

ARTICLES OF FAITH

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH of Holly Springs, South Carolina

Our intent in bringing these Articles of Faith is to place the emphasis on the Holy Words of God, and not on man's interpretation of them. As such, the Scriptures are bolded, and our statements are in subjection to them.

The statement of faith, which cannot be changed or diminished, which this church shall embrace, preach, and defend is specifically set forth as follows:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	The Holy Scriptures	3
	Verbally Inspired, Completed, Final Authority, Inerrant	
II.	The Godhead	4
	Eternal, Three Persons, Co-Equal	
III.	The Person and Work of Christ	5
	a. Eternal, Man and God, Virgin Birth, Redemption	
	b. Redemption and Propitiation, Justification	
	c. Resurrected and Ascended, Exalted, Advocate	
IV.	The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit	8
	a. Person, Convicting, Indwelling, Sealing	
	b. Teacher and Guide, Filling and Controlling	
	c. Sanctification, Renewal, Image of God, Holiness	
	d. Spiritual Gifts, Sign Gifts, This Present Age	
V.	Creation	12
	Father-Son-Spirit, By His Word, From Nothing, 6 Days	
VI.	The Personality of Satan	13
	Person, Author of Sin, Enemy of God, Condemned	
VII.	The Total Depravity of Man	14
	Image of God, Original Sin, Lost Condition	
VIII.	Salvation	15
	Gift of God, Not Works, Faith, Christ's Blood	
IX.	The Assurance of Believers	16
	Assured, Liberty, Endure	
X.	Obligation of Believers	17
	Great Commission	
XI.	The Church	18
	Universal Church, Local Body, Exalt, Edify, Evangelize, Separation and Holiness	
XII.	The Last Days	19
	a. Rapture, Second Coming	
	b. Tribulation	
	c. Millennial Kingdom	
	d. Eternal Judgment	
	e. Sanctification, Glorification, New Heaven and Earth	
XIII.	Human Sexuality	24
	a. Sexual Activity, Gender	
	b. Legitimate Marriage	

I. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES:

We believe the Holy Scriptures of both the Old and the New Testaments to be the verbally inspired, completed Word of God, and the final authority for faith and life, inerrant and infallible in the original writings.

1 Cor 2:13

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

2 Peter 1:20-21

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Tim 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Heb 1:1-2

1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Ps 119:105

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Deut 12:32

32 What thing so ever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Prov 30:5-6

5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Matt 5:18

18 For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

(Additional: He1:1-2,4:12, De4:2, Jn10:35, Re22:19)

II. THE GODHEAD:

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons-- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; co-equal in power and glory.

Deut 6:4

4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:

Zech 14:9

9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

2 Cor 13:14

14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

1 Tim 2:5

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

John 15:26

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 17:21-22

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

1 Peter 1:2

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

	Father	Son	Spirit
Eternal	Ps. 90:2	Rev. 1:8, 17	Heb. 9:14
Omnipresent	Jer. 23:24	Eph. 1:23	Ps. 139:7-10
Omniscient	Jer. 17:10	Rev. 2:23	I Cor.2:10-11
Omnipotent	I Pt. 1:5	II Cor. 12:9	Rom. 15:19
Holy	Rev. 15:4	Acts 3:14	Eph. 4:30
Righteous	Rev. 16:7	I Cor. 1:30	Rom. 8:4
Loving	II Cor.13:14	I John 3:16	Rom. 15:30

(Additional: Mt12:19, De4:35, Ga3:20,4:6, ICo8:4, Is44:6, ISam2:2, Jnl:14,6:27, Ep4:6, Ac5:3-4, ICo3:16, Ti2:13)

III. THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST:

III. A. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man.

John 1:1-3

1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Isa 7:14

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Luke 1:34-35

34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

John 1:14

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Matt 26:63-64

63 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

64 Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

John 1:34

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John 3:18

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1 John 4:14

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

(Additional: Mt8:29,14:33, MK1:1,3:11, Lk1:35,4:41, Jn3:16, He10:21, IJn5:10-11)

III. B. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through his death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by his resurrection from the dead.

1 Peter 2:24

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Gal 6:14

14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

Rom 3:24-25

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Eph 1:7

7 In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

Rom 5:9,10,12

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 5:18-19

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

1 Peter 1:3-5

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

(Additional: ICol:17-18,20, Ep1:7,2:16, Ro5:8-12)

III. C. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ literally and physically arose from the dead and ascended to heaven; and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate.

Rom 8:34

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Eph 1:20

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Acts 2:31-33

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Acts 1:9

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Eph 4:8

8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

John 3:13

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Heb 9:24

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Heb 8:1

8:1 Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

1 John 2:1

2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

(Additional: IJn1:1-2, Ph2:9, He3:1,4:14-15)

IV. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

IV. A. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person distinct from the Father and that the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and that today He immediately indwells the souls of all believers, sealing them unto the day of redemption.

John 16:8-11

8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 Of sin, because they believe not on me;

10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more;

11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

1 Cor 12:12-13

12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.

