

Berean Baptist Church: Articles of Faith

Each and every person in order to become or serve as the Pastor, a member of the pastoral staff, a deacon, trustee, teacher, or leader of a ministry in this church shall subscribe to the following Articles of Faith:

1. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be verbally inspired by God and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life. The King James Version shall be the official Bible used by the church. (I Cor. 2:13; 10:11; II Tim. 3:16,17; II Peter 1:21)

2. We believe in one God who is Creator of heaven and earth; who is Spirit, light, love, truth, eternal, almighty, infallible, unchangeable, infinitely wise, just, holy; and that God eternally exists in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:2,3; I Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11; John 10:30; II Cor. 13:14)

3. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, the Eternal Word manifested in flesh. We believe that He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son. (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1,2,14,18; 3:16; Phil. 2:5-8)

4. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. (John 1:29; Rom. 3:25, 26; II Cor. 5:14; Heb. 10:5-19; I Peter 2:24; 3:18; I John 1:7)

5. We believe that our Lord arose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, and in the same body, though glorified, in which He had lived and died, and that His resurrection body is the pattern of that body which, at the return of Christ, will be given to all resurrected believers. (Luke 24:36-43; John 20:20; Acts 2:32; I Cor. 15:23, 42-45; Phil. 3:20, 21)

6. We believe that our Lord ascended to heaven, is seated at His Father's right hand assuring us of the perfection of His work of redemption, and that He now as Head over all things to the Church is engaged on behalf of the saved as Intercessor and Advocate. (Heb. 1:3,13; Eph. 1:22,23; Heb. 7:25; I John 2:1)

7. We believe in our Lord's personal, imminent and pre-millennial return for his redeemed ones followed by His coming in glory to judge the rebellious and to establish His millennial reign on earth. (John 14:1-3; I Cor. 15:51,52; Phil. 3:20; I Thess. 1:10; 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; II Thess. 2:7-10; Matt. 24:29-31; Zech. 14:4-11)

8. We believe that man was originally created in the image and after the likeness of God; that he fell through sin; that he, as a consequence of His sin, lost his spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and that he became subject to the power of the devil. We also believe that this spiritual death, or total depravity of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire human race of man, the Man Christ Jesus alone being excepted; and, hence, that every child of Adam is born into the world with a nature which not only possesses no spark of divine life, but is essentially corrupt in body, mind, and soul. (Gen. 1:26; 2:17; 6:5; Ps. 14:1-3; 51:5; Jer. 17:9; John 3:6; 5:40; 6:53; Rom. 3:10-19; 8:6,7; Eph. 2:1-3; I Tim. 5:6; I John 3:8)

9. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior are instantaneously born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God. (John 1:12, 13; 3:3-8, 16; 5:24; Rom. 10:9,10; 8:16; Acts 16:31)

10. We believe that the Holy Spirit, being the third Person of the Godhead, convicts men of sin, regenerates, indwells, baptizes, seals, and sets believers apart to a holy life; and that He keeps and empowers believers day by day. We believe that He is the Teacher of the Word of God and our Guide for daily life. (John 16:7-11; 3:6; 14:17; I Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 12:13; Eph. 1:13; 4:30; I John 2:20-27; I Peter 1:1; Rom. 8:9,2,4,12,14)

11. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:4-11, 28; Eph. 4:7-12). We believe that the signs of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing, were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. (I Cor. 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22)

12. We believe in the eternal security and everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the eternal conscious punishment of the lost. The preservation of all believers rests upon the finished work of Christ, the promises of God, the gracious election, and the sovereign predestination of God. (John 5:24; 10:28, 29; 8:31; 13:1; 17:11; 14:16; Rom. 8:28-39; Phil 1:6; Heb. 7:25; I Peter 1:5; Jude 24, I John 5:4, 18; Matt. 25:41; Mark 9:42-48; Rev. 20:11-15)

13. We believe that Christ instituted the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be observed until He comes. (Matt. 28:19,20; Acts 10:47; 19:5; Luke 22:19, 20; I Cor. 11:23-26)

14. We believe that the Church of Jesus Christ is composed solely of those who have been redeemed and washed in His blood and regenerated and sealed by the Holy Spirit. We believe that they are saved to worship and to serve; that it is the responsibility and privilege of all who are saved to seek to win others to Christ, to the "Uttermost part of the earth" and that they should seek to live a holy life by separating themselves from and forsaking all that might dishonor God, cast discredit on His cause, or weaken their testimony. (Matt. 16:16-18; Rev. 1:5; Titus 3:5; Eph. 1:13, 14; Titus 3:7, 14; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:12)

15. We believe there is a personal devil, a being of great cunning and power who is "The prince of the air," "The prince of this world," "The god of this age." We believe that he can exert vast power but only so far as God suffers him to do so and that he shall ultimately be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone and shall be tormented day and night forever. (Job 1:6,7; Ezek. 28:11-19; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 2:2; John 12:31; II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 20:10)

16. We accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came by direct creation of God and not by evolution. (Gen. 1:2; Col. 1:16, 17; John 1:3)

17. We believe that civil government is of Divine appointment for the interests and good of human society and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed except in things opposed to the Word of God - the Bible. (Rom. 13:17; II Sam. 23:3; Ex. 18:21, 22; Acts 23:5; 5:20; 4:19, 20; Matt. 22:21; 10:10; Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-14; 2:17; Rev. 10:16; Phil 2:10, 11; Psalm 72:11)

18. 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. It pictures our death to sin and resurrection to a new life and that it is a prerequisite to church membership. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the showing forth of His death until He comes again and should always be preceded always by self-examination. (Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23; Matt. 3:16; Col. 2:12; I Cor. 11:23-38)

19. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. (Gen. 2:24; Gen. 19:5,13; Gen. 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29; I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4)

20. We believe that God intends marriage to last until one spouse dies. Remarried or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and be greatly used of God for Christian service; they may not be considered for the offices of pastor or deacon. (Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 19:3-12; Rom. 7:1-3; I Tim. 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

21. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth, or population control, or the mental well being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24, 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

22. We believe that God has given the Church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that there might be a great multitude from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, and language group who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ, we must use all available means to go to the foreign nations and not wait for them to come to us. (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Cor. 5:20)

23. We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Cor. 6:1-8; Eph. 4:31-32)

24. We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; I Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 1Tim. 5:17-18; 1 John 3:17)

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members.