

Edward T. Hiscox Articles of Faith

(Found in The New Directory for Baptist Churches 1894)

This statement of faith was read by Professor Robert Terrell and adopted by the founding
members of Amelia Baptist Church in 1914. (Amelia Centennial History Book, pg.11)

I. 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 without any mixture of error 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 conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

- 2 Timothy 3:1-17, 2 Peter 1:21, 2 Samuel 23:2, Acts 1:16 & 3:21, John 10:35, Luke 16:29-31, Psalms 119:3, Romans 3:1-2

II. The True God

We believe the Scriptures teach that there is one, and only one, 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.

- John 4:24, Psalm 147:5, Psalm 83:18, Hebrews 3:4, Romans 1:20, Jeremiah 10:10, Exodus 15:11, Isaiah 6:3, 1 Peter 1:15-16, Revelation 4:6-8, Mark 12:30, Revelation 4:11, Matthew 10:37, Jeremiah 2:12-13, Matthew 28:19, John 15:26, 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 1 John 5:7

III. The Fall of Man

We believe the Scriptures teach 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 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.

- Genesis 1:27 & 31, Ecclesiastes 7:29, Acts 17:26, Genesis 2:16, Genesis 3:6-24, Romans 5:12 & 19, John 3:6, Psalm 51:6, Romans 5:15-19, Romans 8:7, Isaiah 53:6, Genesis 6:12, Romans 3:9-18, Ephesians 2:3, Romans 1:18 & 32, Romans 2:1-16, Galatians 3:10, Matthew 20:15, Ezekiel 18:19-20, Romans 1:20, Romans 3:19, Galatians 3:22

IV. God's Purpose of Grace

We believe the Scriptures teach that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise,

trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

- 2 Timothy 1:8-10, 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, 1 Corinthians 9:22, Romans 8:28-30, John 6:37-40, 2 Peter 1:10, 1 Thessalonians 4:10, Romans 8:28-30, Isaiah 42:16, Romans 11:29

V. The Way of Salvation

We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God; who according to the will of the Father, assumed 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 every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

- Ephesians 2:5, Matthew 18:11, 1 John 4:10, 1 Corinthians 3:5-7, Acts 15:11, John 3:16, John 1:1-14, Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 12:24, Philippians 2:6-7, Hebrews 2:9, Hebrews 2:14, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Isaiah 53:4-5, Hebrews 7:25-26, Colossians 2:9, Hebrews 2:18

VI. Of Regeneration

We believe the Scriptures teach that regeneration, or the new birth, is that change wrought in the soul by the Holy Spirit, by which a new nature and a spiritual life, not before possessed, are imparted, and the person becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus; a holy disposition is given to the mind, the will subdued, the dominion of sin broken, and the affections changed from a love of sin and self, to a love of holiness and God; the change is instantaneous, effected solely by the power of God, in a manner incomprehensible to reason; the evidence of it is found in a changed disposition of mind, the fruits of righteousness, and a newness of life. And without it salvation is impossible.

- John 3:3, John 3:6, 1 Peter 1:23, James 1:18, 2 Corinthians 5:17, 1 John 2:29, Ephesians 4:24, Colossians 2:13, Romans 6:13, Colossians 1:13, John 1:13, 1 Corinthians 6:11

VII. Of Repentance

We believe the Scriptures teach that repentance is a personal act, promoted by the Spirit, and consists in a godly sorrow for sin, as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; that it is accompanied with great humiliation in view of one's sin and guilt, together with prayer for pardon; also by sincere hatred of sin, and a persistent turning away from, and abandonment of, all that is evil and unholy. Since none are sinless in this life, repentance need to be often repeated.

