

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Liberty Baptist Church

A Bible Baptist is one who believes in a supernatural Bible, which tells of a supernatural Christ, Who had a supernatural birth, Who spoke supernatural words, Who performed supernatural miracles, Who lived a supernatural life, Who died a supernatural death, Who rose in supernatural power, Who ascended in supernatural splendor, Who intercedes as a supernatural priest, and Who will one day return in supernatural glory to establish a supernatural kingdom on the earth.

I. **THE SCRIPTURES:**

The Holy Scriptures of the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, preserved for us in the Textus Receptus are verbally and plenary inspired of God. The Bible is the inspired, inerrant, infallible and altogether authoritative Word of God. Therefore, the Bible is the supreme and final authority in faith and life. We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men who were supernaturally inspired and that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; it therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the age, the only complete and final revelation of the will of God to man. The central focus of the Scriptures is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *Exodus 24:4; Psalm 12:6-7; Isaiah 40:8; John 1; 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21.*

A. **BIBLE VERSION:**

We believe the King James Version (translated from the Textus Receptus NT) is the Word of God for the English-speaking people. It will be the official and only English translation used by the church.

II. **THE GODHEAD:**

There is only one (1) true and living God existing in three (3) Persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each is a distinct Person but of one essence, and having the same perfections and divine attributes. Each is worthy of the highest love, reverence, and obedience. Each member in the Godhead was present in the eternal past and shall be present in the eternal future. *Matthew. 28:18-19; Mark 12:29; Acts 5:3-4; 2 Corinthians. 13:14.*

A. **GOD THE FATHER:**

The Holy Father reigns with providential care over His universe. He is all-powerful, all-loving, and all-wise. God the Father is Father to those who become His children by faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward His children. *Genesis. 1:1; Isaiah. 43:3; Matthew. 6:9; John 4:24; Hebrews. 12:9.*

B. **GOD THE SON:**

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ, He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus Christ became man without sin to secure the salvation for all who will believe in the Gospel. Christ shed His blood on the

cross of Calvary as a vicarious substitute, was buried, and rose again bodily. After a witnessed resurrection, He ascended to the Father and sits at His right hand making eternal intercession for His people. *Genesis. 18:1; Matthew. 1:18-23; John 1:1-18; 20: 21; 2 Peter. 1.*

C. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT:

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, co-existent and co-equal with the Father and Son. He is the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is the chief agent in the regeneration of the soul, the conviction of sin, and the comfort of the believer. Upon salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells each believer and seals him/her in salvation for all eternity. He cultivates Christian character and bestows gifts by which believers are empowered for service and worship. [The Church believes the sign and revelatory gifts (i.e. prophecy, words of knowledge, and tongues) ceased with the completion of Scripture]. *John 14:16; Acts 11:16; Romans. 8; Ephesians. 1:13; Hebrews. 9:14.*

III. MAN:

Man is a direct creation of God - body, soul and spirit. He was created in the image of God and not the result of evolution in any sense. This man was the crowning work of His Creation. Adam, the first man, sinned by disobedience. This act resulted in the legal fall of mankind and incurred both physical and spiritual death for all. Only the grace of God through salvation can bring a person back into holy fellowship with his Creator and enable him to fulfill the creative purpose of God. *Genesis 1:26-30; Psalm 8:3-6; Romans 1:19-32; Ephesians 2:1-22.*

IV. SALVATION:

All who receive Jesus Christ as Savior by faith are born again by the Holy Spirit and thus become children of God. Eternal life through Christ is the gift of God for all who repent of sin and believe in the only begotten of the Heavenly Father. Repentance and grace are two inseparable graces wrought in the soul by the quickening of the Spirit of God. Salvation involves grace, repentance, forgiveness, redemption, regeneration, justification, sanctification and glorification. *Luke 13:3,5; John 1:11-14; John 3; Acts 2:21; Romans 1:16-18; Ephesians 2:8-9; Revelation 20.*

V. ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER:

Salvation is a gift of grace from the Lord for all who believe by faith and sustained by the Lord. Therefore salvation is wholly of the Lord and apart from the works or merits of people. The believer is kept eternally by the power of God upon justification of the soul. *John 5:24; 10:28; Romans 8:29; Hebrews 7:25; 1 John 2:1-2.*

VI. CHRISTIAN WORKS:

Salvation is secured by faith alone. However, faith is never found alone. Faith is accompanied by Christian works. All true believers are servants for the Lord Jesus Christ. It

is by our works that we show our love and faith in Him. *Luke 6; 1 Corinthians 9; Hebrews 6:1; James 2; 1 Peter 1:16.*

VII. PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER:

The priesthood of all believers is such that every Christian has direct access to God in prayer through Jesus Christ our great High Priest and only mediator between God and man.

