

## **Biblical Basis for Covenant**

- I. Salvation and Baptism. - John 1:11-12; Matthew 28:19-20
- II. Duties to the church
  - 1. To walk together in Christian love. - John 13:34-35
  - 2. To strive for the advancement of the church and promote its prosperity and spirituality. - Philippians 1:27
  - 3. To sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrine.
  - 4. To contribute cheerfully and regularly. - I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 8:6-7
  - 5. To carry my membership when I move and remain active in church work wherever I live. Acts 11:19-21; Acts 18:24-28
- III. Duties of Personal Living
  - 1. To maintain family and secret devotions. - I Thessalonians 5:17-18
  - 2. To religiously educate the children. - II Timothy 3:15; Deuteronomy 6:4-7
  - 3. To win the lost. - Acts 1:8; Matthew 4:19; Psalms 126:5-6; Proverbs 11:30
  - 4. To walk circumspectly in the world, and be just in our dealing, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment. - Ephesians 5:15; Philippians 2:14-15; I Peter 2:11-12
  - 5. To avoid gossip and excessive anger. - Ephesians 4:31; I Peter 2:21; Colossians 3:8; James 3:1-2
  - 6. To abstain from the sale and use of alcoholic beverages. - Ephesians 5:15; Hebrews 2:15
  - 7. To be zealous in our efforts for Christ (enthusiastic). - Titus 2:14
- IV. Duties to Fellow Members
  - 1. To watch over one another in love. - I Peter 1:22
  - 2. To pray for one another. - James 5:16
  - 3. To aid in sickness and distress. Galatians 6:2; James 2:14-17
  - 4. To cultivate sympathy and courtesy. - I Peter 3:8
  - 5. To be slow to take offense, always ready for reconciliation. - Ephesians 4:30-32

# Statement of Faith and Covenant

## Section 1 - Statement of Faith

### (A) The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the verbally inspired Word of God. The Scriptures are inerrant, infallible, and God-breathed, and therefore are the final authority for faith and life. The sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are the complete and divine revelation of God to man. The Scriptures shall be interpreted according to their normal grammatical-historical meaning. The King James Version of the Bible shall be the official and only translation used by the church (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21).

### (B) Dispensationalism

We believe that the Scriptures interpreted in their natural, literal sense reveal divinely determined dispensations or rules of life, by which we are to define our responsibilities in successive ages. These dispensations are not ways of salvation, but rather are divinely ordered stewardships by which God directs man according to His purpose. Three of these dispensations - the age of the law, the age of the church, and the age of the Kingdom - are the subjects of detailed revelation in Scripture (Genesis 1:28; II Corinthians 3:9-18; Galatians 3:13-25; Ephesians 1:10; 3:2-10; Colossians 1:24-25,27; Revelation 20:2-6).

### (C) The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each co-eternal in being, co-identical in nature, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and

perfections (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; John 14:10,26; I John 5:7).

**(D) The Person and the Work of Christ**

1. 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 men (Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2,14; II Corinthians 5:19-21; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:5-8).
2. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Acts 2:18-36; Romans 3:24-25; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5).
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven, and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate (Acts 1:9-10; Hebrews 9:24; 7:25; Romans 8:34; I John 2:1-2).

**(E) The Person and the Work of the Holy Spirit**

1. We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; and, that He is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption (John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-14; II Corinthians 3:6; Ephesians 1:13-14).
2. We believe that He is the Divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate the Scriptures and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the

Spirit (Ephesians 1:17-18; 5:18; I John 2:20, 27).

3. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowal of spiritual gifts to every believer. God uniquely uses evangelists, pastors, and teachers to equip believers in the assembly in order that they can do the work of the ministry (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11, 28; Ephesians 4:7-12).
4. We believe that the sign gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and the gift of healing were temporary. We believe that speaking in tongues was never the common or necessary sign of baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit and that ultimate deliverance of the body from sickness or death awaits the consummation of our salvation in the resurrection, though God frequently chooses to answer the prayers of believers for physical healing. We do not believe in or have any part of the modern Charismatic movement (I Corinthians 1:22; 13:8; 14:21-22).

#### **(F) The Total Depravity of Man**

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; and, that man is totally depraved (body, soul, and spirit), and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

#### **(G) 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 on the cross of Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. In order to receive this

salvation one must believe that Jesus died and arose from the dead, repent of sin, and ask Christ to save him (Romans 10:9-13; John 1:12; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; I Peter 1:18-19).

