

*Church Covenant  
By-Laws  
And  
Articles of Faith*

*Wheelerburg Baptist Church  
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Updated: September 17, 2019

## *Church Covenant*

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the profession of our faith having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now, in the presence of God, the angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this Church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to faithfully attend its regular services; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the Church, the relief of those in need, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger; and to be temperate in all things, and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the cause of our Saviour.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling, and courtesy of speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Saviour, to secure it without delay.

We more over engage that when we remove from this place we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

## *Constitution and By-laws of Wheelersburg Baptist Church*

We, the members of Wheelersburg Baptist Church, accepting and complying with the preceding Confession of Faith (New Hampshire Confession Revised) and church covenant, submit ourselves to the following articles. We hereby rescind all previous action contrary thereto.

### *ARTICLE ONE: Name; Character; Object; Government; Association:*

- 1. NAME:** The official name of the organization, Incorporated under the laws of the State of Ohio, shall be known as WHEELERSBURG BAPTIST CHURCH, Township of Porter, County of Scioto, State of Ohio.
- 2. CHARACTER:** It shall be in accord with the fundamental truths of the whole word of God, as outlined in our Articles of Faith.
- 3. OBJECT:** The purpose of this Church is the preaching and teaching of the Word of God; the administration of the New Testament Ordinances (Baptism and the Lord's Supper); the spiritual edification and the fellowship of its members; the ministering to its own community and the evangelization of the whole world; until He, Jesus the Christ, comes again.
- 4. GOVERNMENT:** Its government shall be vested in the believers alone, who compose it (see Article Two), and it shall be subject to the control of no other body of any kind, ecclesiastical or otherwise. However, it shall have the right to fellowship with other churches of like faith.
- 5. ASSOCIATION:** This shall be an independent church having no denominational ties, but shall have freedom of fellowship in association with other churches of like faith and order.

### *ARTICLE TWO: Membership*

#### **SECTION 1. ADMISSION**

Any person professing faith in our Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour; who gives evidence of Christian faith and spirit; who takes the Holy Bible as his only rule of faith and practice; and who is desirous of

seeing this testimony for Jesus Christ prosper; may be added as a member to the Church by a two-thirds vote of the active members of this Church, present and voting:

1. Following Baptism by immersion
2. By transfer of Letter from a church of like Faith and Order
3. By Christian Experience, if scripturally baptized, from a church not of like Faith or whose membership is presently inactive.
4. By Restoration

Each candidate for membership shall attend an orientation class(es), composed of the Pastor and Deacons, to give a personal testimony of his salvation and to become acquainted with and state his agreement to the Confession of Faith, the Covenant, and the Constitution and By-laws of this Church. If satisfied that the candidate is eligible for membership, the Deacons shall recommend to the Church that the candidate be received into the membership. Such names shall be presented to the Church at a regular Sunday service, one week in advance of the congregational vote and right hand of fellowship.

## **SECTION 2. DISMISSAL**

1. Any member in good standing, desiring to unite with some other fundamental church, may, upon request, receive from this Church a letter of transfer, stating his Christian character and standing. This letter shall be signed by the Pastor and/or the church clerk, forwarded to the church with which he unites, with a permanent copy retained in the Church file. (The letter of dismissal or recommendation shall NOT be granted to the individual.) After such letter has been issued, the name of the one for whom it was issued shall be then dropped from the membership roll of the Church. Such letters of dismissal shall be issued only after the Church has voted favorably of such procedure at any of its regular or special meetings. Membership may also be terminated by: the dropping from the rolls the name of anyone who joins a church of another faith and order; by exclusion for conduct unbecoming to a Christian, i.e.: church discipline (see Section 3); and by death. No member may be dismissed except by vote of the church.

2. When the Church Board has its meeting prior to the annual meeting of the Church, the inactive roll of the church shall be revised. Any member not complying with the stated regulation of the church membership, as outlined in the Church Covenant, shall at that time be considered and recommended for removal at the Annual Business Meeting by the congregation. Covenant violations are determined by taking into consideration the age, health, earning capacity, place of residence, etc..., of the member. A permanent card file of these former members shall be maintained for continued, prayerful effort to reclaim them for Christ and the Church, and the clarifying of records. In any case, before anyone is dismissed from our membership roll for any reason, every effort shall be made for his complete restoration to fellowship with God and the Church.