- Matthew 3:1-2, Matthew 4:17, Mark 1:15, Acts 3:19, Acts 17:30, Acts 20:21, 2 Corinthians 7:2, Luke 24:47, Acts 5:31, Romans 2:5, Isaiah 55:7

VIII. Of Faith

We believe the Scriptures teach that faith, as an evangelical grace wrought by the Spirit, is the medium through which Christ is received by the soul as its sacrifice and Savior. It is an assent of the mind and a consent of the heart, consisting mainly of believe and trust; the testimony of God is implicitly accepted and believed as true, while Christ is unreservedly trusted for salvation; by it the believer is brought into vital relations with God, freely justified, and lives as seeing Him who is invisible. Faith cannot save, but it reveals Christ to the soul as a willing and sufficient Savior, and commits the heart and life to Him.

- Acts 16:31, Romans 10:3, Romans 5:1, Hebrews 11:1 & 6, Romans 1:17, James 2:23, Jeremiah 17:7, Psalm 125:1, Psalm 34:22, 2 Corinthians 5:7, Romans 3:22, Romans 10:10

IX. Of Justification

We believe the Scriptures teach that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

- John 1:16, Ephesians 3:8, Acts 13:39, Isaiah 3:11-12, Romans 8:1, Romans 5:9, Zechariah 13:1, Matthew 9:6, Acts 10:43, Romans 5:1-3 & 11, 1 Corinthians 1:30-31, Matthew 6:33, 1 Timothy 4:8

X. Of Adoption

We believe the Scriptures teach that adoption is a gracious act, by which the Father, for the sake of Christ, accepts believers to the estate and condition of children, by a new and spiritual birth; sending the Spirit of adoption into their hearts, whereby they become members of the family of God, and entitled to all the rights, and privileges and promises of children; and if children, then heirs, heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ, to the heritage of the saints on earth, and an inheritance reserved in heaven for them.

- Romans 8:14-16, Galatians 3:26, Galatians 4:5-7, Ephesians 1:5, 1 John 3:1, Hebrews 12:7, 1 Peter 2:9

XI. Of Sanctification

We believe the Scriptures teach that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer; and in the practice of all godly exercises and duties.

- 2 Thessalonians 4:3, 1 Thessalonians 5:23, 2 Corinthians 7:1, 2 Corinthians 13:9, Ephesians 1:4, Proverbs 4:18, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Hebrews 6:1, 2 Peter 1:5-8, Philemon 12-16, Philippians 2:12-13, Ephesians 4:11-12, 1 Peter 2:2, 2 Peter 3:18, 2 Corinthians 13:5, 1 Timothy 4:7

XII. The Perseverance of Saints

We believe the Scriptures teach that such as are truly regenerate, being born of the Spirit, will not utterly fall away and finally perish, but will endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

- John 6:39, John 8:31, 1 John 2:27-28, 1 John 3:9, 1 John 5:18, John 2:19, John 13:18, Matthew 13:20-21, John 6:66-69, Romans 8:28, Matthew 6:30-33, Philippians 1:6, Philippians 2:12-13, Jude 24-25, Hebrews 1:14, Hebrews 13:5, John 4:4

XIII. The Law and the Gospel

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

- Romans 3:31, Matthew 5:17, Luke 16:17, Romans 3:20, Romans 4:15, Romans 7:7, Romans 7:12, Romans 7:14, Romans 7:22, Galatians 3:21, Psalm 119, Romans 8:7-8, Romans 8: 2 & 4, Romans 10:4, 1 Timothy 1:5, Hebrews 8:10

XIV. A Gospel Church

We believe the Scriptures teach that a visible 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; that its only scriptural officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualification, claims, and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

- Acts 2:41-42, Acts 5:11, Acts 8:1, Acts 11:31, 1 Corinthians 4:17, 1 Timothy 3:5, 2 Corinthians 8:5, Acts 2:47, 1 Corinthians 5:11 & 18, 1 Corinthians 11:2, 2 Thessalonians 3:7, Romans 16:17-20, 1 Corinthians 11:23, Matthew 18:15-20, 1 Corinthians 5:5, Matthew 28:20, John 14:15, John 15:10, 1 John 4:21, 1 Thessalonians 4:2, 2 John 6, Philippians 1:1, Acts 14:23, Acts 15:22, 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1

XV. Christian Baptism

We believe the Scriptures teach that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in Christ, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit; to show forth, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges of a Church relation, and to the Lord's Supper.

