

# THE COVENANT AND CONFESSION OF FAITH

PERRY BAPTIST CHURCH  
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Having been, as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ, and to give ourselves wholly to Him, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other to walk together in Him, with brotherly love, to His glory, as our common Lord. We do, therefore, in His strength hold as a declaration of our standard of faith and bond of union in fellowship, the following "Articles of Faith."

## Article 1 - The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was (a) written by men controlled by the Holy Spirit; (b) that it has truth without any admixture of error for its matter; and (c) 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 true center of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

(Explanatory)

1. By "THE HOLY BIBLE" we mean that collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, which, as originally written, does not contain and convey the word of God, but IS the very Word of God.
2. By "INSPIRATION" we mean that the books of the Bible were written by holy men of old, as they were moved by the Holy Spirit, in such a definite way that their writings were supernaturally inspired and free from error, as no other writings have ever been, or ever will be, inspired.
  - (a) II Timothy 3:16, 17      II Peter 1:19-21
  - (b) John 17:17
  - (c) Revelation 22:18, 19      Romans 15:4

## Article 2 - The True God

We believe that there is (a) one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; (b) inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; and (c) that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

- (a) Exodus 20:2, 3      Ephesians 4:5, 6
- (b) Revelation 4:11      I Timothy 1:17
- (c) Philippians 2:5, 6      John 1:1-3      John 10:30

## Article 3 - The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person who is (a) equal with God the Father and (b) God the Son and (c) of the same nature; (d) that He was active in the creation; (e) that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; (f) that He convicts of sin, of judgment, and of righteousness; (g) that He bears witness to the Truth of the Gospel in preaching and testimony; (h) that He is the agent in the New Birth; (i) that He seals, baptizes, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies, and helps the believer.

And that the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance) is the evidence of His indwelling rather than the speaking in tongues and other spectacular demonstrations.

- (a) I John 5:7 with John 1:1
  - (b) I John 5:7 with John 1:14
  - (c) Luke 1:35      Philippians 2:6      I Timothy 3:16
  - (d) Job 33:4      Psalm 104:30      Genesis 1:2 and 2:7
  - (e) II Thessalonians 2:7
  - (f) John 16:8-11
  - (g) John 15:26, 27      Acts 5:30-32
  - (h) John 3:5-6
  - (i) Ephesians 1:13-14      I Corinthians 12:13      Luke 24:49      John 14:26  
Romans 8:16      Romans 8:9, 16      Romans 8:26-27      Galatians 5:22, 23      John 16:13
- II Thessalonians 2:13

## Article 4 - Sanctification

We believe that sanctification has a two-fold meaning: (a) the setting apart of things, days, or persons specifically for God and that the believer at the time of his regeneration is so set apart by God the Father; (b) the progressive work of the Holy Spirit whereby the believer,



(b) Isaiah 7:14  
(c) I John 5:20

John 1:14  
I Timothy 3:16

Luke 1:34, 35

#### **Article 9 - The Atonement for Sin**

We believe (a) that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace (b) 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, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; (c) that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was the 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; (d) 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 every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all sufficient Savior.

(a) Ephesians 2:8, 9

(b) Philippians 2:8

John 3:16

II Corinthians 5:21

(c) I Peter 2:24

John 10:18

(d) Hebrews 9:12-15; 7:25 I John 2:2

#### **Article 10 - Grace in the New Creation**

We believe (a) that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; (b) that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; (c) that it is instantaneous and not a process; (d) 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; (e) that the new creation is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, nor by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; (f) that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

(a) John 3:3

(b) Galatians 6:15

Ephesians 2:10

(c) I John 5:1

John 3:6, 7

Acts 2:4

(d) II Peter 1:4

Romans 6:23b

Ephesians 2:1

II Corinthians 5:19

(e) John 1:12, 13

(f) Galatians 5:22, 23 Ephesians 5:9

#### **Article 11 - The Freeness of Salvation**

We believe (a) that unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God; (b) that salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ apart from any human merit; Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree; (c) that the blessings of salvation are made free to all through the gospel; (d) that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by obedient faith; and (e) that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel; (f) which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

(a) John 3:3

(b) Ephesians 1:7

Ephesians 2:8, 9

Acts 10:39

(c) Romans 10:13

Revelation 22:17

(d) Acts 2:41, 42, 46, 47

II Corinthians 2:7-8

(e) John 3:15, 16

I Timothy 1:15

(f) John 3:18, 36

#### **Article 12 - 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 unto us.

(a) Acts 13:39

Isaiah 53:11

Romans 8:1

(b) Titus 3:5-7

Philippians 3:9

Romans 5:1, 9

#### **Article 13 - Repentance and Faith**

We believe that repentance and faith are (a) solemn obligations and (b) also inseparable graces, (c) wrought in our souls by the quickening Spirit of God; (d) thereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy; (e) at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ and openly confessing Him as our only Lord and all-sufficient Savior.