## **SECTION THREE. DISCIPLINE**

1. If any member of this Church shall embrace, or encourage, or advocate within the Church, or any other church of "like precious faith," any false doctrine or doctrines, it shall be considered an offense against the Church, according to Galatians 1:9; 2 John 10.

2. If any member of this Church shall refuse to regard the authority of the Church in matters pertaining to doctrine, discipline, governments, etc..., it shall be considered an offense against the Church, according to Matthew 18:17.

3. If any member of this Church shall cause strife or contention within this Church, or any other church of "like precious faith," it shall be considered an offense against the Church, according to I Corinthians 11:16; Romans 16:17.

4. If any member shall conduct himself before the world in a manner that is unbecoming a Christian, it shall be considered an offense against the Church, according to I Corinthians 5:11.

5. Non-resident members who have established residence elsewhere will be carried on the Church roll until six (6) months time has elapsed for them to establish membership in a local church of "like precious faith." After six (6) months, they will be placed on the inactive list. Where no such church can be found, such members shall be expected to keep in touch with the Church by mail and contribute offerings to the regular program of the Church. Where there is no established residence, such as that of servicemen and retirees, the Church shall be very tolerant and co-operate to the fullest extent to maintain the spiritual and devotional life of such members until released from such services.

6. Resident members who willfully violate the Church Covenant obligations for a period of six (6) months, and who are unable to show satisfactory reasons for the same, shall be placed on an inactive list by vote of the Church. Anyone placed on this inactive list shall be ineligible to vote or hold any office. Restoration of same person

to full fellowship of the Church shall be granted by vote of the Church, upon recommendation of Pastor and Deacons, when said party has made every effort to renew a right relationship before the Church.

7. All matters of discipline shall be brought before the Pastor and Deacons, which shall consider the merits of the case and, if possible, settle the matter without presenting it officially before the Church, according to Matthew 18:15-17. Accusation against any member which demands discipline must be submitted in writing to the Pastor and Deacons, and signed by the accuser or accusers. If dismissal is recommended by the Pastor and Deacons, the recommendation must be presented to the Church with the necessary details, for final action. The accused must be notified personally, or by registered letter, of this meeting at least two weeks in advance. If the accused cannot be present at this meeting, it shall be postponed until such a time as it is convenient for the accused, with such delay not to exceed thirty (30) days.

8. No non-member shall be permitted in such a Church meeting (as witnesses, defense, or otherwise) without permission of three-fourths (3/4) of the members present and voting.

### *ARTICLE THREE: Officers*

The regular officers of this Church shall be: Pastor, or Pastors; Deacons. Trustees; Treasurer; Church Clerk; Bible School Superintendent; and Head Usher. All other positions shall be appointed by the Pastor and Church Board and approved by the Congregation. Other officers may be created from time to time as may be deemed necessary.

#### **SECTION 1. PASTOR**

1. Call. A Baptist pastor in full sympathy with the Confession of Faith, Constitution and Covenant of the Church, and on recommendation of the Deacons, may be called after a congregational vote as described in Article Eight, Section 3. Each candidate shall be considered by the Pulpit Committee immediately after the occasion of his ministry, and before another candidate may be heard, and unanimous in their decision to present same to Church as a prospective pastor. If the candidate is not presented to the church, the reason shall be explained to the congregation.

2. Character and Duties. The Pastor must fill the qualifications described in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. He should be an apt teacher, a good ruler, and as a faithful under-shepherd (I Peter 5:1-3) he shall pray regularly for each church member, feed them spiritually, warn them of sin and heresy, visit them in their need, and encourage them. He shall preach the Word of God, teach sound doctrine, and do the work of an evangelist (II Timothy 4:1-5). He is the leader of the administration of the Church. He is an ex-officio member of all committees. Therefore, there shall be no Board, committee or Church meetings without the knowledge of the Pastor. He shall be able to take outside meetings, with the approval of the Deacon Board, not to exceed four weeks in each year. He shall then be responsible to get and pay for his own supply during such meetings. He shall not take any outside employment without first counseling with the Deacons and securing the approval of the Church.

3. Termination of Service. The Pastor shall continue his work until he resigns, or until, because of immorality or failure to carry out the above duties, he shall be asked to leave by a vote as described in Article Eight, Section 3. This termination must be accompanied by a sixty (60) day notice by either party. These terms may be waived by mutual agreement, or in the event the church votes for an immediate termination of his service, his support shall continue for 60 days.

