

ARTICLE IV. TENETS OF FAITH

4.1 SCRIPTURE

The scriptures, both Old and New Testaments in their originality, are verbally inspired of God and are the authoritative Word of God without error. Scripture alone is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths and conducts.

(2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 30:5; Romans 16:25-26)

4.2 GOD

We believe that there is but one living and true God, an infinite, all-knowing Spirit, perfect in all His attributes, one in essence, eternally existing in three Persons coequally - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each equally deserving worship and adoration.

(Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5-7; 1 Corinthians 8:4; John 4:24; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

A) *GOD THE FATHER*

We believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. We believe that God the Father, the first Person of the Trinity, is the Creator of all things. We believe the Father sent His only Son, Jesus to be the redemption of mankind by the giving of His life.

(Genesis 1:1-31; Ephesians 3:9, John 3:16)

B) *GOD THE SON*

We believe that Jesus Christ, the second Person of the Trinity, possesses divine nature, and in these He is coequal and coeternal with the Father. We believe that Jesus was born of a virgin; lived a perfect life without sin and ultimately paid the price of sin for the world by shedding His blood in His death. We believe that after three days in the grave that God the Father raised Him up and because of His sacrifice was given the name above every name.

(John 10:30; 14:9; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23, 25; Luke 1:26-35)

C) *GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT*

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine third Person of the Trinity, eternal, underived, possessing all the attributes of personality and deity. In all the divine attributes He is coequal with the Father and the Son. We believe that the work of the Holy Spirit began at Pentecost, when He came from the Father as promised by Christ to initiate and complete the equipping and empowering of Believers. We believe that the Holy Spirit has given certain gifting to mankind to build and strengthen the Church and to show the love of God to a broken world. This equipping and empowering is what brings boldness, the gifting and ability to perform miracles, pray in other tongues and other signs that demonstrate and communicate the goodness of God.

(Matthew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 28:25-26; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Acts 1:5,8; Acts 2:1-4).

4.3 REDEMPTION

We believe that man was created perfect, in union with God, but that by voluntary choice, sinned. The penalty of sin is spiritual death and the only hope of redemption is found in Jesus Christ. Salvation from sin is found by the grace of a merciful God through faith in Jesus Christ. It is not from good works; it is a gift of God, freely given through faith in the Son of God. (Genesis 1:26-31; Romans 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 10:9-10)

4.4 SANCTIFICATION

We believe that every person who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ is sanctified (set apart) unto God by God's mercy and grace. Because of our justification we are declared holy and righteous unto God. This is an instant work upon our salvation and is a positional truth of who we are in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit is working in the life of every believer, who yields to His will, to become more upright in action, word and deed. It is by the Holy Spirit that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life but also the personal responsibility of every believer to live an upright life before God and all mankind.

(Acts 20:32; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 30; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 6:14-18; Romans 6:1-23; 8:29; 12:1-2)

4.5 THE CHURCH

We believe that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the Church, the bride of Christ, of which Christ is the Head. We believe that the formation of the Church, the Body of Christ, began on the Day of Pentecost and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture. We believe that the Church is thus a unique spiritual organism designed by Christ, made up of all born-again believers in this present age. We believe that the establishment and continuity of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures and that the members of the one spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies.

(1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23-32; Revelation 19:7-8; Ephesians 1:22; 4:15; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:1-21, 38-47; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Ephesians 2:11-3:6)

4.6 LAST DAYS

A) *RESURRECTION*

We believe that Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death of the cross. In addition, both those who believe on the Lord and those who do not will be resurrected when they die: they that believe to eternal life in heaven, and they that do not believe to eternal damnation in hell. We believe that Heaven is the eternal dwelling place for all believers in Christ. Hell, on the other hand, is the place of final judgement for those who rejected Christ's free gift of salvation.

(Luke 24:16, 36, 39; John 2:19-21; 20:26-28; 21:4; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:42, 44; Philippians 1:21-23, 3:21; Matthew 5:3, 12, 20; 6:20; 19:21; 25:34, 41; Mark 9:43-48; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 14:9-11)

B) *THE SECOND COMING*

We believe that Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth for the second time to rapture (take away) His people and then to establish His kingdom on earth. This will occur at a date that only God knows and that Scripture does not state.

(Matthew 24:30; 26:63-64; John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-8; Revelation 1:7)

4.7 MARRIAGE & SEXUALITY

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person in His image as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. 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 Holy Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between one man and one woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication (sexual activity outside of marriage), homosexual behavior, bisexual behavior, transgendered behavior, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography is of a sinful nature. The Church does not permit same-sex unions nor same-sex weddings to be conducted in any Church buildings nor on Church property, which is in line with biblical standards. Nor may any church facility or any portion of the church property be used in a way that contradicts the Church’s Constitution and Bylaws, which includes this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality. This applies to all church property facilities and property. We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the Church, it is imperative that all persons employed by the Church in any capacity, or hold any office, agree to and abide by the Church’s Constitution and Bylaws, which includes this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality. We believe this statement on marriage and sexuality represents the truth and love taught in the Bible. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity as defined in the Bible, regardless of their own personal view on marriage, gender and sexuality. We believe that everyone, inside the Church and outside the Church, must be afforded love and respect. Hateful and harassing attitudes and actions, and violent behavior directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the Bible nor the beliefs of the Church.

(Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:18-25; Hebrews 13:4; Matthew 19:4-6; Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:27-36)

4.8 ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH

A) *BAPTISM*

We believe the ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in Scriptures. All who repent and believe on the Lord Jesus as their Savior are to be baptized. In baptism, a believer declares to the world that they have symbolically identified with the sacrifice of Christ’s death and that

they have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. Baptism is not the means to salvation but an outward display of an inward working.

(Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:4)

B) *COMMUNION*

We believe in the Lord's Supper (Communion) as a time that believers share in remembering the sacrifice of Christ. The bread symbolizing His body that was broken for our healing; the liquid symbolizing His blood that was shed for our forgiveness. It is a time to reflect, repent and rejoice in His life, death and resurrection, for it was His way of uniting the believer with Himself.

(Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:23-26)

4.9 GOD'S PROVISION

A) *HEALING*

We believe in the healing power of God, spiritually, mentally and physically. We believe that it is the free gift of God to every believer and was the part of the ministry He commissioned to the Church. Spiritual healing came when Christ died and was resurrected for us. Mental, emotional and physical healing came from the brokenness of Christ on the cross and is a sign which is to follow believers by the power of the Holy Spirit.

(Psalm 103:2-3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 16:17-18; Acts 8:6-7; James 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; romans 11:29; John 3:3-11; 2 Timothy 1:7; 2:11; Philippians 4:7-8)

B) *FINANCIAL*

We believe that it is the Father's will for believers to be whole, healthy and successful in all areas of life. Due to the fall of mankind (sin), many may not receive the full benefits of God's will while on earth. That fact, though, should never prevent any believer from seeking the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to serve others.

(Joshua 1:8; Malachi 3:10-11; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-10; Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Psalm 34:10; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Mark 10:29-30)