



## **BETHEL GROVE**

**BIBLE CHURCH**

### **Articles of Faith**

#### **Section 1. The Scriptures**

We believe that the Bible is the inspired word and revelation of God. The Scriptures are our final authority in faith and conduct. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21)

#### **Section 2. God**

We believe that there is only one true and living God, in Whom are three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet one in essence, co-equal and co-existent. We believe that God is spirit, that He is holy, just, righteous, loving, unchanging, omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent. (Deut. 6:4; Isa. 44:6; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; I Cor. 8:6; John 4:24; Isa. 6:3; Deut. 32:4; Acts 3:14; John 3:16; James 1:17; Malachi 3:6; Heb. 4:13; Eph. 1:19-21; Psa. 139:7-10)

God the Father - We believe in God the Father, who is distinguished as such because of His particular relationship to Jesus Christ His Son. We believe that God is the Father of regenerated man. We become heirs and joint heirs with Christ through adoption made possible by the shed blood of Jesus. (John 20:17; I Cor. 15:24,28; Rom. 8:14-17, 23; Eph. 4:6; I John 3:1)

God the Son - We believe that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity and the eternal Son of God, was begotten of Mary, a virgin, by the Holy Spirit, and was born man. He was in every respect as we are, but without sin. He is the only mediator between God and men. (John 1:1-3, 14-18; John 14:6; Luke 1:34-35; Phil. 2:5-8; Heb. 2:17, 4:15; I Tim. 2:5)

God the Holy Spirit - We believe that the divine person of the Holy Spirit has been active in the world from the beginning. It is He who shows men their sin and leads them to Jesus Christ for forgiveness. He initiates the new birth and is actively present in believers, guiding, correcting, and empowering their growth toward the stature of Christ. (II Peter 1:21; John 16:7-8; John 3:3,5; John 14:16-17; John 16:13; Acts 1:8; Eph. 4:13)

#### **Section 3. Satan**

We recognize the personality of Satan, who first tempted man to sin. Since the fall he has enjoyed power and allegiance in the created world and continues to entice men

from God and to oppose the work of the Holy Spirit. He is destined to final judgment and condemnation by God. (Gen. 3:1-13; Acts 26:18; Luke 4:1-13; Luke 8:12; Rev. 20:10)

#### Section 4. Creation

We believe that God created all things from nothing, and it was good. (Gen. 1 & 2; Col. 1:16-17; John 1:1-3; I Cor. 8:6; Rev. 4:11)

#### Section 5. Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence subject to God's commands but by willful disobedience fell from his sinless and happy state. In consequence all men are now sinners, not only by nature but also by choice. Therefore all are under just condemnation without defense or excuse and for this reason need new birth. (Gen. 3; Rom. 3:10-19; Rom. 2:1-3; John 3:3-7)

#### Section 6. Atonement

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace. The Son of God, who was Himself completely without sin, voluntarily took upon Himself our sin in obedience to the will of the Father. By His death in the sinners' place, the just for the unjust, He made a full and complete atonement. In raising Christ from the dead on the third day, God bore witness to the completion of His atoning work. (Eph. 2:8-9; II Cor. 5:21; John 10:17-18; I Peter 3:18; Heb. 9:26-28; I Cor. 15:3-4,17; Rom. 4:24-25)

#### Section 7. Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. This faith in Him involves realization of our sin and turning in repentance and trust to Him as the sole deliverer from sin. Salvation is therefore a new birth. It is release from condemnation and guilt and the imparting of divine life. The believer is a new creature whose life is bound to Jesus Christ as Savior, source and sustainer. (Rom. 3:21-26; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 16:31; John 3:3-7; John 5:24; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:17; Gal. 2:20)

#### Section 8. Christian Maturity

We believe that it is the will of God that all believers continue to mature toward the stature of Christ under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. As the believer willingly accepts the direction of the Holy Spirit, his inner life is sanctified and brought into more perfect obedience to God's will. Moreover, within the fellowship of Christians and in the world, the Spirit directs the believer toward the likeness of Christ so that by his active love he bears witness to God's presence and power within him and glorifies God before men. (Eph. 4:13; Rom. 8:14; I Thes. 4:1-3; Eph. 4:22-24; John 13: 34-35; I John 3:16-17; Matt. 5:16)

#### Section 9. The Church

We believe that the Church is the body of those who have received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Membership in the local church does not necessarily constitute membership in the body of Christ. The Church is intended to worship, to observe the ordinances and to strengthen believers in the faith. It is entrusted with God's message of salvation and is commissioned by Christ to proclaim the gospel everywhere. (Rev. 2:18-20; Eph. 1:22-23; John 4:23; I Cor. 11:23-26; Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 2:41-42; II Cor. 5:19-20; Matt. 28:18-20)

### Section 10. Ordinances

We believe that the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper are symbols of God's redeeming work and marks of public profession as Christians. They are commanded for all believers, but are of no effect apart from the believer's faith. This church shall administer Baptism by immersion signifying the believer's union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. The mode of Baptism shall not be changed by constitutional amendment. The Lord's Supper is to be received by believers only, in remembrance of Christ's broken body and shed blood. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:35-38; Acts 10:47-48; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Matt. 26:26-28; I Cor. 11:23-29)

### Section 11. Civil Government

We believe that the civil government is ordained of God for the interests and good order of society. Christians are commanded to honor and pray for those in authority and to obey their lawful commands except where these commandments oppose obedience to Christ. In exercising their responsibilities in a democracy, Christians should be guided by the awareness that a just and merciful society is pleasing to God. (Rom. 13:1-7; Mark 12:13-17; I Tim. 2:1-2; Acts 4:19-20; Deut. 16:18-20; Amos 8:4-6,10; James 5:4; Luke 10:30-37)

### Section 12. Resurrection

We believe in Christ's bodily resurrection and ascension. We believe in the personal, visible return of Christ in judgment, power and glory. The dead in Christ will be raised and the living believers will be gathered with them in His presence. The exact time and manner of these last things has not been revealed and it is the duty of all Christians to live in readiness for Christ's coming. (Luke 24:36-42; Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 25:31-32; I Thes. 4:13-5:6; Mark 13:26-27, 32-37)

### Section 13. Final State of Man

We believe that the final destination of every man will be determined entirely by his relation to Jesus Christ. All who have truly accepted Christ will be kept to dwell with Him in heaven perfect in every respect because of the presence of God. All who are not reconciled to God through Christ will be eternally separated from Him in hell. Christians should therefore labor to warn all men of the consequences of rejecting Christ. (I John 5:11-12; Phil. 1:6; John 14:2-3; Rev. 21:22-23; Matt. 7:21-23; Matt. 25:31-46; Acts 20:26-27, 31)