

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article I – Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible, as originally written, was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit controlled men, and therefore has truth without admixture of error for its matter. We believe that it is the true center of Christian union and the only infallible rule for all human conduct, creeds, and opinions.

(II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21)

Article II – Of the True God

We believe that there is only one living and true God, infinite in every excellence; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three personal distinctions – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – yet one in substance and equal in every divine perfection.

(Exodus 20:2,3; I Corinthians 8:6; I John 5:7)

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; that He was divine as no other man can be, being very God of very God, existing from all eternity co-equal with the Father and the Spirit; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist in laying aside His deity; that as man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary.

(John 1:1,2; I John 5:20; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26-38)

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and Son and of the same substance and nature; that He was active in creation, convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, bears witness to the Truth, is the Agent of the New Birth and that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies, and helps the believer, indwelling every true Child of God, and that He restrains the evil one.

(II Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16, 17; Romans 8:9-16)

Article III – Of the Devil, or Satan

We believe in the distinct personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, author of all powers of darkness and sin, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire.

(Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10)

Article IV – Of the Creation

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, “each after its own kind”, by direct act, and not by process of evolution.

(Genesis 1, 2; Colossians 1:16, 17; John 1:3)

Article V – Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man, in the person of the first Adam, was created in innocence but by voluntary transgression fell into sin thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that now all mankind is born in sin and shapen in iniquity and become wilful sinners with the first expression of personal choice, and so are without excuse before God.

(Genesis 3; Romans 1:18-32; Romans 5:10-19)

Article VI – Of the Redemption from Sin

We believe that the only escape from the condemnation of sin is through the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ, when He voluntarily took upon Him a human body and nature, yet without sin, and by His death, and resurrection made full satisfaction to the justice of God for the sin of man; that the blessings of this salvation are given on the grounds of grace to all who believe and confess Him as Savior. We believe it is the immediate duty of all to receive Christ as Savior.

(John 1:1-3, 3:1-7; Hebrews 10:4-14; Acts 16:30-33)

Article VII – Of Salvation by Grace

We believe that faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation from sin and this salvation is wholly grace; that no works, however good, make that salvation more secure.

(Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 10:9-13)

We believe that all who take Christ as their Savior are born from above and are eternally secure in Christ.

(John 10:28, 29; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6)

Article VIII – Of the Church

We believe that the Church is a New Testament institution; unknown to Old Testament prophets; established by Jesus Christ, Who is its sole Head; revealed through the holy Apostles; empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit; His “body” for service and His “Bride” for glory. It began with the New Testament saints and will be consummated at the coming of Christ in the Rapture.

(Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8, 2:1-13, 41-47; I Corinthians 12:12-28;

Ephesians 1:22,23, 5:23-33; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We believe that the Church is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in it by His word; that its officers are bishops (or elders or pastors) and deacons; that it has the absolute right of self-government directed by the Holy Spirit and it is

answerable only to Christ, and that in all matters of membership, policy, government, discipline and benevolence the will of the local church is final.
(Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 1:2, 6:4,5, 7:17; I Timothy 3:1-15)

Article IX – Of the Ordinances

We believe that there are two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water and is properly called "Believer's Baptism". It sets forth in a beautiful and solemn way our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with the effects of the faith in our lives as it produces death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is a prerequisite to the privilege of church relation. The Lord's Supper is the commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes and our continual fellowship with Him. It should be preceded by baptism and always by careful self-examination.

(Acts 8:36-39; Romans 6:3-5; I Corinthians 11:1,2, 23-32)

ARTICLE X – OF MORAL RESPONSIBILITY AND CONDUCT

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and should abstain from sinful pleasures by walking in obedience to the Scriptures.

(Romans 12:1-2, 14:13; I Corinthians 6:9-10; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1, 10:5; Galatians 5:16; I Thessalonians 4:1-12; I John 2: 15-17)

We believe that God ordained marriage as the union between one man and one woman exclusively. In obedience to Scripture, we believe that this church, its pastor(s), deacons, and its members shall not sanction, perform or recognize any other union. We believe that any other union is sinful and those participating in any other union are disobeying Scripture and shall be subject to church discipline.

(Genesis 1:27-28, 2:22-24, 19:5,13; Leviticus 18:1-30; Matthew 19:5,6; Ephesians 5:29-31; Romans 1:21- 32; Hebrews 13:4)

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Divorce and remarriage is regarded as adultery except on the grounds of fornication. Although divorced and remarried persons 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.

(Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2, 12; Titus 1:6)

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. We believe God is the author of life and sustains life until natural death. We believe abortion, infanticide and euthanasia violate the teachings of Scripture.

(Genesis 1:27, 2:7; Exodus 20:13, 21:12-25; Job 1:21, 3:16; Psalm 51:5, 95:6, 100:3; 139:13-18; Proverbs 6:16-17; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-

18; Matthew 6:26, 18:5,6,10; Mark 7:10, 10:13-14; Luke 1:44, 18:16, Acts 17:24-25; Ephesians 6:2)

Article XI – Of the Righteous and Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only such as through faith are justified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in God's esteem; while all such who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and that this distinction holds among men both during life and after death, in the everlasting conscious happiness of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

(Malachi 3:18; Romans 6:17-23; Matthew 25:34-41; Luke 6:25, 16:19-31; John 8:21)

Article XII – Of the Return of Christ

We believe in the bodily, personal, premillennial return of Jesus Christ, that He will come before the seven year tribulation period to catch away His church, coming only into the air, and that He will come with His church at the close of the tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His kingdom on earth.

(I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 19:11-21)

Article XIII– Of the Resurrection

We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of the dead; that believers who sleep in Jesus will be raised at the coming of Christ for His church and caught up with the transformed living saints to meet the Lord in the air, and that the wicked dead will be raised at the close of the Millennial Kingdom and stand in their bodies at the Great White Throne judgment to receive their final doom.

(John 5:21-30; I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 7:9-17, 20:11-15)