

My Articles of Faith

Articles of Faith - Draft Copy as a Guide

For an Old Line Primitive Baptist Church

Compiled by Elder Bob Allgood

The Old Line Primitive Baptist Church believes in one true eternal God (Ex. 20:3, 34:5-7, Deut. 33:27, Mal. 2:10), known as JEHOVAH, the I AM THAT I AM, (Ex. 3:14, 6:3), Creator of the universe and man (Gen. 1:1, 26-28, Acts 17:24-28), infinite in wisdom (Ps. 147:5, Eph. 3:8-11), holy and righteous (Josh 24:19, Isa. 6:1-5, Ps. 99:9, I Pet. 1:13-16), unchangeable (Mal. 3:6, James 1:17), just and merciful (Isa. 45:21, Rom. 3:20-26, Ps. 136, Rom. 9:15-24), invisible (John 1:18, Col. 1:15), unsearchable (Rom.11:33-34), omnipresent (every-where present and nowhere absent, Ps. 139:7-10, Rev. 2:1), omniscient (all knowing - Ps. 94:11, Jere. 17:9-10, Rev. 2:2, 9, 13, 19), omnipotent (all powerful - Isa. 45:5-7, Jere. 32:17-19, Dan. 4:34-35, Rev. 19:6), whose goodness is great, enduring and satisfying, who loves righteousness but hates iniquity and the workers of iniquity (Ps. 5:4-5, Ps. 45:6-7, Heb. 1:8-9), who is ever to be loved and feared (Deut.6:4-5, Matt. 22:36-38, Eccles. 12:13-14), who must be worshipped in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:23-24), and therefore, to the best of our ability we set forth the following brief summary of "Those things which are most surely believed among us" (Luke 1:1), to be sound doctrine and practice.

1. We believe in the being of God, as described above, and that our God has revealed Himself in his word as the Godhead, under the characteristics of the Father, the Son (or the Word) and the Holy Ghost, and these are not three Gods, but these three are ONE, and that the fullness of the Godhead bodily is manifested in Jesus Christ, who being in the form of God, was made in the likeness of men, and became God manifest in the flesh (John 1:1-3, 10:30, 14:6-10, 16-18, Phil. 2:5-8, Col. 2:9, I Tim. 3:16, I John 5:7).

2. We believe that our almighty God has made known His purpose and will to the children of men in His word known as The Scriptures, which we believe to be of divine inspiration and authority, and contains all things necessary to be made known for the gospel salvation of men and women. The same is comprehended or contained in the Books of the Old and New Testament which are commonly known in the English language as the authorized King James Version (Translation) of the Scriptures (John 5:39, Luke 24:27, II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:20-21).

3. We believe that, when God created man, he was perfect and upright, and able to keep the law, but liable to fall, and that Adam stood as a federal head, or representative, of all his natural offspring known as the human race. We believe that when Adam fell from his state of moral innocence, this fall involved himself, his wife and all of his posterity, whenever conceived, which became partakers of the condemnation of "sin and death" and exposed to the misery of sin which sprang from his disobedience; and, because of that

original transgression, we all became guilty sinners and unrighteous in the sight of our holy God. (Gen. 2:15-17, Acts 17:24-31, Romans 3:10-18, 5:12-19, I Cor. 15:21-22, Psalms 51:5, 58:3).

4. We believe that our sovereign loving God, before the foundation of the world, in covenant with Himself, which he made before time began for the purpose of His own glory, did elect a certain number (a multitude, which no man can number) of mankind to eternal life, and that His election is particular, eternal and unconditional on the creature's part, and in no way based on the events of time. We believe that "those WHOM he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his dear Son", and the remainder of mankind he left in their state of "sin and death", a universal condition inherited from our father Adam (John 17:2, Acts 13:48, Romans 8:28-30, 9:14-24, Eph. 1:3-6, Heb. 6:17-20, Rev. 7:9-10).

5. We believe that "eternal life or salvation" has always been bestowed by God on His elect, throughout all ages, by his grace and mercy, and without merit on man's part; and that it was God's eternal purpose in Christ to redeem his elect people unto Himself, which he did when He was "in Christ, reconciling the world (of the elect) unto Himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them", but nailing their sins to the cross, "that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him"; and that [Christ] "by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified" and "after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God" thus fulfilling the words "For he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21, II Cor. 5:17-21, Eph. 3:8-12, Heb. 10:9-18, I Peter 1:18-20).

6. We believe that it is not within the power or ability of men, as fallen creatures, to keep the law of God perfectly, truly repent of their sins, or believe in Jesus Christ, or spiritually discern the things of God as revealed in the Scriptures, except they first be born of God (i.e. quickened or made alive by God). (John 3:3-5, 5:21-29, 6:36-40, 44-45, Romans 8:5-8, I Cor. 2:9-16).

7. We believe in God's own appointed time and way, known only to him, but sometime between conception and death, each of the elect shall be called, justified and sanctified, and that it is impossible for them to resist or refuse the call, but they shall be made willing by divine grace to receive the love and mercy He bestows upon them in His act of regeneration (Romans 8:29-30, 9:11-24, Eph. 1:3-12, Titus 3:5-7, I John 3:1-3).

