

# Calvary Baptist Church Articles of Faith

## **Section I - Concerning The Scriptures**

We believe that the Scriptures comprising 66 books of the Old and New Testaments as originally written were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and therefore are entirely free from error. We believe the Bible is the complete revelation of God's will for men and final authority in all matters of faith and practice and the true basis of Christian union.

## **Section II - Concerning The True God**

We believe in one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, existing in three equal persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet executing distinct and harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

## **Section III - Concerning The Lord Jesus Christ**

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, in His eternal existence with the Father in pre-incarnate glory; that He became flesh and dwelt amongst us being begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin. We believe He lived a life upon earth of absolute sinlessness, and that in His death He made full and vicarious atonement for our sins, dying as a voluntary substitute in the sinner's place. We believe in His literal bodily resurrection from the dead on the third day, His ascension to the right hand of the Father in heaven where He now sits as our great high Priest "ever living to make intercession for us". We believe in His second coming and that it will be personal, visible, bodily, imminent and pre-millennial.

The pre-millennial position is the official position of the church in relation to our Lord's return but belief in the pre-millennial position is not a requisite to membership.

## **Section IV - Concerning The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the absolute and essential deity and personality of the Holy Spirit who convinces the unbelieving world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, who regenerates, indwells, seals, sanctifies, illuminates, guides, brings comfort to all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

We further believe that the baptism "in" the Holy Spirit referred in Acts 2:1-11 was the fulfillment of the announcement made by John the Baptist and promised by Christ during His earthly ministry and that it was then that the disciples were individually endued with power to witness concerning Christ, and collectively baptized into that one body which was the formation of the Church, the body of Christ.

## **Section V - Concerning Man**

We believe that man was divinely created in the image of God; that he sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in his total depravity, thereby incurring physical and spiritual death.

## **Section VI - Concerning Salvation**

We believe the Scriptures teach that the salvation of sinners is wholly by God's grace through the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ; it is entirely apart from man's work, and is upon the sole condition of repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ: that in order to be saved the sinner must be born anew, being regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit thus becoming a recipient of a new nature called the Divine nature. We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification which includes pardon of sin and the imputing of divine righteousness and that having exercised personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the believer is completely justified and is in possession of salvation which is eternally secure.

## **Section VII - Concerning Sanctification**

We believe that Sanctification is a setting apart unto God and is threefold:

- a) Because the believer is IN CHRIST, as to his "standing" he is already sanctified or set apart unto God.
- b) While the believer's standing is perfect IN CHRIST, his day-by-day state, or daily experience is changing either for the better or worse. Thus, so far as his state is concerned there is progressive sanctification where he grows in grace and becomes more like the Saviour day by day. This progressive aspect of sanctification takes place by the Word; its constant washing; by the blood of Christ; and by the in working presence and power of the Holy Spirit.
- c) We believe that the child of God will be fully sanctified in his state at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, as he is now sanctified in his standing in Christ.

## **Section VIII - Concerning the Eternal State**

We believe the Scriptures teach that all who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will spend eternity in full enjoyment of God's presence in a place called Heaven, and that those who through impenitence and rejection of Jesus Christ as Saviour refuse to accept God's offer of salvation will spend eternity in everlasting punishment in a place the Bible calls Hell or the Lake of Fire.

## **Section IX - Concerning Satan**

We believe the Scriptures teach that Satan is a person; that he is “the god of this age; the prince of the power of the air” who is full of all subtlety and mischief, who seeks continually to frustrate the purposes of God and to ensnare the sons of man. We believe he is the father of all fake religions and the inspirer of all Apostasy; destined to final defeat at the hands of the Son of God; to suffer eternal punishment in a place called Hell prepared for him and his angels.

## **Section X - Concerning the Local Church**

We believe that a Baptist Church is a body of born again, immersed believers called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus Christ, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe the local church is a sovereign independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, the Great Head of the Church. We believe that its principal officers are Elders (as defined in the Scriptures to include those whose function is pastor and not in the stricter term of this document) and Deacons (as of this date defined as ministry team leaders [MTL] in our context).

## **Section XI - Concerning Ordinances**

We believe that there are only two ordinances for the local church regularly observed in the New Testament in the following order:

1. Baptism – which is the immersion of the believer in water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, whereby he obeys Christ’s command and sets forth his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.
2. The Lord’s Supper – which is the memorial wherein the believer partakes of the two elements, bread and fruit of the vine which symbolize the Lord’s body and shed blood, proclaiming His death until He comes.

## **Section XII - Concerning Separation**

We believe in the separation of the church from combined meetings with any and all organizations or groups who deny the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, or any of the great fundamental doctrines of the Word of God, the Bible.

We further believe the Bible clearly teaches non-conformity to the world for every believer, that it is clearly commanded of the Lord that all believers live lives of separation from worldly, sinful and doubtful practices unto Jesus Christ.

### **Section XIII - Concerning Church and State**

We believe in the entire separation of Church and State.

### **Section XIV - Concerning the Lord's Day**

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, which commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and that, in a special sense, it is the divinely appointed day for worship and spiritual exercise.

### **Section XV - Concerning Christian Stewardship**

We believe that the stewardship of the believer consists of time, talent and tithe. We believe in personal, voluntary, regular, systematic and proportionate giving to the support of the local church and the spread of the gospel to the regions beyond. This is best accomplished as the Scriptures teach by the tithing of our income and the presenting of an offering unto the Lord.

### **Section XVI - Concerning Civil Government**

We believe that the seat of civil government is of divine appointment for the interest and good order of society. Magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

### **Section XVII - Concerning Marriage**

We believe that God, in His sovereign plan, created both male and female for their mutual help, comfort and for procreation, and that the union between a man and a woman was ordained of God from the beginning as a holy institution (Gen. 2: 21-24). Furthermore, we believe that the teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ as recorded by the writers of the New Testament (Matt. 19: 4,5, Mark 10: 7-9) is that the marriage covenant is the union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, so long as they both shall live.