

### ARTICLE III - THE DOCTRINAL BASIS

The Scriptural doctrines, which every member believes and accepts, are briefly contained in the articles of faith:

- 1) **THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:** We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God from Genesis through Revelation, that it is God's Revelation to man, inerrant in the original writings and that it is therefore the supreme and final authority in all matters of doctrine, faith, and life (II Timothy 3:16-17).
- 2) **THE TRINITY OF THE GODHEAD:** We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, I John 5:7, Romans 1:7, Hebrews 1:8, and Acts 5:3).
- 3) **THE PRE-EXISTENCE, DEITY, AND INCARNATION OF JESUS CHRIST:** We believe that Jesus Christ ever existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and that in His incarnation He was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and is true God and true man (John 1:1-19 and I Timothy 3:16).
- 4) **THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN:** We believe that man was created in the image of God; that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature, are totally depraved and for those who reach moral responsibility become sinner in thought, word, and deed, and that they must be born again to be accepted of God (Romans 5:12, Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, John 3:1-21, and Genesis 1:26).
- 5) **THE DEATH, RESURRECTION, AND ASCENSION OF JESUS CHRIST:** We believe that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and a substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. We believe that He rose bodily from the dead on the third day in the same body in which He suffered and died. We also believe that our Lord ascended into Heaven, that He is now seated at the right hand of the Father and is our High Priest and Divine Advocate with the Father. We believe that by His finished work of the Cross and His unceasing ministry of intercession in Glory, that Jesus Christ has procured for every believer Eternal Redemption, Eternal Salvation, and Everlasting Life (I Corinthians 15:3, Romans 5:9, I Corinthians 15:4, John 20:27, Mark 16:19, Hebrews 8:1, Hebrews 7:25, I John 2:1, Hebrews 9:12, Hebrews 5:9, and John 3:16).
- 6) **THE PERSONALITY AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Person, that He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and that He regenerates the sinner by the Word of God, that He permanently indwells the Church, and the body of each believer, that He seals, enlightens, instructs, and guides every born-again person, and that He is the efficient power for godly living, Christian service, and spiritual worship

(John 16:7-15, John 3:5-7, I Peter 1:23, Ephesians 4:30, and John 14:16-17 and 26).

- 7) **THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH:** We believe that the church of Jesus Christ was begun at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended from Heaven and came into the Church; that it is composed solely of the of born-again people who have been called out from among the Jews and Gentiles to become the Body and Bride of our Lord; that Christ glorified in Heaven is the Head, and that the Holy Spirit on Earth is the active agent of the Godhead, whoever seeks to bring about within its ranks conformity and obedience to the Word of God and the will of God; that the one body unites believers to each other and all to Christ, and that the members should edify one another in the Lord; and that the chief purpose of the body's existence is to evangelize the world and to complete itself through the winning of lost souls to Christ (Acts 2:14-15 and 1:8, Ephesians 5:23-24, Mark 16:15, I Corinthians 12:12-13, and Romans 1:16).
- 8) **ORDINANCES:** We believe that two ordinances are significant above any other that Christians are commanded to observe, namely, Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper. While we recognize that Water Baptism has no saving merit, it is our conviction that after one is saved, baptism is the next step in order to portray to the world the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. It is our conviction that the scriptural method of water baptism is immersion. We believe that Jesus Christ instituted the Lord's Supper to commemorate His death til he comes. We further believe that water baptism by immersion is observed but once, and is a sign of identification, and a testimony to newness of life, but the Lord's Supper is commemorative and is to be observed often as a memorial of the Broken Body and the Shed Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 6:4, Colossians 2:9-13, I Corinthians 11:23-33).
- 9) **OUR LORD'S SECOND ADVENT:** We believe in the Blessed Hope, the personal, pre-millennial, pre-tribulational, and imminent return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which is known as the Rapture of the Church. We also believe in the personal, visible, and glorious return of Christ to the Earth with His Saints at the end of the Great Tribulation. This phase of His coming is known as the Revelation of Jesus Christ. When He returns to Earth with His Saints, we believe that Jesus Christ will establish His millennial Kingdom and will reign for one thousand years (Titus 2:13, I Thessalonians 4:13-17, John 14:3, Revelation 19:11-21, 20:1-6, and II Thessalonians 2).
- 10) **ISRAEL'S PLACE IN GOD'S PROGRAM:** We believe that "the gifts and calling of God are without repentance," and therefore that His covenant people Israel, now blind and scattered, shall be redeemed and re-gathered to the Land of Promise which is commonly known as Palestine; and that under the personal and millennial reign of Christ upon David's throne in Jerusalem, they shall become the head of the nations, and that "the Gentiles shall come to their light, and kings to the brightness of their rising." (Romans 11:25-29, Psalm 72, Isaiah 60:3).
- 11) **THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD:** We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just at the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:16, I Corinthians

15:51-57) and of the unjust at the end of time (Revelation 20:11-15, John 5:28-29, Acts 24:15).

- 12) **THE ETERNAL STATE OF THE SAVED AND THE LOST:** We believe in a Heaven and a Hell; Heaven being the place of eternal conscious joy for all who receive Jesus Christ as their personal Savior; Hell being the place of eternal conscious punishment in the Lake of Fire for all who reject Jesus Christ as Savior (John 14:1-6, Psalm 16:11, Philippians 1:21, 23, Psalm 9:17, John 8:24, II Thessalonians 1:7-9, and Revelation 20:10-15).
- 13) **THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN:** We believe that Satan is a personal being, a fallen angel, prince of demons, the god of this world, the great enticer and deceiver, the adversary of Christ and His people, the accuser of the brethren (Isaiah 14:12-15, Ezekiel 28:12-19, II Corinthians 4:3-4, I Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:9-10, Matthew 25:41, and Revelation 20:10.)
- 14) **THE JUDGMENT OF SATAN:** We believe that Satan has been judged already by Jesus Christ on the cross by His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension. We believe that he is under the feet of every believer who abides in Christ. We believe that Satan will be judged at the white throne judgment (Colossians 2:14-15, I John 3:8, Ephesians 1:22-23, John 15:7, Genesis 3:15, Revelation 19:21, Revelation 20:10-15).
- 15) **SEPARATION AND SANCTIFICATION:** We believe that the Scriptures clearly teach non-conformity to the world for every believer; that born-again people should be separated from the world unto Christ; that it is clearly commanded of God to all believers to live lives of separation from all worldly and sinful practices and to be holy as He is holy; I Peter 1:16. We believe that positional sanctification occurs at the moment of regeneration and that practical sanctification is to be progressive throughout the entire life-span of a believer here on Earth, and that final sanctification is to take place at the Rapture. God's provision for holy living is in the believer's identification with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, and ascension; in the indwelling Person and power of the Holy Spirit and the believer's yieldedness to Him; and by the powerful Word of God (Colossians 3:1-4, II Corinthians 6:14-17, Titus 2:14, I Peter 1:14-16, Colossians 1:13, Hebrews 10:1,14, Hebrews 4:12, II Corinthians 7:1, 3:18, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Galatians 5:16-23, John 17:17, Ephesians 5:25-27, II Corinthians 1:10, Romans 6:1-14, Ephesians 1:15, 2:6, II Peter 3:18).