

FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH, INC.

ARTICLES OF FAITH AND COVENANT

SECTION 1.1 -- ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. OF THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men supernaturally inspired; that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter and therefore is and shall remain to the end of the age the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man; the true center of Christian union; and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creed and opinions should be tried. (II Sam. 23:3; Luke 16:29-31; II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; Acts 1:16, John 10:35; Rom. 3:1-2)

- A. By "The Holy Bible" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which as originally written, does not only contain and convey the word of God, but is the very word of God.
- B. By "inspiration" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old as they were moved by the Holy Spirit in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally and verbally inspired and free from error as no other writings have ever been and ever will be inspired.
- C. As a matter of conviction we believe the authorized version 1611 KJV is the preserved word of God and it is the only version to be used in the pulpit and educational classes of Faith Baptist Church.

II. THE TRUE GOD

We believe that God is a title applied equally to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God; and infinite, intelligent spirit, the maker and supreme ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love, that in the unity of the Godhead where are three persons – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost – equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Jer. 10:10; Isa. 6:3; Rom. 1:20; John 10:30; Eph. 2:18; Matt. 28:19; I John 5:7).

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father, the Son and of the same nature; that He is active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world, He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled – for He convicts of sin, judgment and righteousness; that He baptizes, seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. The Holy Spirit fills the believer, empowering him for soul-winning service. We do not believe that the evidence of salvation or being filled with the Holy Spirit is now, or ever has been, speaking in

tongues. We reject the modern-day movement referred to as “charismatic”, “faith healers”, and other para church groups that suggest this group of people has some sort of “Pentecostal power” that we do not have as born again Bible believing Christians. (John 14:25, 16:13; Ezek. 36:27; Rom. 8:13; I Thess. 5:19; Eph. 4:30; Acts 2:1-5; I Cor. 12:13)

IV. CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has been in existence throughout all eternity equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. He was born of the Virgin Mary being conceived of the Holy Ghost. He possessed the nature of God and the nature of man. He lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death on the cross, was resurrected bodily in three days, ascended to be with the Father and is there seated at His right hand making intercession for us and will return bodily. (Heb. 1:2, 7:25; John 17:5; Luke 1:31-35; I Peter 1:19-20; I Cor. 15:3-4)

V. OF THE DEVIL, OR SATAN

We believe that Satan was once holy and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant Prince of the Power of the Air, and the unholy god of this world consisting of the unholy trinity – the anti-christ, beast and false prophet. We hold him to be man’s greatest tempter, the enemy of God and Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy, the lord of the Antichrist and the author of all powers of darkness; destined however, to final defeat at the hands of God’s Son and judgment of an eternal justice in hell – a place prepared for him and his angels. (Isa. 14:12-17; Gen. 3:15; Ezek. 28:15-19; Luke 10:18; II Peter 2:4; James 2:19; Acts 5:3; Rev. 12:9)

VI. OF THE CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation; that it is to be accepted literally, not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God’s image and after His own likeness; that man’s creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower of higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly; and God’s established law was that they should bring forth only “after their kind”.

VII. OF THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his maker, but by voluntary transgression, fell from his sinless and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but by choice; and therefore, under just condemnation, without defense or excuse. (Gen. 1:27, 2:7, 3:4-7; Psa. 51:5; John 1:2-3; Rom. 5:12-14; 7:23-25; Col. 1:21)

VIII. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR 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 a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement

consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the 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 from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tender sympathies with divine perfection. He is every way qualified to be a suitable, compassionate and all sufficient Saviour. (Exo. 29:38-39; Lev. 23:26-27, 17:11; Matt. 20:28; John 1:7, 6:51; Rev. 1:5; Col. 1:14)

IX. OF THE 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 new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made 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; not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man; but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit, in a connection with divine truth so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appear in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. (John 3:1-8; I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 2:8-9, 4:20; Titus 3:3-7)

X. OF THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe in God's electing grace; that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel; which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation. (Mark 16:16; John 3:14-18; Rom. 5:1-11; Eph. 1:5, 2:4-10; Rev. 22:17)

XI. OF JUSTIFICATION

We believe that the Gospel which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification. The justification includes the pardon of sin and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; 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 unto us. (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:1; Titus 3:5)

XII. OF REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are solemn obligations and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the quickening spirit of God thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness and of the way of salvation by Christ. We turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only and all sufficient Saviour. (Mark 1:14-15, 6:12; John 16:8-11; Acts 3:19, 16:30-32, 17:30; Rom. 10:7)

XIII. OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

We believe that a Church in Christ is a congregation of baptized believers who are associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in

them by His Word; that its officers of ordination are Pastors or Elders and Deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. We believe the true mission of the Church is found in the Great Commission. We further acknowledge that all those won through these efforts are true members of the Body, Bride and Building of Christ, and share the same rewards. We hold that the local Church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations and that the one and only superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true Churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the furtherance of the gospel; that every Church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation. On all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline and of benevolence the will of the local Church is final.

