

ARTICLE III

DOCTRINES AND TENETS

A. Statement of Doctrine

The following basic doctrines contained in the Holy Scriptures are adopted:

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the verbally and plenary inspired Word of God, authoritative, inerrant, and God-breathed (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Matthew 5:18; John 16:12-13).

2. Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternal in being, identical in nature, equal in power and glory and having the same attributes and perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14).

3. The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, became alienated from God, and is totally unable to retrieve his original condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:12).

4. The Person and Work of Christ

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 of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man; that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice; that our redemption is made sure to us by His literal physical resurrection from the dead (John 1:12-14; Luke 1:35; Romans 3:24-25; 4:25; I Peter 1:35); that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in Heaven, exalted at the right hand of God, where, as the High Priest for His people, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:12).

5. The Personality and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, indwells all believers in the present age, baptizes them into the body of Christ, seals them unto the day of redemption, and that it is the duty of every believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; 5:18). We do not believe "speaking in tongues" as practiced by the modern "charismatic movement" is scriptural (I Corinthians 12:14).

6. Salvation

We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ whose precious blood was shed for the forgiveness of our sins (Ephesians 2:8-10; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7).

7. The Eternal Security of Believers

We believe that all believers are kept secure forever (Romans 8:1, 28-39; John 10:27-30; I Corinthians 1:48).

8. The Church

a. The Body of Christ

We believe that the Church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born again persons of this age irrespective of their affiliations with Christian organizations (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; I Corinthians 12:12-14).

b. The Local Assembly

We believe that a Bible believing church is a congregation of baptized believers associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word. We hold that the local Church has the absolute right of self-government, free from the interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is the Holy Spirit.

9. The Personality of Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, who is the open and declared enemy of God and man (Job 1:6-7; Matthew 4:21-22; Isaiah 14:12-17).

10. The Blessed Hope

We believe that the next great event in the fulfillment of prophecy will be the coming of the Lord Jesus in the air to receive to Himself the dead in Christ and believers who are alive at His Coming, otherwise known as the Rapture and Translation of the Church (1 Corinthians 15:51-57; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14).

11. The Tribulation

We believe that the Rapture of the Church will be followed by the fulfillment of Israel's seventieth week, the latter half of which is the time of Jacob's trouble, the great tribulation (Daniel 9:27; Jeremiah 30:7; Matthew 25:1-13; Revelation 6).

12. The Second Coming of Christ

We believe that the great tribulation will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to earth to set up His kingdom (Zechariah 14:4-11; Matthew 24:1-25, 46; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 20:6).

13. Eternal State

We believe that the souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation do at death immediately pass into His presence, and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the body at His coming, when soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in the glory. But the souls of unbelievers remain after death in conscious misery until the final judgment of the great white throne at the close of the millennium, when soul and body reunited shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power (Luke 16:9-26; 23-24; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6; Revelation 20:11-15).

14. The Responsibility of Believers

We believe that all believers should seek to walk in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Lord and Savior and that separation from worldly pleasures and practices is commanded of God (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14-17); that it is the obligation of every believer to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scriptures and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all the world (Acts 1:8); to remember the work of the Lord in prayer and to support it with their means as the Lord has prospered them (I Corinthians 16:2).

15. Church Ordinances

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of Baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper to be observed until His return (Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

16. Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex (Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4). Because of Divine commandments against such practices, persons engaged in immoral activities shall not be members of this church (I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9).