#### **SECTION 2. DEACONS**

1. Number. The Church shall elect at its first annual meeting from its membership a minimum of three (3) Deacons. Their terms shall be for three (3) years and arranged to end alternately. The number shall be increased or decreased to meet the need as the congregation increases or decreases.

2. Election. They shall be elected by a majority of members at the Annual Business Meeting. A Deacon may serve consecutive terms if approved by the congregation with a majority vote. (see Article 8.)

3. Qualifications. They must meet the Biblical standards for Deacons as defined in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7.

4. Duties. They shall attend to the spiritual affairs of the church in conjunction with the pastor; to visit the sick, the widows, the shut-in, and the unsaved of the community; to keep well informed of the spiritual welfare of each member, with each Deacon directly responsible for a maximum of twenty-five members, under the leadership of the Pastor; to promote stewardship among the membership; to place proper emphasis on the missionary, evangelistic, Bible and visitation efforts of the Church. They shall distribute the elements of the Lord's Supper; along with their wives, assist candidates for baptism; and assist the Pastor in the performance of his duties. They shall act in the capacity of Pulpit Committee in the absence of the pastor.

### **SECTION 3. TRUSTEES**

1. Number. The Church shall elect from its membership at least three (3) Trustees. Their terms shall be for two (2) years and arranged so that one-half the Trustees are elected each year at the Annual Business Meeting. The number shall be determined annually by the needs of the Church. There shall be a maximum of seven (7) Trustees to serve the Church.

2. Election. They shall be elected by a majority of members present at the Annual Business Meeting. A Trustee may serve consecutive terms if approved by the congregation with a majority vote.

3. Qualifications. They shall meet the same standards as the Deacons, as set forth in Section 2 (3).

4. Duties. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to care for the property of this Church, to hold, repair, invest, and preserve the same including the supervising of the janitor; to superintend any improvements that are not entrusted to a special committee, and to perform such business concerns as shall from time to time be assigned to them by the Church in keeping with Laws of the State of Ohio. (see Appendix A.) The Trustees are at all times servants of the Church and subject to its corporate action. The Trustees shall not have authority to sell, lease, or give away or dispose of in any manner, church property to exceed one hundred dollars in value; not to encumber with debt to exceed \$250. unless the Church shall order by same corporate act.

### **SECTION 4. TREASURER**

At each annual meeting the Church shall elect from its membership a treasurer. He may serve consecutive terms so long as his faithfulness and usefulness is approved by the congregation with a majority vote. His qualifications shall be those of a Deacon (see Section 2 (3)). He shall receive from the Tellers, record, and bank all receipts of the Church, and disburse funds as directed by the Trustees. He shall submit a monthly financial report to the Church as well as an Annual Report. If he is not a Deacon or Trustee, he shall be an ex-officio member of the Church Board.

### **SECTION 5. CHURCH CLERK**

He or she shall be elected at the Annual Meeting for a one year term. He shall keep a correct record of the proceedings of the Church, of the membership, and of all baptisms: issue letters and all official correspondence, and preserve all documents, papers, and letters coming into his hands during his term of office, and deliver the same with all records kept by him to his successor. It shall be his responsibility as well to provide the congregation with an up-to-date membership list annually. He shall keep an account of any special events in the life of the Church which are of Historical interest and value. The Church may provide clerical assistance in keeping the Church records.

### **SECTION 6. SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT**

A competent and spiritually qualified person will be elected at the annual meeting to serve a one year term. He shall be responsible for the organization and operation of the Bible School and shall make a full report of its activities to the Church at the Annual Meeting. His work shall be subject to the approval and under the jurisdiction of the Pastor. The teachers will be appointed by the Pastor and Superintendent.

### **SECTION 7. HEAD USHER**

He shall be elected annually to serve the Church's physical needs at all services. He shall have charge of the seating of the audience, distribution of bulletins and hymn books, the ventilating of the room, the receiving of offerings, and the maintaining of reverence for all the Church services. He shall choose his own assistants subject to the approval of the Church Board.

