit, it does show forth in solemn and beautiful symbol the believer's faith in and union with the crucified, buried and risen Savior (Acts 2:36-42, 8:38; 18:8; Romans 6:3-5; Gal 3:22-29; 4:4-7);
11. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and of the cup which are symbolic of Christ's body and shed blood; that the Lord's Supper is partaken of by saved individuals in commemoration of the suffering and death of their Lord and in anticipation of His soon coming again; that its observance is to be preceded by faithful self-examination (Luke 22:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-30);