

ARTICLES OF RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Article I: The Bible

We believe that the Bible is the verbally inspired Word of God, wholly without error as originally given by God, and is sufficient as our only infallible rule of faith and practice. We deny that other books are inspired by God in the same way as the Bible. Please see the position paper following the Articles of Religious Belief.

Article II: God

We believe in the one true and living God, the Creator and Sustainer of all things. He is infinite, eternal, unchangeable, and is revealed to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Father is the head of the Godhead, and into His hands the kingdom shall be delivered. The Son is the promised Messiah of the Old Testament, Jesus Christ, who was born of the Virgin Mary, hence the God-Man. He died on the cross to redeem man, rose again from the dead to justify the believer, ascended to the right hand of God where He intercedes for us, and in the Father's own time will return in visible, personal form to overthrow sin and judge the world. The Holy Spirit is the One sent from God to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, of judgment, and to regenerate and cleanse from sin. He is the resident guide, teacher, and strengthener of the believer.

Article III: Satan and Sinful Man

We believe that man was created innocent, that he was tempted by Satan, and that man sinned; because of this action, men have been born in sin since that time and are by nature the children of wrath. We believe that Satan is a personal devil who with his angels carries on the work of iniquity in this world. Sin is basically rebellion against God, and the end of sin is eternal separation from God.

Article IV: Salvation

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only Savior from sin. He atoned for our sins on the cross and rose again for our justification. Apart from Jesus Christ there is no salvation. All men are under condemnation through personal sin, and escape from condemnation comes only through the righteousness of Jesus Christ. This righteousness is imputed to the believer by grace through faith. The Holy Spirit regenerates the one who makes the life commitment to Jesus, and the life begun in regeneration is never lost.

Article V: Resurrection

We believe in the final resurrection of all men, just and unjust. We believe that those who commit their lives to Jesus Christ during this life will be raised to everlasting life, but those who are not committed to Jesus Christ in this life will be raised to everlasting condemnation.

Article VI: The Church

We believe that a New Testament church is a voluntary association of baptized believers in Christ who have covenanted together to follow the teachings of the New Testament in doctrine, worship, and practice. We believe that the only two church ordinances are baptism and the Lord's Supper. We likewise believe that only those who are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord are scriptural subjects for baptism and that immersion is the only proper mode of baptism. We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial to the Lord's death. The bread symbolizes His body that was given for us, while the fruit of the vine symbolizes His blood that was shed for us. We believe that a church is a democratic organization served by two types of officers: pastors or bishops and deacons.

Article VII: Civil Government

We believe that God established civil government. We likewise believe in the complete separation of church and state.

Article VIII: Baptist Distinctives

We are Baptists because we believe that Baptists stand for distinctive truths to which other denominations do not adhere. We believe that we cannot compromise these truths without being disloyal to our Lord and to His Word. We do seek to cooperate with all others who are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord.

Addendum: To Be Signed by All Professors

I do solemnly promise and engage not to inculcate, sanction, teach, or insinuate anything that shall contradict or contravene—either directly or implicitly—any element of the foregoing statement of religious beliefs. Now, therefore, the undersigned in the presence of God declares that he or she consents, agrees, and binds him or herself to all of the foregoing without any reservation whatsoever. He or she further agrees that he or she will immediately notify in writing the administration of the Seminary should a change of any kind take place in his or her belief that is not in accord with this statement.