### **SECTION 8. GENERAL**

Bible School teachers, youth workers, and all elected and appointed officers shall be required to adhere to Biblical standards: faithful attendance to all the services of the Church, except when providentially hindered; separated living, refraining from the use of tobacco, alcohol, profanity, the use of narcotics other than through a medical doctor's prescription, and the frequenting of doubtful places of amusement; and shall maintain a personal program of soul winning and visitation. All officers elected or appointed by the Church should notify the Church thirty (30) days in advance, in writing, when desiring to offer their resignation. Vacancies may be filled at any regular meeting of the Church. No person shall hold more than two major offices at one time. Any person who can not give whole-hearted support to the Pastor and the Church should resign his office.

## *ARTICLE FOUR: Church Board*

The Deacons and Trustees shall constitute the Church Board. This Board should meet at least once a month, to carry on the regular business of the Church. It shall appoint committees for other necessary work, meet with prospective members, make recommendations to the congregation, appoint the assistant treasurer, assistant Bible School Superintendent, Tellers, and all other needed positions, and shall be responsible for filling the pulpit in the absence of the Pastor. It shall be responsible for hiring the janitor, secretary(s), and all other paid personnel. A record of all meetings shall be kept and a report given annually to the Church. A quorum shall constitute a simple majority of the Board. At its first meeting after the annual meeting, the Board shall select its own chairman from among the deacons, vice-chairman from among the trustees, and secretary.

#### *ARTICLE FIVE: Church Organizations*

##### **SECTION 1. BIBLE SCHOOL**

The Bible School is an integral part of the Church. All officers and regular teachers must be members of the Church in good and regular standing. It has no power to conduct any activities or programs other than with the consent and approval of the church membership.

##### **SECTION 2. YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS**

Youth organizations shall be maintained regularly. These groups shall be governed by their own constitutions, subject to the Church's approval in all matters.

1. Whenever a new group is added, the age divisions governing that group must correspond to those of the same age group in the Bible School.
2. The Pastor and Deacons shall annually appoint advisors and leaders for each youth group.

##### **SECTION 3. CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Separate Sunday Morning Services may be arranged for children grade three (3) and under. As new groups are arranged, the age divisions governing these groups shall correspond to those of the same age group in Bible School.

##### **SECTION 4. MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP**

As missions are a priority function of the local church, this church shall maintain programs to promote missions among the young people as well as the men and women of the Church. Each group shall abide by the doctrine and policies of the Church and shall be subject to the review and demands of the membership.

##### **SECTION 5. OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

There may be other organizations created to best serve the purpose and intent of the membership. These organizations shall be defined by a majority vote of the Church. They shall be self-governing and in full agreement with our Covenant, Articles of Faith, and By-laws.

##### **SECTION 6. OFFICERS OF CHURCH ORGANIZATIONS**

All officers, leaders, and advisors of every Church organization, must be members of the Church in good and regular standing and in full agreement with this constitution and the present leadership of the Church.

#### *ARTICLE SIX: Finances*

No financial obligation shall be placed upon the church either as a mortgage note, outstanding bill, or in any other form unless by a corporate act of the Church.

##### **SECTION 1. OFFERINGS**

The Church shall be supported by the freewill offerings of the people. This method and this only shall be followed as the Scriptural position. No department or group of the Church shall raise money in any other way than herein designated.

##### **SECTION 2. ORGANIZATIONS**

The Bible School and all Church organizations shall be under the direction of the Church, and all actions of the organizations, financially, or otherwise, are subject to the approval of the church membership as a whole. All offerings shall be directed through the treasury of the Church. Special offerings for special purposes shall be taken

only by consent of the Pastor and/or Church Board. This does not prohibit individuals giving special offerings to approved projects or groups at any time the Spirit of God may direct them.

### **SECTION 3. GENERAL**

Every member is expected to give regularly and liberally and cheerfully as the Lord prospers him, to the support of the Church and its missionary activities. We believe that all should give at least a tithe and that normal giving will exceed a tithe.

#### *ARTICLE SEVEN: Committees*

### **SECTION 1. PULPIT COMMITTEE**

This emergency committee shall consist of a Board of Deacons who shall prayerfully select and present to the Church possible candidates for the pulpit. (see Article Three, Section 1) This committee shall be dissolved immediately upon the Pastor's acceptance of the call.

### **SECTION 2. OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Pastor may appoint other committees as the need arises, except as pertains to legal business, subject to the approval of the Church Board or Church.