Matthew 5; Matthew 6; Romans 8:15; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 2:9.

VIII. STEWARDSHIP:

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual. All that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to God and the whole world, which includes a holy trusteeship in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Christians should contribute of their time, talents, gifts and resources for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. The tithe or liberal (grace) giving is to be considered a beginning in stewardship. *Malachi 3; Matthew 23; Matthew 25; Matthew 28; Luke 6; 12; Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 4.*

IX. THE GRACE OF GIVING:

Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the faith, and we believe in the Scriptural practice of tithing or liberal grace giving for all members and financial contributions toward global evangelism. Under grace we give, not pay, the tithe. We are commanded to bring our gifts into the storehouse (common treasury of the church) upon the first day of the week. *II Corinthians 8:7, I Corinthians 16:2, Hebrews 7:2, 4, Matthew 23:23, Leviticus 27:30, Malachi 3:10; Acts 4:34,35,37*

X. THE VIRGIN BIRTH:

We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner; born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God, and God, the Son. *Genesis 3:15; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 7:14; Matthews 1:18-25; Mark 1:1; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Galatians 4:4; 1 Corinthians 15:47; 1 John 5:20*

XI. RAPTURE AND SECOND COMING:

There will be a literal pre-millennial, pre-tribulational return of Jesus Christ in the clouds known as the rapture of His people. At this event, the dead in Christ and living believers shall be caught up to meet Him in the air. At the end of a seven year tribulation, Christ shall visibly descend with the saints to establish His earthly millennial kingdom. *Matthew 24; Acts 15:16-17; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20.*

XII. SATAN / THE DEVIL:

Satan was originally created a perfect being. He rebelled against God. As a result, he became depraved and was cast out from heaven with many angels who also fell. Satan has been judged and defeated at the cross and awaits his ultimate doom at the Second Advent of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Genesis 3; Isaiah 14:12; Matthew 4; 13:39; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20.*

XIII.HELL:

Hell is a literal everlasting place of fire, sufferings, despair and judgment for all people who do not place their personal faith in the atoning, finished work of Christ Jesus for their salvation. Hell, intended for Satan and the fallen angels, has been reserved as the final destination for those humans who reject, (either by omission or commission) the free precious gift of salvation provided exclusively and completely through Jesus Christ *Matthew 8:12; 13:42, 50; 22:13; 24:51, 25:30, 41, 46; Luke 13:28; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:10,15.*

XIV.THE LORD'S DAY:

The first day of the week is Sunday the Lord's Day. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and should be set apart for regular observance of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. *Matthew 28; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Colossians 2; Revelation 1:10.*

XV.THE LOCAL CHURCH:

A New Testament Church is a local Body of baptized believers with Jesus Christ as its head and the Holy Spirit as its guide. The Church is the citadel and propagator of the truth of the Gospel of Christ. The local Church is to be governed independently of outside persons, groups or authorities. The will of the Church is final.

The Church's Bible offices are pastors (i.e. bishops or elders) and deacons whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Holy Scriptures. Men and women are spiritually equal in their justified position before God but God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and church. The husband is the leader of the home and men are to hold the leadership positions in the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for being licensed or ordained by the Church.

The Church is committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts and privileges invested in them by His word. The purpose of the Church is to fulfill the great commission of our Lord. *Matthew 18:17; 28; Acts 2; Acts 8:1; Acts 11:26; Ephesians 5; 1 Timothy 3; Titus 1.*

XVI.CHURCH ORDINANCES:

The local Church observes two (2) ordinances – Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Each person who has received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord should be baptized in the Name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Scriptural Baptism is by immersion in water in the likeness of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Lord's Supper should be observed in remembrance of Him who suffered for our sins until He comes again. The elements of bread and fruit of the vine are symbolic of the body and blood of Jesus Christ. *Matthew 3:13-17; 26; 28:19; Luke 3:21; Acts 2:41; 8:38.*

XVII.MISSIONS:

The command to give the Gospel to the world is clear and unmistakable and this commission was given to the churches. We believe the church is to be faithfully involved in world missions with a priority of support and efforts which are long-term in nature, faithful in commitment to a particular field or region, and passionate in outreach. *Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; Romans 10:13-15*

- A. We place a priority on supporting missionaries who are church planters. This church does extensive research to ensure the quality of each supported missionary. Our missionaries are our hands and feet to the extended world, and we cannot obey the Great Commission without them.

