

**ARTICLES OF FAITH
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
SALEM, OREGON**

ARTICLE I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally, word for word, inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and supreme standard by which all humans conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

ARTICLE II. Of the True God

- A. GOD THE FATHER:** We believe there is one and only one, living and true God; an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly of the Godhead there are three persons, The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2-3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; 2 Corinthians 13:14.
- B. GOD THE SON**
1. **His Deity:** We believe in the absolute deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; that He is divine as no other man can be, being Very God of Very God, existing from all eternity, co-equal with the Father and the Spirit; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humanization did not consist of laying aside His Deity; that in His incarnation His Deity was not set aside. John 1:1-2; 1 John 5:20; Colossians 1:13-17; 1 Timothy 3:16.
 2. **His Virgin Birth:** We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Spirit in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no man was ever born or could ever be born, is both the Son of God and God the Son. Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:14, Luke 1:26-38.
- C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that he was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world, he restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the New Birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer, and indwells every true child of God. Genesis 1:1-3; Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:35; John 14:16, 17, 26; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; Acts 11:16; Romans 8:14, 16:26-27; I Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13-14.

ARTICLE III. Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe in the distinct personality of Satan, that He is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of the darkness of sin, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire. Matthew 4:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10.

ARTICLE IV. Of the Creation

We believe the Genesis account of Creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. Genesis 1 and 2; John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17.

ARTICLE V. Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created in innocence but by voluntary transgression fell into sin, thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that now all mankind is born in sin and shaped in iniquity and become willful sinners with the first expression of personal choice, and so are without excuse before God. Genesis 3:1-6, 24; Romans 1:18-32, 3:10-19, 5:12, 19.

ARTICLE VI. Of the Redemption from Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, Who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made complete atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust; Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen physically and bodily from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful Person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfection. He is in every way qualified to be the suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Savior. Matthew 18:11; John 3:16; Romans 3:24,25; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 2:7-8; 1 Corinthians 15:3; Hebrews 2:14; 1 John 4:10; Isaiah 53:4-7.

ARTICLE VII. Of the Blood of Jesus Christ

We believe that by and through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, we have been purchased, "justified, reconciled, sanctified, cleansed, " and "made nigh"; that Jesus has been set forth as a propitiation for our sins. Acts 20:28; Romans 3:25, 5:9; Ephesians 1:7; 2:13; Colossians 1:14, 20; Hebrews 9:19,22, 13:12; 1 Peter 1:18; Revelation 1:5, 5:9, 12:11.

ARTICLE VIII. Of Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth, the one dead in trespasses and sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3, 6:8, Acts 16:30-33, Romans 6:23; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 19; Ephesians 2:5; Colossians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:1.

ARTICLE IX Of the Security of the Believer

We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. John 5:24, 6:37, 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6; 1 John 5:11; Jude 24.

ARTICLE X. Of Justification

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification;

- A. That justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness.
- B. 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, His righteousness is imputed to us. Isaiah 53:11; Acts 13:39; Romans 4:25, 5:1, 9, 8:1, 29-30; Titus 3:5.

ARTICLE XI Of Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. Acts 16:31; Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:8-10; Hebrews 11:6.

ARTICLE XII Of the Local Church

We believe that a local church is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the fits, rights and privileges invested in them by His work; that its officers are pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of any individuals or organizations; and that the one and only head is Christ (Ephesians 5:23), through the Holy Spirit, that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; on all matters of membership, of policy of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41-42, 15:12-14, 20:17-28; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 3:15-16.

ARTICLE XIII Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with the effects of that faith in our lives as it produces death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is prerequisite to the privileges or church membership. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and our continual fellowship with Him and should be preceded by baptism, as well as salvation, and always careful self-examination. We believe the elements used in the Lord's Supper are symbols only. Matthew 3:16; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-47; 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-6; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; Colossians 2:12.

ARTICLE XIV Of the righteous and the Wicked

We believe 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 Christ, 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 and after death, in the everlasting conscious felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Genesis 18:23; Proverbs 14:32; Malachi 3:18; Matthew 25:34-41; Luke 6:25, 16:19-31; John 8:21, Romans 6:17,18,23; 7:6; I John 5:19; Revelation 20:10-15.

ARTICLE XV. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth. 2 Samuel 23:3; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:19-20, 5:17-32; 23:5; Romans 13:1, 7.

ARTICLE XVI Of the Resurrection and Personal, Pretribulation (70th Week of Daniel), Premillennial Return of Christ, Visible to Believers and Related Events

We believe in the bodily, personal, premillennial return of Jesus Christ; that He will come before the seven year tribulation period to catch away His church, coming only into the air, and that He will come with His church at the close of Tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His kingdom on earth. We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of the dead; that believers who sleep in Jesus (whose souls and spirits are now in heaven) will receive their glorified bodies at the coming of saints to meet the Lord in the air, and that the wicked dead will be raised at the close of the Millennial Kingdom and stand in their bodies at the Great White Throne Judgment to receive their final doom Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 25:31-46; John 5:21-30; I Thessalonians 4:13-18, 5:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 7:9-17, 19:11-21, 20:11-15.