#### *ARTICLE EIGHT: Meetings and Elections*

### **SECTION 1. FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Church shall begin on January 1 and close the 31<sup>st</sup> day of December.

### **SECTION 2. MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP**

Unless otherwise provided, the church shall meet each Sunday for worship, both morning and evening, and at least once during the week for Bible Study and Prayer. Revivals, Bible and Missionary Conference, Vacation Bible School and other special services shall be included in the Church program from year to year.

### **SECTION 3. QUORUM**

A quorum for business will be twenty per cent (20%) of the active, resident voting membership, fifteen years old or older, with a minimum of fifteen, for all regular business meetings. To conduct business, a simple majority of the quorum voting shall be sufficient. In the calling, or dismissal of a Pastor, matters concerning property, or a change of the Constitution, one-half (50%) of the active membership, eighteen years old or older, shall be required to form a quorum. These decisions shall demand a three-fourths (3/4) majority of all votes, which shall be cast by secret ballot.

### **SECTION 4. ABSENTEE VOTING**

Qualified members may vote by absentee ballot for the following three reasons: Sickness, occupation, or out of city for a sufficiently good cause. Members voting absentee must put the reason in writing and affix signature to be presented to the moderator, before the start of, and not more than two weeks in advance of, the meeting.

### **SECTION 5. BUSINESS MEETINGS**

1. Annual Business Meeting. When possible, the annual business meeting for the election of officers and other pertinent business shall be during the first Sunday evening service in December. The presentation of the annual reports shall be given at the first monthly business meeting of the new fiscal year.

2. Monthly Business Meeting. When possible, the monthly business meetings shall be conducted on the second Sunday evening of each month. A detailed treasurer's report shall be given at each meeting.

3. Nominations. A nominating committee, under the jurisdiction of the Deacons and approved by the Church, shall thoroughly investigate the character and qualifications of all nominees before presenting them to the Church, and as far as possible shall present more than one name for each office to be filled, publicizing the same two consecutive Sundays prior to the election. This shall be in lieu of floor nominations except in relation to an office or offices for which the nominating committee does not present at least two names. Any nomination made from the floor must have the nominee's prior consent before the meeting concerning that particular office.

#### *ARTICLE NINE: Missions*

**SECTION 1.**

This Church shall support, by a three-fourths (3/4) majority vote of its members present and voting, only those missionaries, missions and organizations known to be in full agreement with its Articles of Faith; and, except in areas of service not being done by Baptist Missions, that are Baptist in name and practice.

**SECTION 2.**

No faith missionary or missionary activity will have support discontinued by this church except by three-fourths (3/4) majority vote and with no less than three (3) months notice. In the case of a missionary in a foreign land, support shall not be discontinued until one (1) month after he has returned to this country from his overseas assignment. The only exceptions to this provision will be in the event of immoral behavior, heresy, or the financial inability of the church to meet the obligation.

**SECTION 3.**

It shall be the continuing policy of this Church to be actively engaged in the support of missionary causes for the furtherance of the Gospel, beginning in Scioto County, to the ends of the earth, after the New Testament example (Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8); adding new missionary causes as the local church grows under the Lord’s blessing and leadership.

*ARTICLE TEN: Amendments*

This constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting, provided notice of such proposed amendment shall have been presented in writing at a previous regular business meeting, and written notice of proposed amendment having been mailed to every member in good standing at least two weeks before the vote on the amendment.

*ARTICLE ELEVEN: Dissolution*

In the event a decision is made to dissolve this corporation, known as the Wheelersburg Baptist Church, provision shall be made by vote of the Church, previous to the dissolution of the corporation, to assign all of the assets, after all liabilities are met, to one or more fundamental, Bible-believing, Baptist, non-profit organizations, such as churches, missions, schools, or associations such as the Ohio Associations of Regular Baptist Churches. None of the assets shall be given to any individual.

**APPENDIX A**

**OHIO GENERAL CODE: SECTION 8623-106 TRUSTEES**

The corporate powers, property, and affairs of every corporation not for profit, subject to limitations, contained in the general code, the articles or regulations shall be exercised, conducted and controlled by a board of not less than three trustees, each of whom shall be a member of the corporation at a least one of whom shall be a citizen of the State of Ohio. The Article of (or) Regulations may provide the tenure of office of the trustees thereof, except that no term shall exceed in number of its trustees; provided, however, that members of any corporation heretofore and hereafter organized for the purpose of owning and conducting a hospital may for the election of a board of not more than fifteen trustees to serve during life. Unless otherwise provided in the Articles of Regulations any vacancy in such board of Trustees caused by death, resignation or otherwise shall be filled by the remaining members there of.