XVIII.CREATION:

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and that it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that man was created directly in God's own image and after His own likeness; that man's creation was not a matter of evolution or evolutionary change of species, or development through interminable periods of time from lower to higher forms; that all animal and vegetable life was made directly, and God's established law was that they should bring forth only "after their kind." *Genesis 1; 5; Deuteronomy 4:32; Psalm 19:1; Mark 13:19.*

XIX.ISRAEL:

The Nation of Israel is a special place in the heart of God and all Christians should bless Israel. The prophecies regarding the Nation of Israel will be literally fulfilled with Israel. The Church is in no way to be confused with the prophecies regarding Israel and its restoration to God. The Church in no way substitutes the Nation of Israel. *Genesis 12:1-3; 17:19; 46:3; Exodus 32:10; Joel 3; Zechariah 2:8; 3; Matthew 24; Luke 20:37-38; Acts 3:13; 7:32; Romans 11; 16:25; Ephesians 3; Colossians 26-27.*

XX.RELIGIOUS LIBERTY:

Religious liberty is given by the authority of God. While God has ordained the existing governmental powers, man's highest authority is the Word of God. Therefore, the Church is free from all commandments of men that are in conflict with the Word of God. *Matthew 6:24; 22:21; Romans 13:1; Galatians 5:1; 1 Peter 2.*

XXI.CIVIL GOVERNMENT:

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ; who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the kings of the earth. *Exodus 18:21-22; II Samuel 23:3; Psalm 72:11; Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 10:28, 22:21, 23:10; Acts 4:19-20, 23:5; Romans 13:7; Philippians 2:10-11; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14, 17*

XXII.HUMAN SEXUALITY:

God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one 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. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. *Genesis 2:24; Genesis 19:5, 13; Genesis 26:8-9; Levites 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrew 13:4.*

A. ROLES:

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and church. The husband is to be the leader of the home and men are to be the leaders (pastors and deacons) of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. *Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:8-15, 3:4-5, 12*

XXIII.MARRIAGE:

The only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. Since marriage is between one (gender) man and one (gender) woman, we believe it is against the teaching of the Scripture to perform a wedding or civil union of any other type. We also believe it wrong to use church property to perform such ceremonies. *Genesis 2:24; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23.*

A. DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE:

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Believers who divorce on any grounds not specified by Jesus in Matthew 19, and then remarry, are guilty of adultery. While divorced men or women can serve in the local church, divorced men cannot hold the positions of pastor or deacon. *Malachi 2:16; Matthew 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-15; 1 Timothy 3:2&12*

B. God's Word teaches it would be inconsistent to allow people to become members of the church living a deviant lifestyle inconsistent with God's commands concerning sexuality. Members found to be living this immoral lifestyle shall be dealt with according to the Word of God. *Ephesians 5:3*

XXIV.ABORTION:

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, unexcused taking of unborn human life. Abortion is murder. We reject any teaching that abortions of pregnancies due to rape, incest, birth defects, gender selection, birth or population control, or the physical or mental well being of the mother are acceptable. *Job 3:16; Psalm. 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah. 44:24; 49:1, 5; Jeremiah. 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44*

XXV.MUSIC:

Music in the church should exalt the Lord and educate, encourage, and edify the individual believer and the whole church; it is to be used by believers to evangelize the lost by showing the change to their hearts in song.

Christian music should be inoffensive and conforming to all biblical instruction. Musical instruments and the components of music are neutral. However, once notes are arranged into music and played, the performance has a physical, emotional, and spiritual influence of its own. Therefore, music is not to be considered neutral. It is the practice of this church to stand against “Christian” rock music and other worldly, rebellious forms which have seduced many into joining that which is holy to that which is profane. Traditional singing of hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs and few (if any) choruses shall be the normal practice in Christian worship for the House of God, accompanied by traditional instrumental accompaniment, if available.

Christian music is that music in which text, music, performers, and performance practices are conforming to the image of Christ. *Psalm. 7:17; Colossians. 3:16; 1 Samuel. 16:23; 1 Corinthians. 14:26; Ephesians. 4:11-14,22-24; Jeremiah. 31:12; Psalm. 40:1-3; Isaiah. 23:15; Proverbs. 7:10; Ezekiel 22:26; Leviticus. 10:10; 1 Corinthians. 6:14-17, 8:13; 1 John. 2:15-17; James. 4:4, 1,17; 1 Peter. 1:13-17; Acts 24:16; Romans. 8:28-29*

XXVI.NOTE OF CLARIFICATION:

This church stands for Christ in Biblical, personal and corporate holiness. As such, we stand against modernism, new evangelicalism, ecumenicalism, the charismatic movement, the new age movement, a social gospel, socialism and worldliness. This church will separate itself from groups who believe or practice the above in the effort to be holy and unashamed at the rapture of the Lord. *James 4:4; Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; John 20:1, 19, 26; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Peter 1:7; 1 John 2:28.*