- Acts 8:36-39, Matthew 3:5-6, John 3:22-23, John 4:1-2, Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:12, Acts 16:32-34, Acts 18:8, Matthew 18:19, Acts 10:47-48, Galatians 3:27-28, Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:12, 1 Peter 3:20-21, Acts 22:16, Acts 2:41-42, Matthew 28:19-20

XVI. The Lord's Supper

We believe the Scriptures teach that the Lord's Supper is a provision of bread and wine, as symbols of Christ's body and blood, partaken of by the members of the Church, in commemoration of the suffering and death of their Lord; showing their faith and participation in the merits of His Sacrifice, and their hope of eternal life through His resurrection from the dead; its observance to be preceded by faithful self-examination.

- Luke 22:19-20, Mark 14:20-26, Matthew 26:27-30, 1 Corinthians 11:26-30, 1 Corinthians 10:16, Matthew 28:20, Acts 2:42, Acts 2:46, Acts 20:7, Acts 20:11

XVII. The Christian Sabbath

We believe the Scriptures teach that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor, except works of mercy and necessity, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public; and by preparation for that rest that remain for the people of God.

- Acts 20:7, Genesis 2:3, Colossians 2:16-17, Mark 2:27, John 20:19, 1 Corinthians 16:1-2, Exodus 20:8, Revelation 1:10, Psalm 118:24, Isaiah 58:13-14, Isaiah 56:2-8, Hebrews 10:24-25, Acts 13:44, Hebrews 4:3-11

XVIII. Civil Government

We believe the Scriptures teach that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. But that civil rulers have no rights of control over, or of interference with, religious matters.

- Romans 13:1-7, 1 Peter 2:13, Matthew 22:21, Titus 3:1, 1 Timothy 2:1-8, Acts 5:29, Matthew 10:28, Daniel 3:15-18, Daniel 6:7, Daniel 6:10, Acts 4:18-20, Matthew 23:10, Romans 14:4, Revelation 19:14, Psalm 72:11, Psalm 2, Romans 14:9-13

XIX. Righteous and Wicked

We believe the Scriptures teach 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 this life and after death.

- Malachi 3:18, Proverbs 12:26, Isaiah 5:20, Genesis 18:23, Jeremiah 15:19, Acts 10:34-35, Romans 6:16, Romans 1:17, Romans 7:6, 1 John 3:7, Romans 6:18, Romans 6:22, 1 Corinthians 11:32, 1 John 5:19, Galatians 3:10, John 3:36, Isaiah 57:21, Psalms 10:4, Isaiah 55:6-7, Proverbs 14:32, Luke 16:25, John 8:21-24, Luke 12:4-5, Luke 11:23-26, John 12:25-26, Matthew 7:13-14

XX. The World to Come

We believe the Scriptures teach 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 for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless sorrow,

and the righteous to endless joy; and this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

- 1 Peter 4:7, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Hebrews 1:10-12, Matthew 24:35, 1 John 2:17, Matthew 28:20, Acts 1:11, Revelation 1:7, Hebrews 9:28, Acts 3:21, Acts 24:15, 1 Corinthians 15:12-58, Luke 14:14, Daniel 12:2, John 5:28-29, John 6:40, John 11:25-26, 2 Timothy 1:10, Acts 10:42, Matthew 13:49, Matthew 13:37-43, Matthew 24:30-31, Matthew 25:35-41, Revelation 22:11, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Mark 9:43-48, 2 Peter 2:9, 2 Thessalonians 1:6-12, Hebrews 6:1-2, 1 Corinthians 4:5, 2 Peter 3:11-12

ABC Statement On Marriage, Gender, & Sexuality

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27; Matthew 19:4-5). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity occur outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including but not limited to adultery, fornication, pedophilia, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10). We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Amelia Baptist Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22).

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Amelia Baptist Church.