**SECTION 8623-110 LIABILITY OF TRUSTEES**

Neither the member nor the trustees of a corporation not for profit shall be personally liable for any debt or obligation of a corporation not for profit.



## **Articles of Faith**

(Updated: September 15, 2019)

This is not intended to be a complete statement of the doctrinal position of this church, but it is the more basic beliefs on which it rests:

**1. OF THE SCRIPTURES** -- We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore has truth without any admixture of error for its matter. We believe the Bible to be the true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21

**2. OF THE TRUE GOD** -- We believe there is One, and only One, living and true God, an infinite and intelligent Spirit, the Creator and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and earth; inexpressively glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; that in the unity of God-head there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption. Exodus 20:2,3; I Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11; I John 5:7

**3. OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** -- We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine person; equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled, that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. John 14:16,17; Matthew 28:19; Hebrews 9:14; John 14:26; Luke 1:35; Genesis 1:1-3; John 16:8-11; Acts 5:30-32; John 3:5,6; Ephesians 1:13,14; Mark 1:8; John 1:33; Acts 11:16; Luke 24:49; Romans 8:14, 16, 26-27; I Corinthians 13:8-10

**4. OF THE DEVIL, OR SATAN** -- We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, and the author of all the powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:3; Revelation 20:10

**5. OF THE CREATION** -- We believe in the Genesis account of creation, and it is to be accepted literally, and not allegorically or figuratively; that the days of creation were twenty-four hour days; 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 plant life was made directly and God's established law was they should bring forth only "after their kind." Gen. 1:1; Exodus 20:11; Acts 4:24; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:3; Rev. 10:6; Romans 1:20; Acts 17:23-26; Jer. 10:12; Neh. 9:6; Gen. 1:5-31; Gen. 1:26-27; I Cor. 11:7; Gen. 2:7; Gen. 2:21-23; Heb. 11:3; Gen. 1:11; Gen. 1:24

In light of God's creative design, we believe that the Bible teaches that marriage is the joining of one natural born man and one natural born woman and that sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the bonds of a Biblically defined marriage. Any other form of marriage or sexual intimacy is immoral and a perversion of God's gracious will. Genesis 2:18, 24, 25; Matthew 19:4-6; Romans 1:24-29; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20; 7:1-5; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4

**6. OF THE FALL OF MAN** -- We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice; and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Genesis 3:1-6; Genesis 3:24; Romans 5:19; Romans 5:10-19; Romans 1:18; Romans 1:32

**7. OF JESUS CHRIST** -- We believe that Christ is absolute Deity, that He is both human and divine, both true God and true man, and that He existed from eternity and is co-equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life, that He provided a substitutionary atonement for sinful man, and that He died on the cross, was buried, arose bodily from the grave, that He ascended bodily into Heaven. We believe that He intercedes now for the saints, and that He will return literally to earth after the Tribulation to set up His millennial reign. Matthew 1:20,21,28; Mark 16; Luke 1:26-28, 24; John 1:1,2,14, 10:30; Acts 1:11; I Corinthians 15:4; II Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:5-8; Hebrews 4:15, 9:26; I John 5:20.

**8. OF THE ATONEMENT FOR SIN --** We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God, who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, or the possibility of sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by the shedding of His blood made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with Divine perfection, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Saviour. Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 2:14; Isaiah 53:4-7; Romans 3:25; I John 4:10; I Corinthians 5:21; Acts 15:11; Romans 3:24; John 3:16; Matthew 18:11; Philippians 2:7

**9. OF GRACE IN THE NEW CREATION --** We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life. John 3:3-7; II Corinthians 5:17; I John 5:1; John 3:8; Acts 16:30-33; II Peter 1:4; Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1; II Corinthians 4:19,21; Col. 2:13

**10. OF JUSTIFICATION --** We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is Justification: (a) That Justification includes the pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of righteousness; (b) That it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done; but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, His righteousness is imputed to us. Acts 13:29; Isaiah 53:11; Zachariah 13:1; Romans 8:1; Romans 5:9; Romans 5:1

