



ARTICLES OF FAITH

ARTICLE I The BIBLE

We believe that the Bible – both the Old and the New Testaments – are the verbally inspired Word of God, and supreme and final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible and God-breathed. *2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:20-21*

ARTICLE II GOD

We believe in the Triune God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-eternal in being, equal in every divine attribute and perfection; that they execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence and redemption. *Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:6; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14*

ARTICLE III The PERSON and WORK of CHRIST

1. 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 to the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. *John 1:1,2,14; Luke 1:35; Hebrews 2:15; Philippians 2:5-8*
2. 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. *Isaiah 53:5, 6; Romans 3:24-25; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18*
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and now is exalted at the right hand of God as our High Priest. He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate. *Acts 1:9, 10; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24; Romans 8:34; 1 John 2:12*

ARTICLE IV
The PERSON and WORK of the HOLY SPIRIT

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit – who is co-equal with God the Father and God the Son, is a Person and is personal – convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration; baptizing all believers into the Body of Christ, indwelling, sanctifying, and sealing them unto the day of redemption. *John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 12:11, 13; Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:13-14*

4. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth and that it is the privilege and duty of and command to all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. *John 16:13; 1 John 2:20-27; Ephesians 5:18*

ARTICLE V
The FALL of MAN

We believe that man was created in the image of God, was morally innocent, but by voluntary transgression (that is by choosing to disobey God), fell into the state known as “original sin.” Because of The Fall, the whole human race became sinful; consequently, all are sinners (by nature and by choice) and all are under God’s just condemnation; all are without defense and all are without excuse. *Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 1:18-21; Romans 3:10-23; 5:10-19*

ARTICLE VI
SALVATION

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God to mankind through God’s grace alone and received by personal faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of sins. We believe that those who repent of their sins and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior are regenerated by the Holy Spirit. We believe that “*whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*” *Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12; 14:6; Acts 4:12; 16:30; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Romans 10:13*

ARTICLE VII
The ASSURANCE of SALVATION

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 prohibits the use of such assurance as permission or justification to sin. *John 10:27-29; Romans 6:1-2; 8:31-39; Phil. 1:6; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15*

ARTICLE VIII GODLY LIVING

We believe that all those who have a personal relationship with God should live in such a manner as to glorify God and enhance His reputation by godly living and Christlikeness. In doing so, each believer, by the help of the Holy Spirit, is accountable to God's Word and to one another, must intentionally avoid and guard against all religious apostasy, and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices and associations as commanded by God; that they should be faithful stewards of their possessions; and that they should seek to realize for themselves and others the full stature of maturity in Christ. *2 Tim. 3:15; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 9-11; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 7:1*

ARTICLE IX The CHURCH

1. We believe the local church is a congregation of believers, associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, willingly submitting to His Word; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in the church by His Word, that its officers are as stated in the Constitution, that it has the absolute right of self-government directed by the Holy Spirit; it is answerable only to Christ as Head of the Church, and that the true mission of the Church is honoring God by making more disciples for Jesus Christ.
2. We believe that the local Church may have fellowship with other groups as it desires, subject only to the commands of the Word and the direction of the Holy Spirit. Such fellowship cannot control or coerce the local Church and may be terminated at anytime by the will of the Church for reasons sufficient unto itself. We believe in the universal Church, a living spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and all regenerated persons are members (locally and worldwide). *Matthew 16:18-19; 18:15-17; Acts 5:29; 15:1-35; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 Timothy 3:1-15; Eph. 5:23; Col. 1:18*

ARTICLE X The ORDINANCES

We believe that there are two Church ordinances: **Baptism** and the **Lord's Supper**.

1. **Baptism:**
We recognize water baptism as an outward sign of the inner work of grace accomplished in regeneration through faith of the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ; identifying with His death, burial, and resurrection. Since Baptism is commanded of all

Christians, FBC exhorts and encourages every believer to participate in baptism by immersion, not as a means of salvation, for we are saved by faith (see Article VI). We believe that baptism is one way in which a believer makes a public profession of Faith (the others being verbal testimony, verbal witness, and lifestyle). We do not consider water baptism essential to salvation and do not insist upon it as a qualification for church membership. *Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:48; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:12*

2. Lord's Supper (*Communion*):

We observe the Lord's Supper; sharing and partaking of the bread and cup; believing that the bread and cup are symbols of Christ's body and blood. The Lord's Supper is observed in commemoration of His death until He comes. Participating in observing the Lord's Supper strengthens our continual fellowship with Him and should always be preceded by careful self-examination. We practice "open communion" among fellow believers of like Faith. *1 Corinthians 11:23-32*

ARTICLE XI **The PERSONALITY of SATAN**

We believe that Satan is a created being; he has fallen, and by virtue of his personal forcefulness and permission of God has become the leader of the anarchic forces of wickedness. As a free being, he has directed his life to evil and has become altogether and hopelessly evil. The Bible describes him as the "evil one"; the one whose nature and will are given to evil; he is the open and declared enemy of God and man and shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. *Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11; Matt. 13:19, 38; John 8:44; Revelation 20:10*

ARTICLE XII **The SECOND COMING of CHRIST**

We believe in the bodily, personal, pre-millennium return of Jesus Christ, that He will return before the seven (7) years of Tribulation period to take His Church and that He will return with His Church at the close of the Tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His Kingdom. *Matthew 25:31-45; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 19:11-21*

ARTICLE XIII **The ETERNAL STATE**

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all mankind, the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. *Matthew 25:46; John 5:28, 29; 11:25, 26; Revelation 20:5, 6, 12, 13*

2. 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; appearing before the Judgment Seat of Christ; glorified forever with the Lord. *Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:8, 10; Phil. 1:23; 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rom. 14:10*
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the Second Resurrection, when the spirit, soul, and body reunite; they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. *Matt. 25:1-26; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 10:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6, 7; Rev. 20:11-15*

ARTICLES XIV The MINISTRY and SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1. We believe that God graciously and sovereignly gives a spiritual gift (or gifts) to each believer for works of service to build up the Church (the Body of Christ). We believe that the “sign” gifts (speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, healing, etc.) were intended to authenticate the work of God in the early Church (Acts 2) and therefore not normative for today. *Romans 12:4-8; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Peter 4:10-11*
2. We believe that God does answer prayers of faith according to His will, for the sick and afflicted. *John 15:7; James 5:14-16; 1 John 5:14-15*

ARTICLE XV of CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that civil government is a Divine appointment for the interests and good of human society; that civic leaders are to be prayed for, honored and obeyed, except in things that oppose the will of our Lord Jesus Christ. *Exodus 18:21, 22; 2 Sam. 23:3; Daniel 3:17, 18; Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7; Acts 4:19, 20; 5:20; 23:5*