

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Calvary Baptist Church of Silver Springs Shores

I. THE SCRIPTURES

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

We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and opinions shall be tried (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

II. THE TRUE GOD

We believe there is one, and only one, living and true God; an infinite, intelligent Spirit, 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 (Exodus 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16, 17; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11).

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son, and of the same nature. That He was active in the creation, and that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled. That He convicts of sin, righteousness and of judgment. That He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony. That He is the agent in the New Birth. That He baptizes believers into the Body of Christ, and permanently indwells, fills, seals, empowers, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and intercedes for the believer (Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 1:35; 29:49; John 1:33; 3:5, 6; 14:16, 17, 26; 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; 11:16; Romans 8:14, 16; 26-27; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Hebrews 9:14).

IV. THE DEVIL

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. We further believe that he became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Ezekiel 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10).

V. HEAVEN AND HELL

We believe that Heaven is a literal place of eternal life and blessedness with the Heavenly Father for all those who believe in and receive His blessed Son. It is a place of everlasting joy and blessing, no more sorrow nor crying, no more pain nor death, and there shall be no more night for the Lord God gives them light (John 14:1-3; Revelation 14:13; 21:3, 4; 22:3-5)

We believe that Hell is a literal place of everlasting conscious torment for those who reject the natural and special revelation of God (Psalm 37:20; Matthew 25:46; Romans 1:1-32; Revelation 20:15).

VI. CREATION

We believe the biblical account of the creation of the physical universe, angels, and men. That this account is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God. We totally reject any and all evolutionary theories. We believe that man was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing life forms; created in the image and likeness of God. Further, we believe that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race (Genesis 1, 2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:17).

VII. **THE FALL OF MAN**

We believe that man was created in innocence, in the image and likeness of God, under the law of his creator. However, by a voluntary transgression, Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him. Consequently, all men are totally depraved, and are partakers of Adam's fallen nature, and are all sinners by nature as well as conduct. Therefore, all mankind is under just condemnation without defense or excuse (Genesis 3:1-6; Isaiah 64:6, 7; Romans 1:18-22; 3:10-19; 5:12, 19).

VIII. **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 (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:4).

IX. **SALVATION**

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial office of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, voluntarily took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, and honored the divine law by His personal obedience, thus qualifying Himself to be our Savior; that by the shedding of His own blood in death, He fully satisfied the just demands of a holy and righteous God regarding sin. His death was not the death of a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ the Lord bearing our sins in His own body on the tree. And having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfecting, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all-sufficient Savior.

X. **GRACE AND THE NEW BIRTH**

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a 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 the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life (John 3:3, 8; Acts 16:20-33; Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:1, 5; Colossians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:1).

XI. **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 works of righteousness which we have, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's shed blood (Romans 3:24; 4:5; 5:1, 9; Galatians 2:16; Philippians 3:9; Titus 3:5-7).

XII. **SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner: First, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; Second, a continuing process in the saints as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; Third, the final accomplishment of this process occurs at the Lord's return when the believer is glorified (John 17:17; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:25-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:3, 4; 5:23, 24; Hebrews 10:10-14; 1 John 3:2; Jude 24, 25; Revelation 22:11).

XIII. THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ (John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:35-39; Ephesians 1:13, 14; Philippians 1:6; Jude 1).

XIV. THE CHURCH

A. THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that a local church is an organized congregation of immersed 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 Pastor and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe that 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 organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; that on all matters of membership, polity, government, discipline, and benevolence, the will of the church is final (Acts 2:41, 42; 20:17-28; 1 Corinthians 11:2; 1 Timothy 3:1-13).

B. THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

We believe in the unity of all New Testament believers, the invisible church, which is the Body of Christ (Acts 15:13-18; 1 Corinthians 12:12, 13; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 3:1-6; 4:11, 12; 5:23; Colossians 1:18).

XV. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

A. BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

We believe that the mode of Christian baptism is by single immersion. This shows forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our identification with the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, 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.

B. LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes again, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. We believe that the biblical order of the ordinances is Baptism and then the Lord's Supper, and that participants in the Lord's Supper should be immersed believers (Matthew 3:16; 28:18-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41, 42; 8:26-39; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; Colossians 2:12).

XVI. SEPARATION

We believe in obedience to the biblical commands to separate ourselves unto God from worldliness, ecclesiastical apostasy, and all unequal alliances (1 Corinthians 5:11; 2 Corinthians 6:14-17:1; 1 Thessalonians 1:9, 10; 1 Timothy 6:3-5; 2 John 9-11).

XVII. GOVERNMENTS

A. CIVIL ORDER

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, consciously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the conscience and the coming King of Kings (Exodus 18:21, 22; 2 Samuel 23:3; Daniel 3:17, 18; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:29; 4:19, 20; 23:5; Romans 13:1-7).

B. CHURCH ORDER

We believe that the government of this local church is vested in the body of believers of which it is composed. In keeping with historic Baptist faith, the government of this church shall be democratic in its operation, remaining independent as it assumes sole responsibility for its actions and decisions (Matthew 18:15-17; Acts 15:3, 4, 6, 7, 22).

C. FAMILY ORDER

We believe that marriage and the family unit are ordained of God and are basic to the social order of the human race. We, furthermore, accept the Biblical prohibition of sexual union and co-habitation outside of marriage, and the Biblical directives concerning husband, wife and family as fully applicable to believers in our time (Genesis 2:24; Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 6:24-33; Matthew 5:27, 28; 19:4-10; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-8).

XVIII. LAST THINGS

A. THE RAPTURE

We believe in the imminent, pretribulational, premillennial return of Christ for His Church, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised from the grave, and subsequently given glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be glorified without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seventieth week of Daniel (1 Corinthians 4:13-18; Revelation 3:10).

B. THE TRIBULATION

We believe that the rapture of the church saints will be followed by a seven year period called the Tribulation, or Daniel's Seventieth Week. The church will be in Heaven during these years, during which time believers will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. The Last three and one half years of the Tribulation is called the Great Tribulation, or Jacob's Trouble, a time of severe judgment upon the whole earth (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:27; Matthew 24:15-21; Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 1-21).

C. THE MILLENNIAL KINGDOM

We believe the Tribulation will be terminated by Christ's second coming. At this time He will establish the Messianic, or Millennial Kingdom. He shall then fulfill the promises to Israel concerning their earthly kingdom.

We believe in the sovereign election of Israel as God's eternal covenant people; that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ; that she will be re-gathered in the land of Palestine as promised in the Abrahamic Covenant, and after the completion of the church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of

Christ (Genesis 13:14-17; Isaiah 65:17-25; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 37; Romans 11:1-32; Revelation 20:3).

D. THE JUDGMENT OF THE WICKED

We believe the Millennial Kingdom will terminate with the release of Satan from the Bottomless Pit, who will lead an insurrection against the Son of God and will be eternally defeated by God the Son. This will be followed by the Great White Throne Judgment, where all unbelievers will be judged and sentenced eternally to the Lake of Fire. They will not be annihilated, but will be in conscious torment forever (Mark 9:42-48; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:2-10).

E. THE NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

We believe in the New Heaven and the New Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness, and which will be the abiding place of the redeemed of every age for all eternity. Here Christ is King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Revelation 19:16; 21:1-27; 22:3).

XIX. THE CHARISMATIC MOVEMENT

We believe that there were “sign” gifts given to the early church in the days of its infancy before the written revelation of God was completed. These “sign” gifts were supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit given to convince the unbeliever of the authenticity of the gospel message and the authenticity of the messengers of the Gospel.

We believe that, by the second generation of Christians, these “sign” gifts had passed from existence. Therefore, we respectfully disagree with the teachings of the charismatic movement that “the “sign” gifts are commonly active in the church today (1 Corinthians 13:8-13; Hebrews 2:3, 4).