

# ARTICLES OF FAITH OF FELLOWSHIP BIBLE CHURCH

## SECTION A. ARTICLES OF FAITH:

### 1. THE BIBLE:

We believe the 66 books which comprise the Old and New Testaments to be the only verbal, plenary inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed. II Tim. 3:16,17; II Pet. 1:20-21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12,13.

### 2. THE GODHEAD:

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit -- co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections. Deut. 6:4; II Cor. 13:14; Matt. 28:19; I Pet. 1:2; Heb. 9:14; Gen. 1:26.

### 3. THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST:

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 men. John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35.

b. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious, substitutionary sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. Rom. 3:24,25; I Pet. 2:24; Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:3-5.

c. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ 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. Acts 1:9,10; Heb. 9:24; 7:25; Rom. 8:34; I John 2:1,2.

### 4. THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

a. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers at the moment of salvation into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. John 16:8-11; II Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14.

b. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; and, that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. John 13; I John 2:20,27; Ephesians 5:18.

5. THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN:

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved, and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. Gen. 1:26,27 Rom. 3:22,23; Rom. 5:12; Eph. 2:1-3,12.

6. SALVATION:

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of sins. Eph. 2:8-10; John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; I Pet. 1:18,19.

7. THE ETERNAL SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS:

- a. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power thus secure in Christ forever. John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1,38,39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Pet. 1:5.
- b. We believe that 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. Rom. 1:13,14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15.

8. THE TWO NATURES OF THE BELIEVER:

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit; and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature in this life are unscriptural. Rom. 6:13; 8:12,13; Gal. 5:16-25; Eph. 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; I Pet. 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9.

9. SEPARATION:

- a. We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy and apostate organizations, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God. II Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1,2; 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Cor. 6:14-7:1; Rom. 16:17; Titus 3:10.
- b. We believe that sexual intimacy is a wonderful gift of God that is only to be expressed between one man and "one" woman ("each" as genetically defined), within the love and bonds of marriage (Gen. 2:24-25; Matt. 19:4-6; 1 Cor. 7:3-5; Heb 13:4). Therefore, we believe that any other form of sexual intimacy is both immoral and a perversion of God's gift (Lev. 18:1-30; Prov. 6:32; 1 Cor. 6:18; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Thess. 4:3-8).

## 10. MISSIONS:

We believe that it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all mankind. Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:19,20.

## 11. THE MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS:

- a. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today; that speaking in tongues and the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established. 1 Cor. 12:4-11; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12.
- b. We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted. Jn. 15:7; 1 Jn. 5:14,15.
- c. We believe that the biblical offices of pastor and elder in the church, or their equivalents, are restricted to biblically qualified men. 1 Tim. 2:12; 3:1-7; Tit. 1:5-9.

## 12. THE CHURCH:

- a. We believe that the Church, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of this present age. Eph. 1:22,23; 5:25-27; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; 2 Cor. 11:2.
- b. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. Acts 14:27; 20:17,28-32; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11.

## 13. CHURCH ORDINANCES:

- a. We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, to show forth in a beautiful emblem of our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. Baptism symbolizes our death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Christ. 1 Pet. 3:21; Matt. 28:19,20.
- b. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes. 1 Cor. 11:23-32.
- c. We believe that only the ordinances mentioned above are to be practiced in this present church age until His coming for the Church.

## 14. DISPENSATIONALISM:

We believe the dispensational view of Bible interpretation is the natural, literal understanding of God's dealing with man. We believe that dispensations are stewardships or "rules of life" in which God deals with mankind in successive periods of time. We believe that dispensations are not different ways of salvation, but different

responsibilities God gives to man according to His purposes. We believe that God's promises to Israel will be literally fulfilled before Israel, not spiritually fulfilled in the Church (Rom. 11:11,25). We believe that the dispensations of Law, the Church, and the Millennial Kingdom are distinct in Scripture. Eph. 1:10, 3:2-10; John 1:17; 1 Cor. 9:17; 2 Cor. 3:9-18; Gal. 3:13-25; Col. 1:24-25; Heb. 7:19; Rev. 20:2-6.

#### 15. 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. Job 1:6,7; Matt 4:2-11; 25:41; Rev. 20:10.

#### 16. THE SECOND ADVENT OF CHRIST:

We believe in that "Blessed Hope," the personal, imminent, pre-tribulational and premillennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints, to establish His millennial kingdom. 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Zech. 14:4-11; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:1-6; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9; Rev. 3:10.

#### 17. THE ETERNAL STATE:

- a. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men: the saved to eternal life and joy in the presence of our Lord, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. Matt. 25:46; Jn. 5:28,29; 11:25,26; Rev. 20:5,6,12,13.
- b. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord; There after being translated to the New Heaven and The New Earth. Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16,17; Rev. 21:1; 2 Pet. 3:10-13.
- c. We believe that the souls of the unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. Lk. 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Mk. 9:42-48; Rev. 20:11-15.

#### 18. 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 those 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. Rom 13:1-7; 2 Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21; Acts 23:5.