#### **(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers**

1. We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 29-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:4-5)
2. We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

#### **(I) The Church**

1. We believe that the local, which is the body and the espoused bride of Christ, is solely made up of born-again persons (I Corinthians 1:2; 12:12-14; II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; Galatians 1:2).
2. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
3. We believe in the autonomy of the local church free of any external authority or control. We are independent, Bible believing Baptists, free of any control from ecclesiastical super structures (Acts 13:1-4; 15:19-31; 20:28; Romans 16:1,4; I Corinthians 3:9, 16; 5:4-7, 13; I Peter 5:1-4; Acts 5:29).
4. We recognize water baptism and the Lord's Supper as the Scriptural ordinances of

obedience for the Church in this age. Water baptism by immersion by this Church or one of like faith is required for Church membership. The elements of the Lord's Table shall be served to born-again, baptized believers by the Pastor, a deacon, or some person designated by the Church. Since the Lord's Supper is a Church ordinance, it shall only be served to members of this New Testament local church and members of a church of like faith. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:23-24)

#### **(J) Separation**

We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11).

#### **(K) The Second Advent of Christ**

We believe in the "blessed hope", the personal, imminent return of Christ who will rapture His Church prior to the seven-year tribulation period. At the end of the Tribulation, Christ will personally and visibly return, with His saints, to establish His earthly Messianic Kingdom which was promised to the Nation of Israel (Psalm 89:3-4; Daniel 2:31-45; Zechariah 14:4-11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Revelation 3:10; 19:11-16; 20:1-6).

#### **(L) The Eternal State**

1. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, the unsaved to

judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:4-6).

2. We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:4-6).
3. We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious punishment and torment until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment and torment (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Revelation 20:11-15).

### **(M) The Personality of Satan**

We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin and the cause of the Fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10; Ezekiel 28:11-19).

### **(N) Creation**

We believe that God created the universe in six literal, 24-hour periods. We reject evolution, the Gap Theory, the Day-Age Theory, and Theistic Evolution as unscriptural theories of origin (Genesis 1-2; Exodus 20:11

## **(O) Civil Government**

We believe that God has ordained and created all authority consisting of three basic institutions: 1) the home; 2) the Church; and 3) the state. Every person is subject to these authorities, but all (including the authorities themselves) are answerable to God and governed by His Word. God has given each institution specific Biblical responsibilities and balanced those responsibilities with understanding that no institution has the right to infringe upon the other. The home, the Church, and the state are equal and sovereign in their respective Biblically assigned spheres of responsibility under God. (Romans 13:1-7; Ephesians 5:22-24; Hebrews 13:17; I Peter 2:13-14).

## **(P) Human Sexuality**

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a 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; 19:5,13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; I Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 15-20; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

## **(Q) Divorce**

We believe that God hates divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. Although divorced and remarried persons or divorced persons may hold positions of service in the Church and greatly be used by God for Christian service, they will not be considered for the offices of Pastor or deacon. (Malachi

2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Timothy 3:2,12; Titus 1:6).

**(R) 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 mental well-being of the mother are acceptable. (Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5; 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24; 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5; 20:15-18; Luke 1:44).

**(S) Missions**

We believe that God has given the Church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to all nations so that all mankind from every nation, tribe, ethnic group, race, and language group may believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. As ambassadors of Christ we must use all available means to go to those who do not know Christ as their Savior and not wait for them to come to us. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:20).

**(T) Lawsuits between Believers**

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the Church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the Church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the

claim is pursued without malice or slander. (I Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32.)

### **(U) Giving**

We believe that every Christian, as a steward of that portion of God's wealth entrusted to him, is obligated to support his local church financially. We believe that God has established the tithe (one-tenth) as a basis for giving but that every Christian should also give other offerings sacrificially and cheerfully to the support of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel. We believe that a Christian relinquishes all rights to direct the use of the tithe or offering once the gift has been made. (Genesis 14:20; Proverbs 3:9-10; Acts 4:34-37; 5:1-11; I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-7; Galatians 6:6; Ephesians 4:28; I Timothy 5:17-18; I John 3:17).

## **Section 2 - Authority of the Statement of Faith**

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.