XIV. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe the ordinances given to the local Church are two, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that Christian Baptism is the immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. That the Lord's Supper is the partaking of the bread and cup by the believer as a continuing memorial of the broken body and shed blood of Jesus Christ. (Matt. 3:13-17, 28:19-20, 26:26-27; John 3:22-23; Acts 8:38-39; Rom. 6:3-5; I Cor. 10:16-17, 11:23-30)

XV. THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day. It is a Christian institution of regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercise of worship and spiritual devotion: both public and private; and resting from secular employment; works of necessity and mercy only excepted. (Matt. 28:1-6; John 20:1; Acts 20:7)

XVI. THE PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

We believe that such only are real believers as are born again; that they are observing attachment to Christ, are not on the merits of good or bad works or any endurance on their part. But He, Christ, endured the cross, despising the shame, that all who would trust Him as their personal Saviour are saved by His redeeming blood. We believe that a born-again believer will have some fruits of regeneration, that a special providence watches over their welfare and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto eternal salvation. (John 5:24, 3:14-16; Rom. 8:10, 35:39; I Cor. 3:11-15, 11:32; Titus 1:2; Eph. 1:13-14, 4:30; John 10:27-30; John 3:36)

XVII. 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 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. This distinction holds among men, both in and after death, in the everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. (Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:48; Luke 23:43; John 3:36; Rom. 9:23-24; I Thess. 4:10-17; Rev. 20:10-15)

XVIII. OF HOLINESS OF THE SAINTS

We believe the Bible gives clear definition of the kind of life-styles that are abominable to God and we embrace and agree with God that Homosexuality, Lesbianism, Fornication, and Adultery are truly reflective of a person that does not agree with God about sin and stand firmly against such un-Godly practices. Scripture condemns unnatural relationships between man and man or woman and woman. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. (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; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4).

We also believe the Bible teaches us not to indulge¹ ourselves in the use of alcoholic beverages of any kind, nor the use of drugs which are not prescribed by a physician for our well-being. (Rom. 1:18-32; I Cor. 6:9-11, 7:1-2; Lev. 10:9, 18:20; Pro. 23:19-35, 6:32; Rom. 13:13; Ex. 20:14; Matt. 5:28)

XIX. 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 only in those things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the coming Prince of the kings of earth. (Rom. 13:1-17; Deut. 16:18; Jer. 30:21; Matt. 10:28, 22:21, 23:10; I Peter 2:13; Acts 5:29; Rev. 19:16)

XX. OF THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe in the second coming of Christ; that His return from Heaven will be personal, visible and glorious, a blessed hope for which we should constantly watch and pray, the

time being unrevealed but always imminent; that when He comes He will first by resurrection of the dead and translation of the living remove from the earth His waiting Church, then pour out the righteous judgments of God upon the unbelieving world, afterwards descend with His Church and establish His glorious and literal kingdom over all the nations for a thousand years. (I Thess. 4:13-18; Acts 1:10-11; Rev. 19:11-16; Zech. 14:4)

XXI. OF FUTURE LIFE, BODILY RESURRECTION AND ETERNAL JUDGMENT

We believe that the spirits of the saved at death go immediately to be with Christ in Heaven; that their works shall be brought before the judgment seat of Christ for the determination of rewards which will take place at the time when Christ comes for his own; that the spirits of the unsaved at death descend immediately into Hell where they are kept under punishment until the final day of judgment, at which time their bodies shall be raised from the grave, that they shall be judged and cast into the lake of fire, the place of final and everlasting punishment. (I Cor. 15:51-55; Dan. 12:2; Luke 16:19-31; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15)

XXII. MARRIAGE

We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. (Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23)

XXIII. ABORTION

We believe that human life begins at conception, and that the unborn child is a 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; Psalm 51:5, 139:14-16; Isa. 44:24, 49:1-5; Jer. 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44)

SECTION 1.2 – AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH

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 forgoing statement of faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.