

LIBERTY LAKE COMMUNITY CHURCH

ARTICLES OF FAITH

The purpose of Liberty Lake Community Church is to glorify God, win the lost to Christ, encourage fellowship and maturity in Christ while teaching obedience to God's Word.

The articles of faith are set forth as follows:

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. Hence this statement of the fundamental truths is intended as a basis of fellowship among us. The truths set forth are held to be essential to a mature gospel ministry. The purpose of this doctrinal statement is to fulfill the commission of the church (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8), in the propagation of the gospel in its fullness, and to maintain biblical doctrine and order.

ARTICLE 1. THE INSPIRATION AND INERANCY OF THE SCRIPTURES

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, is God-breathed; and holy men of God were moved by the Holy Spirit to write the original manuscripts. Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the Scriptures (Old and New Testaments). The Scriptures are the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and are superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason. All portions of the Old and New Testaments are properly read and interpreted when they reveal God's redemptive plan in Christ. All Scriptures were designed for our practical instruction and admonition.

References: John 5:39; Mark 12:26-36; Acts 1:16; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 1 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:21

ARTICLE 2. THE ONE TRUE GOD

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent, self-revealed "I am". The Godhead eternally exists in three persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit with same nature, attributes and perfection, and are worthy of the same reverence, confidence, and obedience.

References: Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; Isaiah 43:10-11; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians 13-14; John 1:1-3, 14; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelations 1:4-6.

ARTICLE 3. THE CREATION AND FALL OF MAN

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image after our likeness". Adam walked and talked with God, but Adam fell through sin and lost his spiritual and physical life. Every child of Adam is born into the world with a sinful nature because this nature has been transmitted to the entire human race. The Man, Christ Jesus, was the only exception.

References: Genesis 1:26, 2:17, 3:1-7; Psalms 14:1-3; Romans 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-3, 8; 1 John 3:5.

ARTICLE 4. THE SALVATION OF MAN

Because man is lost (total depravity), salvation is altogether a work of God and no man can enter into the Kingdom of God unless he is born again. There is no work or ordinance of man that can help the sinner to take one step toward heaven.

The grace of God, which brings salvation, has appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. Man requires a new nature imparted from above, implanted by the Holy Spirit, and only those saved in this manner are sons of God. Being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life.

Redemption is accomplished only by the blood of Jesus Christ, dying in our place, so that no man can add to the value of the finished work of Christ. When an unregenerate person exercises faith in Christ, he immediately passes from spiritual death into spiritual life, justified from all judgment of God, and is accepted before God the Father as Christ His Son is accepted.

Evidence of our salvation is the direct witness of the Holy Spirit. The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness. This act of grace by God toward men is an eternal, irrevocable act and is not dependant upon man's changing attitudes, feelings, or conditions.

The saved one is complete in Christ and is in possession of every spiritual blessing and promise of God.

References: Leviticus 17:11; Matthew 26:29; Luke 24:47; John 3:3-5, 18; Acts 13:39, 16:31; Romans 1:16-17, 5:1, 10:13-15; 2 Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 3:22; Ephesians 1:3, 7; Titus 2:11; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:18-23; 1 John 4:17, 5:11-12.

ARTICLE 5. THE SECURITY AND ASSURANCE OF BELIEVERS

The divine gift of eternal life and the present and unending intercession and advocacy of Christ in heaven assures believers of eternal security. The immutable and unchangeable covenants of God and the regenerating, abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of all who are saved keeps us forever.

This assurance of eternal life is not grounded upon any fancied discovery of our own worthiness of fitness but wholly upon the testimony of God in His written Word. This assurance should excite within the believer, God's child, filial love, gratitude and obedience.

God is a holy and righteous God and He cannot overlook the sin of His children. When they sin persistently, without confession, He will chasten them and correct them in infinite love. He who cannot fail, will finally present each one faultless before His presence and conformed to the image of His Son.