8. We believe justification in the sight of God is by imputed righteousness, even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ, which faith is a gift of God, unto all and upon all them that believe; whereby sinners are not only acquitted from the guilt of sin but made the righteousness of God in Him, being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, and not of works, nor of man's own will or choice (Romans 3:20-26, 4:4-8, II Cor. 5:17-21, Eph. 2:8-10).

9. We believe that all God's elect shall not only be called and justified, that is, made accepted in Christ, and changed by the effectual workings of God's Holy Spirit, but they shall be kept by the power of God unto eternal glory and shall never fall away from His eternal grace (John 10:27-30, Romans 8:29-39, Eph. 1:6, I Peter 1:2-5, I John 5:11-12)

10. We believe it is the duty of God's people, and especially those who have been blessed to become members of His gospel church, to walk righteously in good works, not as under the Law Covenant of seeking life and favor of the Lord by such, but as a duty only from the principle of love for God and one another; for in doing so we keep the commandments of Christ. (Matt. 22:36-40, John 13:35, 14:15, 15:10-12, Titus 2:11-14, I John 3:14-24)

11. We believe that Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper are the two gospel ordinances given to the true New Testament Baptist Church by Jesus Christ, and that only true believers who have first been born of God and then converted to gospel faith are fit subjects for Water Baptism, and that immersion is the only proper mode for baptism. We believe that persons who are sprinkled or dipped, whether in belief or unbelief, are not properly baptized according to God's word, and that such ought to be baptized after they are converted to "The Faith" once delivered unto the Saints. (Matt. 3:13-17, 21:23-27, 28:16-20, Acts 2:41, 8:12, 8:36-39, Jude 3)

12. We believe that no minister has any right to administer the ordinances of the church, except those who meet the qualifications as set forth in I Timothy 3:1-7, and have been called, Scripturally baptized, and come under the imposition of hands of a presbytery of properly ordained Elders called by an orderly church; and has been authorized by his church to do so (Acts 13:2-3, 14:23, 20:28, I Tim. 4:14).

13. We believe that none but Scripturally baptized believers of like faith and order, who are at peace with their brethren, and in good standing with their home church, have a right to commune at the Lord's table and to practice feet washing (Matt. 5:23-24, 18:15-17, 26:26-30, I Cor. 11:23-34).

14. We believe that the washing of the saints feet is an example given by Jesus Christ and ought to be practiced in a Church capacity with those of like faith and order; but is not a test of fellowship for those who do not or can not participate (John 13:2-17).

15. We believe that every church is independent in matters of discipline; and that Associations, Councils and Conferences of several ministers, or churches, have no right to impose the keeping, holding or maintaining of any principle or practice contrary to the judgment of the independent local Church. However, we believe that churches are interdependent when it comes to Sound Doctrine and Practice, and that churches in good order are obligated not to fellowship disorder, and that heretics are to be admonished according to Scriptures (Matt. 16:18-19, 18:15-17, Rom. 16:17, II Thess. 3:6, 3:14-15, Titus 3:10-11).

16. We believe that there is only one gospel, or good news, and one kingdom, both of which are identified by several names in the Scriptures. The gospel of Christ is the same as the gospel of the kingdom, and the kingdom of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the kingdom of Christ are one and the same. The kingdom of God and Christ is "not of this world", and is not material, but is found only in the Holy Ghost, and Christ reigns over His kingdom now, "For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet – Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father".

We do not believe in any future 1000 year kingdom on this earth, but believe that IN Christ and IN His Church, we are reigning with Him now (Daniel 7:13-14, 27, Matt. 4:17, 19:23-24, Mark 1:14-15, John 18:36, Acts 2:29-36, Rom. 14:16-19, I Cor. 15:22-27, Heb. 1:1-13).

17. We believe in a general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust, at which time ALL "shall come forth; they have done good (the elect), unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil (the non-elect) unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29). We believe the punishment of the wicked is everlasting and the joys of the righteous are eternal (Matt. 25:31-34, 41, 46). We believe that on that final day, the "dead in Christ shall rise first, then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (I Thess. 4:13-18). We believe those who died without Christ shall stand before the great white throne judgment and be judged according to their works and then cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death (Rev. 20:11-15).

18. We believe in Biblical Evangelism. By that we mean, every minister should go where the Holy Spirit of God directs him to go and preach and serve the Lord (Acts 8:26, 13:2-4, 16:6-10) without waiting for permission or financial support from men; and that every child of God should be "ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason for the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15). We believe the so called Great Commission was given to the Apostles, with signs to follow them, (Matt. 28:16-20, Mark 16:15-18) and that they fulfilled that commission during their lifetime (Rom. 10:18).

19. We have ever regarded the inventions of men (in the affairs of religion) as unspeakable abominations before God; also we hold in abhorrence all human inventions as proceeding from anti-Christ, which produce distress and are prejudicial to the liberty of the mind, and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, known as secret organizations, such as Freemasonry, or any of their brotherhoods, or similar societies, but rather reprove them. Furthermore, we hold it disorder for a minister to affiliate with (i.e. associate with) any church holding any of these things. We do not participate in or fellowship with the modern day inventions of man known as Missionism, Ministerial Training, such as Seminars and Seminaries; Sunday Schools, Church Youth Camps, Church Attendance Contest, Campaigns and Promotional Activities. (John 18:20, Eph. 5:11-12, II Cor. 6: 14-18, James 4:4, II John 7-11)