13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Rom 8:9-11

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Eph 1:13-14

13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

2 Cor 1:22

22 Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Cor 5:5

5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

(Additional: 2Co3:6, Ep4:30, Ro8:15-16, Jn14:17, Ga4:6)

IV. B. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine Teacher who guides and illuminates believers through the Scriptures, and that it is the privilege as well as the duty of all the saved to be filled with and controlled by the Spirit.

John 16:13-15

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

John 15:26

26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 14:26

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Luke 12:12

12 For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

Matt 10:19-20

19 But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak.

20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

1 Cor 2:12-13

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Eph 5:18

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

(Additional: Ex31:3, Nu11:25, Ju3:10, ISam10:6,10,16:13, Is11:2, Ps51:11, Jn3:5-6, ICo2:12-16 IICo3:6, Lk1:15,41,67, Acts2:4,4:8,31,13:9, Ro8:14)

IV. C. We believe sanctification in the Holy Spirit to be the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled step by step to live unto righteousness and true holiness.

2 Thess 2:13

13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

2 Cor 3:18

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

1 Peter 1:2

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

Rom 8:4-5, 9-11

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Col 3:10

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Eph 4:23

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

1 Peter 2:24

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

(Additional: Ro6:6,14,22,8:3-13, IICo7:1, He12:9-14, ITh4:7, Ep4:24, IJn3:10)

IV. D. We believe that the Holy Spirit is the giver of spiritual gifts. However, we believe that the spiritual "sign gifts" which were used to authenticate new prophecy and new scripture are not present in this age. For example: the gifts of apostles, sign-miracles, new revelations, and tongues as an evidence of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit ceased with the close of the Apostolic period of church history. Any so-called apostles, sign-miracle workers (or "Faith Healers"), giving of new revelations, or charismatic utterances in this present age are not ordained of God.

1 Cor 12:8-11

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

Eph 4:11

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

Acts 1:21-22 (Qualification of an Apostle)

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

Eph 2:20 (Foundation has already been built ... no more Apostles)

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Heb 2:3-4 (Purpose of some gifts: confirmation of Apostle's words)

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

1 Cor 13:8

8 ... but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

(Additional: Mk16:17, Ac2:3-11,10:46,19:6, ICo12:28-31,13:8-11,14:4-11,18-40, Ep4:11-12, IPe4:11, Ro12:6-8,15:19, Ga5:22)

V. CREATION:

We believe that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in the beginning, by the word of His power, made from nothing the heavens and the earth and all things therein within the space of six literal days, and "it was very good."

Gen 1:1-2, 26-28, 31

1:1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Ex 20:11

11 For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Jer 10:12

12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.

John 1:1-3

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Ps 104:30

30 Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth.

(Additional: Ge1:all)

VI. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN:

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin, and the cause of the fall; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire.

Gen 3:1, 4-5

3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

Rev 20:2

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

Job 1:6-7

6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Isa 14:12-14

12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

13 For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

Matt 4:3, 5

3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.

5 Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

Matt 25:41

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Rev 20:10

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

(Additional: Ge3:1-14, ICh21:1, Jo:all, Ps109:6, IIEc3:1-2, Mt4:1-11,16:23,25:41, Lk4:1-13,22:3, Jn8:44,13:2, Ac13:10, IIColl:3,14, Ep4:27,6:11, ITi3:6-7, IITi2:26, He2:14, Ja4:7, IPe5:8, IJn3:8-10, Ju9, Re2:9-10,24,3:9,12:9,12,14,20:2)

VII. THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN:

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. We believe that man is, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition.

Gen 1:26-27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Rom 3:22-23

22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Eph 2:1-3

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Rom 5:12-14

12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Rom 5:17-19

17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.

19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.

(Additional: He11:3, Is43:7, Co1:16, Re4:11, Ge3:1-7, IICo5:17,21,11:3,14, ITi2:14, IITi2:9, Ge2:17,3:16-19, ICo2:14, Ep1:3,2:12,4:8, Ti1:15, Ro7:18-19,21-25, He9:27,10:14, Le 4:13, Ro3:10-12,8:22, Ph3:9,20-21, IPe2:24, Ga3:26)

VIII. SALVATION:

We believe that salvation is the gift of God, apart from works, brought to man by grace and received by repentance from sin and by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His shed blood.

Eph 2:8-9

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

John 1:12-13

12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 3:16, 18

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

Heb 10:19-20

19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus,

20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Heb 9:25-26

25 Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others;

26 For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Rev 1:5

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

(Additional: Ro5:8-9,11-12,18-19,12:3, IIPe2:1,3:18, Ep1:all,2:8-10, 5:25, Ac11:18,13:48, IPe1:2, IICo3:18, He12:24)

IX. THE ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS:

We believe it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh and clearly warns believers to avoid unbelief and licentiousness, and clearly admonishes us to endure until the end.