References: John 5:24, 10:28, 13:1, 14:16-17, 23; Romans 8:29, 33-39; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Jude 1:24; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 1:9, 2:1-2, 5:13.

ARTICLE 6. ORDINANCES AND DEDICATION

BAPTISM: This ordinance should be followed in that it is commanded by God in His Word. The mode of baptism is by immersion in water. Baptism does not save but is rather an outward expression of an inward change.

THE LORD'S SUPPER: The Lord's Supper, consisting of the two elements, bread and grape juice, is the symbol expressing our sharing of the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ; a memorial of His suffering and death; and a prophecy of His Second Coming; and it is enjoined upon all believers "until He comes".

INFANT DEDICATION: This service shall be for the purpose of giving parents the opportunity of publicly declaring their faith and intention to train their child so that when that child comes to the age of understanding, the child may accept Jesus Christ as their Savior by personal invitation into their heart and life.

References: Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:47-48, 20:21; Romans 6:4; 1 Corinthians 11:26; Hebrews 10:22; 2 Peter 1:4.

ARTICLE 7. THE CHURCH

The Church is the body and bride of Christ and is composed of all who are by salvation in Christ. Members of the body are such regardless of membership in an organized church on earth.

All believers in this age are baptized into the body of Christ, whether Jew or Gentile, by the same Holy Spirit. Believers are to keep the unity of the Spirit, in a bond of peace, rising above sectarian differences, and loving one another with a pure heart.

References: Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:42-47; Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-17; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 1:20-23, 3:14-15, 4:3-10.

ARTICLE 8. THE CHRISTIAN WALK

The Christian is called by God to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The fallen nature is never eradicated in this life and needs to be consistently kept by the Spirit in subjection to Christ, else our lives will dishonor our Lord.

References: Romans 6:11-13, 8:2-4, 12-13; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 2:1-10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 1:4-7, 3:5-9.

ARTICLE 9. THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER AND SERVICE

The Holy Spirit bestows divine enabling gifts upon all who are saved. Each believer is indwelt and empowered by the Spirit, and each is called to his own divine service as the Spirit of God may ordain.

Each member of the Church, the body of Christ, is a priest, and is unceasingly responsible for personal worship, sacrifice, and intercession. A distinction must be observed between the priestly office of the believer which all share alike and equally and the gifts for service which differ among Christians.

Rewards are promised according to the faithfulness of each believer in His service for the Lord, and these rewards will be bestowed at the judgement seat of Christ after He comes to receive His own. This will be wholly apart from the salvation benefits which are bestowed equally upon all true believers.

References: Romans 12:1-6; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15, 9:18-27, 12:4-11; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 4:11; 1 Peter 2:5-9; Revelation 1:6.

ARTICLE 10. THE BLESSED HOPE

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation, together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church.

References: 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Titus 2:13.

ARTICLE 11. THE SECOND COMING

The return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth as He went, with great power and glory, will climax the period of the great tribulation. He will return to introduce the millennial age, bind Satan, and place him in the abyss; lift the curse which now rests upon the whole creation; restore Israel to her own land; and give her the realization of God's covenant promises and bring the whole world to acknowledge God.

References: Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:9; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Matthew 24:15-25, 46; Acts 15:16-17; Romans 8:17-23, 11:25-27; 1 Timothy 3:1-5; Revelation 20:1-2.

ARTICLE 12. THE ETERNAL STATE

At death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence and remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body when Christ comes for His own. The soul, spirit, and body will be united and thus shall be associated with the Lord forever in glory. The spirits and souls of the unbelieving remain after death, conscious of condemnation and in misery until final judgement at the great white throne at the close of the millennium. The soul, spirit, and body shall be reunited and 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. The devil and his angels, the beast, and the false prophets shall experience this same punishment.

References: Luke 16:19-26, 23:42, Matthew 25:41-46; 2 Corinthians 5-8; Philippians 1:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 1:6-7; Revelation 20:10-15.

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