**11. OF SALVATION --** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice and rose again for our justification. We believe that all those who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood and are saved by grace through faith wholly apart from human merit and works. Acts 13:39, 16:31; Romans 3:21-28; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:3-8

**12. OF THE LOCAL CHURCH --** We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors (which are elders and overseers) and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties, are clearly defined in the Scriptures; we believe the true mission of the church is to make disciples of Christ locally and worldwide as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government, free from any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only Head is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the Gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its co-operation; on all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41,42; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22,23; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 20:17-28; I Timothy 3:1-13; Colossians 1:18; Ephesians 5:23,24; Acts 15:13-18

**13. OF BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER --** We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes, and should be preceded always by solemn self-examination. Acts 8:26-39; John 3:23; Romans 6:3-5; Matthew 3:16; Colossians 2:12; I Corinthians 11:23-28

**14. OF THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER --** We believe that all who are truly born again are kept by God the Father for Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6; John 10:28,29; Romans 8:35-39; Jude 1; I Peter 1:5

**15. OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED --** We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in

impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and are under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in the everlasting joy of the saved and everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. Malachi 3:18; Genesis 18:23; Romans 16:17,18; I John 5:19; Romans 7:6; Romans 6:23; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 6:25; Matthew 25:34-41; John 8:21

**16. OF 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 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. Romans 13:17; II Samuel 23:3; Exodus 18:21,22; Acts 23:5; Matthew 22:21; Acts 5:20; Acts 4:19,20; Daniel 3:17,18

**17. OF THE RESURRECTION, RETURN OF CHRIST AND RELATED EVENTS** -- We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures literally concerning, the bodily resurrection, and ascension, and present high priesthood of Jesus Christ; and in His personal and visible return at any moment, according to His promise; and in the full and final establishment of His kingdom upon the earth. I Thessalonians 4:13-18; I Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-54, Philippians 3:20,21; Revelation 3:10; 20:1-4,6

**18. OF MISSIONS** -- We believe that the great commission to evangelize the world was given to the church by our risen Lord and that this evangelization is the great mission of the church. Matthew 28:19,20; Romans 1:14-16; Isaiah 6:8; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; Acts 13:1-4

**19. OF PRAYER** -- We believe that prayer is the believer's communion with God and includes such elements as adoration, praise, thanksgiving, intercession, pleading, petition and waiting upon God; that true prayer, in faith believing, is heard and answered by God, when the believer prays in the Spirit and according to His will; that is not only a blessed privilege, but a positive command of God for us "always to pray and not to faint." We believe that if we regard iniquity in our heart, the Lord will not hear our prayers. Revelation 3:20; Exodus 25:22; Jeremiah 29:13; Romans 8:26,27; Jude 20; II Chronicles 7:14; John 15:7; Mark 11:24; I John 3:22; I Chronicles 16:11; Luke 18:1; Luke 11:13; I Thessalonians 4:2,3; I Thessalonians 5:17; Isaiah 59:1,2; Psalm 66:18; Proverbs 28:9

**20. SEPARATION FROM THE WORLD** -- We believe that all the saved are called into a life of separation from worldly and sinful practices unto Christ and holy living. James 4:4; Romans 12:2; I John 2:15-17; II Corinthians 6:14-18

**21. OF SANCTIFICATION** -- We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that is a progressive work that is begun in regeneration; that it is carried on in the hearts of the believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, in the faithful use of the appointed means – especially the Word of God, prayer, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and in the practice of all godly exercises and duties. The sanctification of the believer will be complete at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Then, and only then, will he have entire sanctification or be sanctified wholly - body, soul, and spirit. I Thessalonians 4:1-10; I Thessalonians 5:23; I Corinthians 6:11; Philippians 1:6; II Peter 3:18; II Corinthians 3:18; II Peter 1:3-12; John 17:17; II Thessalonians 2:13; II Corinthians 7:1; I Thessalonians 3:12,13; Philippians 3:20,21; I John 3:2; Jude 24; Hebrews 9:28; Revelation 14:5; Hebrews 12:14,23

**22. OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE** -- We believe that every Christian should seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit and that the evidence of the Spirit-filled life will be seen in personal evangelism and manifesting the fruit of the Spirit. Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18; Luke 11:13; Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 3:19; John 4:14; John 7:37-39; II Peter 1:4-11; Galatians 5:22-24