John 6:37-40

37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

38 For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 10:27-30

27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

29 My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

30 I and my Father are one.

Rom 4:21

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

1 Cor 8:9

9 But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

Gal 5:13

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Rom 6:15

15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

Matt 24:13

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13

13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

(Additional: Pr1:33, Ec3:14, Jn1:12-13,5:24,17:2-3,9-26, Ro5:7-10,8:1,31-39,13:13-14, Ga 5:13, Ep1:4-14,4:30, Ph1:6, Ti2:11-15,3:5-7, IITi2:11-13, He3:12-13,7:22-25,10:12-14,12:1, 13:5, IPe1:3-5, IIPe2:9, Jul1)

X. OBLIGATIONS OF BELIEVERS:

We believe that it is the obligation of the redeemed to witness by life and by word to the truths of the Holy Scriptures and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all mankind. All believers are under obligation, therefore, to sustain established witnesses and to contribute by prayers, gifts, and personal effort to the extension of the Gospel throughout the whole earth.

Matt 28:19-20

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

2 Cor 5:19-20

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

Luke 9:60

60 Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.

Acts 10:42

42 And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead.

2 Tim 4:1-2

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

John 13:35

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

John 15:12

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

XI. THE CHURCH:

We believe that the Spirit places all true believers into the body of Christ, which is the universal church. In his wisdom, God designed the timeless, invisible, universal church to have temporal, visible, local expression in the local body of believers. Believers gather regularly to exalt the God above them, edify the believers among them, and evangelize the world around them.

We believe that God's holiness demands that His people pursue holiness. Separation is primarily positive in that God sets believers apart for Himself and believers set themselves apart for God.

1 Cor 1:2

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

1 Peter 2:5

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

1 Cor 16:1-2

1 Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.

2 Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come.

Acts 2:47

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Heb 10:24-25

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1 Peter 1:15-16

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

(Additional: ICo6:11,12:7,13, Ep1:22-23, Ro1:1,16:16, IPe2:9, ITh1:1 Gal:2)

XII. THE LAST DAYS: (Eschatology)

XII. A. We believe that there will be a "Rapture" of believers prior to the Great Tribulation.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ shall return to the earth at an hour known only to God, and that because the time of His coming is hidden, believers should live in a state and attitude of constant readiness for His return.

Acts 1:11

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

1 Thess 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

1 Cor 15:52

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Matt 24:40

40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Matt 24:44

44 Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Luke 17:34-36

34 I tell you, in that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left.

35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Mark 13:32-33

32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Heb 9:28

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

XIII. B. We believe that in God's proper time (which has not occurred yet) there shall be a Tribulation period.

Dan 12:7

7 And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

Rev 12:14

14 And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

Rev 12:6

6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

Rev 11:2

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

Rev 13:5

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

Matt 24:21-22

21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

Matt 24:23-24

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not.

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Mark 13:20

20 And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh should be saved: but for the elect's sake, whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days.

Mark 13:22

22 For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.

XIII. C. We believe that after the Tribulation the Lord Jesus Christ shall set up His Millennial Kingdom on the earth.

Rev 20:1-7

1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.

6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

7 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

Mark 13:24-27

24 But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun shall be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light,

25 And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

26 And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

27 And then shall he send his angels, and shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from the uttermost part of the earth to the uttermost part of heaven.

XII. D. We believe that the bodies of the unregenerate will be resurrected after death to face their eternal judgment from God. God will consign them to eternal fire, contempt, destruction, chains, torment, and punishment.

Heb 9:27

27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

2 Peter 3:7

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Rev 20:12

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:14-15

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Matt 25:41

41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Matt 25:46

46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

2 Thess 2:12

12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

Matt 23:33

33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Rev 21:8

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Mark 9:43-44

43 And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:

44 Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

XII. E. We believe that the eternal saving work of God will reach its consummation when "all the ransomed church of God [will] be saved to sin no more." Final sanctification and glorification await all true believers. God's people will enjoy the presence of God forever in a new heaven and a new earth.

Rom 5:9-10

9 Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Eph 5:27

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

Rom 8:17

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Rom 8:29-30

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Isa 65:17

17 For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

John 14:2-3

2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Rev 21:3-4

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

XIII. HUMAN SEXUALITY:

XIII. A. 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 homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance.

Gen 2:24

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Gen 19:5, 13

5 And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where are the men which came in to thee this night? bring them out unto us, that we may know them.

13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

Lev 18:22-24

22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

23 Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion.

24 Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you:

Rom 1:26-27

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.

1 Cor 6:9

9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

1 Thess 4:3-4

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

(Additional: Ge26:8-9, Le18:1-30, Ro1:28-29, ICo5:1,9-13, ITh4:1-8, He13:4)

XIII. B. We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman.

Gen 1:27-28, 31

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of

31 And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

Gen 2:24

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Gen 3:16

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

Lev 18:22

22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.

1 Tim 3:2

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

Titus 1:7

6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

Rom 7:2

2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

1 Cor 7:10

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

Eph 5:22-23

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Eph 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;