

A Brief Outline of the Distinctive Convictions of the CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH*

We are **REFORMED**, holding the five “*solas*” (onlys) of the Reformation.

- A. ***Sola Scriptura*** — “Scripture alone.” The Bible is the complete, closed, clear, and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.
- B. ***Solus Christus*** — “Christ alone.” Jesus Christ is the only hope of eternal salvation.
- C. ***Sola Gratia*** — “grace alone.” Salvation is the free gift of grace without any reference to humans works or merit.
- D. ***Sola Fide*** — “faith alone.” We are declared judicially righteous by God through faith alone. Note: This is an imputed, alien righteousness and is perfect.
- E. ***Soli Deo Gloria*** — “for the glory of God alone.” The goal of creation and redemption is God’s glory.

II. We are **CALVINISTIC** in our understanding of salvation.

See “Doctrines of Grace”

III. We are **PURITAN** in our personal and corporate worship.

- A. **Godliness in Worship** — We hold the *regulative principle* in worship and the Lord’s Day as a Christian Sabbath. Note: The Regulative Principle means that we worship God only as He has specifically instructed us to do so. This is opposed to the *normative principle* which states that God may be worship by any means not specifically *forbidden* by Scripture.
- B. **Godliness in Preaching** — We hold to the primacy of expositional preaching with practical application.
- C. **Godliness in Instruction** — We are confessional, clearly stating what we believe the Bible teaches. See our doctrinal statement.
- D. **Godliness in Family** — We believe that parents are to instruct (catechize) and discipline their children in the Lord.
- E. **Godliness in Behavior** — We believe in maintaining a good conscience before God and man.

IV. We are **COVENANTAL** in our view of redemptive history.

- A. **Unity of the Bible** — We believe that the Bible has but *one* message.
- B. **Christ-Centered Interpretation** — We believe that Jesus’ person, work and kingdom forms the theme of the Bible.
- C. **Law/Gospel Distinction** — We believe that the Law of God commands and condemns, but only the Gospel saves. Note: We recognize the “three uses of the law.” First, the law serves as a guide to society in promoting civic righteousness. Second, the law makes men sinners and convicts them of their need for salvation in Christ. Third, the law directs Christians in holy living through the power of the Spirit. Law and gospel are in both Old and New Testaments. The gospel is the promise of salvation to God’s elect.
- D. **One Way of Salvation** — We believe that Christ saves all the elect throughout every age, both before and after the cross.
- E. **Optimistic View of History** — We believe that Jesus Christ is now King, ruling over all to bring about God’s eternal purpose in all things. He is visibly coming again soon to rectify human history.

V. We are **BAPTIST** in our view of church government and polity.

- A. Biblical Church Practice** — The two ordinances (baptism and the Lord Supper) are for believers only. We also hold to church discipline lovingly exercised. Note: We believe that dipping in water (immersion) is the proper mode of baptism. We reject infant baptism, which is alien to the New Testament.
- B. Biblical Church Freedom** — the doctrine of separation of church and state is understood to mean that the state is not to intrude into matters of conscience belonging to Christ.
- C. Biblical Church Government** — We believe that each particular church is gathered and organized according to the mind of Christ with officers and members. The only officers are *elders* and *deacons* appointed by Christ and to be chosen and set apart by the local congregation. Note: We recognize no greater authority than the local church.
- D. Biblical Church Growth** — We believe that the Gospel is to be proclaimed to the whole world, repentance and faith being demanded of all.
- E. Biblical Church Ministry** — We believe in the priesthood of all believers. The local church is a spiritual family where relationships are to be open and honest. All matters are handled with charity and patience. Only through every-member participation can individuals grow in grace and love.

*By David Charles, Reformed Baptist Fellowship, borrowed and slightly modified by Pastor Jeff Alexander