

Nottingham Baptist Church Articles of Faith

ARTICLE I ~ Of the Scriptures

We believe in the authority of the Holy Bible, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments as originally written, was verbally inspired by God and the product of Spirit-controlled men and therefore is absolute truth. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian unity and the only infallible rule for all human conduct, faith and practice. (II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:19-21)

ARTICLE II ~ Of the True God

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, the only infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and the Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love. In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. (Exodus 20:2-3; Isaiah 45:18, 21; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; I John 5:7)

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. He was divine as no other human can be, being very God of very God, existing from all eternity, coequal with the Father and the Spirit. He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist of laying aside His Deity. As man, He was miraculously conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-14)

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with the Father and Son and of the same nature. He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, He bears witness to the truth, He is the Agent of the New Birth, and He seals, endues, guides, teaches, sanctifies, helps, and indwells every true child of God. (John 14:16-17; John 16:8-11; Romans 8:14-27; II Corinthians 13:14)

ARTICLE III ~ Of the Devil or Satan

We believe in the reality and personality of Satan, that he was created by God as an angel, but through rebellion became an enemy of God. He is the unholy god of this age, the father of all powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the lake of fire. (Isaiah 14:12-14; Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10)

ARTICLE IV ~ Of the Creation

We believe that God created out of nothing all things visible and invisible in six days. The Biblical account of creation is literally and historically descriptive of the direct, creative act of God, without any evolutionary process. All humanity is descended from the historical Adam and Eve, the first parents of the entire human race. (Genesis 1:1-2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3)

ARTICLE V ~ Of the Fall of Man

We believe that man (the first Adam) was created in innocence, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless state thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that all mankind is totally depraved, partakers of Adam's fallen state and sinners by nature and conduct. All are without excuse before God. (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 5:10-19)

ARTICLE VI ~ Of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of Jesus Christ the Son of God. Being appointed by God the Father, He freely and voluntarily took upon Himself the form of man, yet without sin. He fulfilled the divine law by His personal obedience. By the shedding of His blood in His death He made a full and vicarious sacrifice for our sins, the just for the unjust. He is in every way qualified to be the suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.

We believe that faith in the finished work of Christ, apart from all human works, is the only condition of salvation. We believe that justification is the judicial act whereby God declares the believer righteous upon the basis of the imputed righteousness of Christ to the believer. We believe that positional sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God at the moment of salvation.

We believe that the new birth is instantaneous and not a process, and that in the new birth the one who was dead in trespasses and in sins is made a new creation, receiving eternal life as the free gift of God. Repentance is a change of mind and action toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is a result of the new birth.

We believe that every true believer in Jesus Christ as Savior is kept eternally secure by the power of God. Therefore it is impossible for one born into the family of God ever to be lost. (John 3:3, 16, 6:39-40; 10:28-29; Acts 15:11; 16:31; Romans 3:23-24; 5:1; 8:1, 35-39; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:6; 2:7-8; Colossians 2:13; Hebrews 2:14; 10:10-14; 1 John 4:10; Isaiah 53:4-7; 2 Peter 1:4)

ARTICLE VII ~ Of the Church

We believe that Christ is the Head of the church. We believe that the local church is a congregation of immersed believers in Christ, uniting by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel and banded together for worship, edification, the observance of the ordinances, and the worldwide fulfillment of the Great Commission. We believe that the local church is autonomous, self-governing according to the dictates of scripture, without any interference from outside organization or hierarchy, and that on all matters of membership, polity, government, and discipline, the will of the local church is followed. We believe that the two officers of the church are pastor and deacon, and the two ordinances to be observed are baptism and the Lord's Supper. We believe that the Church is dispensationally distinct from Israel and that each have a specific purpose in the sovereign plan of God (Romans 11). We believe in the uniting of all New Testament believers in making up the Church (universal) which is the Body of Christ. (1 Corinthians 11:2; 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:11; 5:23-24; Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:41-42; 15:13-18; 20:17-28; 1 Timothy 3:1-13)

ARTICLE VIII ~ Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that the local church observes two ordinances; baptism and the Lord's supper. Baptism is the immersion in water of a born again believer, giving public testimony of faith in Christ for salvation. The symbolism of a single immersion represents the identification with Christ in His death on the cross, burial and resurrection, and represents the believer's death to sin and commitment to walk in newness of life in Christ. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the remembering of Christ's sacrificial death on the cross as payment for sin, an observance which should always be preceded by solemn self examination. (Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; I Corinthians 11:23-34; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41-42)

ARTICLE IX ~ Of the Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. The truly righteous are such only through justification by faith in Christ and sanctification by the Holy Spirit. Their eternal destiny is joy in the presence of Christ.

The wicked are those who continue in unrepentance and unbelief and thus are wicked in God's sight and under condemnation. Their eternal destiny is everlasting, conscious suffering apart from God. (Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 6:17-18, 23; I John 5:19; Romans 2:6; Luke 6:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21)

ARTICLE X ~ Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; that government officials are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ as defined in Scripture. (Romans 13:1-7; II Samuel 23:3; Numbers 11:16-17; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:17-32; Acts 4:19-20; Daniel 3:17-18)

ARTICLE XI ~ Of Future Events

We believe in the pretribulational rapture of the church, an event that can occur at any moment, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seven years of the Tribulation. Beginning after the rapture will be the seven year tribulation time, ending with the bodily, personal, and premillennial return of Jesus Christ with His Church. He will judge the living nations and set up His kingdom for a 1000 year rule, called the millennial reign of Christ. Following the millennial reign, the Great White Throne judgment for all unbelievers will take place, resulting in the unbelievers being cast into the lake of fire. All believers, whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be ushered into eternal glory, the new heaven, new earth and the new Jerusalem. (John 14:1-4; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 4-16; 19:11-21; 20:11-15; John 5:21-30; Daniel 9:25-27; Isaiah 9:6, 7; 11:1-9)

ARTICLE XII ~ Of Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be re-gathered in the Holy Land. After the completion of the Church, Israel will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ. (Genesis 13:14-17; Romans 11:1-32; Ezekiel 37)

ARTICLE XIII ~ "Of Marriage"

We believe that marriage is a union ordained by God which joins one man (male from birth) and one woman (female from birth) in a life-long, exclusive, heterosexual union, as taught in God's Word, the Bible. We believe that scripture limits sexual intimacy to only occur between a man and a woman who are married to each other and that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of the church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and to the community, it is required that all persons employed by this church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, shall abide by and agree to this Statement of Marriage and Sexuality, and conduct themselves accordingly.

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, and kindness. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with the Bible.

Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:6-9; Romans 1:24-29; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; Hebrews 13