(a) Acts 20:21

(b) Acts 20:21

(c) Acts 2:38

(d) Romans 10:13  
(e) Romans 10:9-13

Psalm 51:1-4

Isaiah 55:6, 7

#### **Article 14 - The Church**

We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers (a) associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; (b) observing the ordinances of Christ; (c) governed by His laws; and (d) exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; (e) that its Scripturally designated officers are pastors and deacons, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures; (f) we believe the true mission of the church is found in the great commission: First the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men, winning the lost, as we have opportunity; Second, to baptize those born again; Third, to teach and instruct, as He has commanded. (g) We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self government, free from interference of any hierarchy of individuals or organizations; and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit; (h) 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 every church is the sole and only judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; (i) on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

We believe that the Holy Spirit endues every believer with gifts with which to function within the local body (I Peter 4:10). We believe the Scripture repudiates the experience-oriented Theology and ecumenically-oriented practice of the Charismatic movement (I Corinthians 12:8-13, 28-31).

(a) Acts 2:41, 42  
(b) I Corinthians 11:2  
(c) Ephesians 1:22, 23  
(d) Ephesians 4:11                      I Corinthians 12:4; 8-11  
(e) Acts 6:1-6                              I Timothy 3:1-13  
(f) Matthew 28:18-20                      Acts 1:8  
(g) Colossians 1:18                              Ephesians 5:23-24  
(h) Acts 15:22                              I Corinthians 16:1  
(i) I Corinthians 6:1-3 and 5:11-13

#### **Article 15 - Baptism and The Lord's Supper**

We believe (a) that Christian Baptism is the believer's immersion in water; (b) in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; (c) to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life; (d) that in Scriptural order it (baptism) precedes the privileges of church membership and is the public recognition of the Lordship of Jesus Christ.; (e) the Lord's Supper is a memorial service in which the elements of the bread and wine remind us of the love of God in Christ Jesus, "Who spared not His own Son but delivered Him up for us all," that this ordinance is to be observed in anticipation of His coming and preceded always by solemn self-examination.

(a) Acts 8:36-39                              Acts 10:47  
(b) Matthew 28:19  
(c) Romans 6:3-5  
(d) Acts 2:41-42  
(e) I Corinthians 11:23-32                      Romans 8:32

#### **Article 16 - The Grace of Giving**

We believe (a) that Scriptural giving is one of the fundamentals of the Christian Faith; (b) that it is to be done regularly and proportionately; (c) that we are under grace in the fellowship of giving; (d) that it is part of our worship; (e) and that the local church is the proper repository for offerings; (f) it is required of stewards to be faithful.

(a) I Corinthians 16:1                              II Corinthians 8:7  
(b) I Corinthians 16:2  
(c) II Corinthians 8:1-15  
(d) Psalm 96:8  
(e) I Corinthians 16:1-2                              Malachi 3:10  
(f) I Corinthians 4:1-2

#### **Article 17 - The Perseverance of the Saints**

We believe (a) that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; (b) that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; (c) that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and (d) that they are kept by power of God through faith unto eternal salvation.

(a) Colossians 1:21-23

- (b) I John 2:19
- (c) Romans 8:28                      Hebrews 1:14
- (d) Romans 8:35-39                      Philippians 1:6

**Article 18 - The Righteous and the Wicked**

We believe (a) that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; (b) that only those who through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; (c) that all who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse; (d) and this distinction holds among men both in and after death, in everlasting felicity of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

- (a) Malachi 3:18                      I Corinthians 6:9-11
- (b) Romans 5:1-2
- (c) Romans 6:23                      Hebrews 6:4-6
- (d) Revelation 21:8                      John 12:25

**Article 19 - Civil Government**

We believe (a) that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society; (b) that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, (c) except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, (d) who is the only Lord of the conscience and the coming Prince of the Kings of the earth.

- (a) Romans 13:1-7
- (b) Acts 23:5                              I Peter 2:13-14
- (c) Acts 5:29                              Acts 4:19-20                      Daniel 3:17-18
- (d) Philippians 2:10-11                      Revelation 19:13, 16

**Article 20 - The Resurrection, Return of Christ and Related Events**

We believe in and accept the sacred Scriptures upon these subjects at their face and full value:

- (a) The Bodily Resurrection
  - Luke 24:39      John 20:27                      I Corinthians 15:4                      I John 1:1
- (b) The Ascension
  - Acts 1:9, 11      Luke 24:51                      Mark 16:19                      Revelation 3:21
  - Hebrews 12:2      Hebrews 8:1
- (c) The High Priesthood
  - Hebrews 8:6      I Timothy 2:5      I John 2:1                      Hebrews 2:17; 5:9-10; 7:25
- (d) The Second Coming

The return of Christ includes both the rapture of the church and His return in glory. The first is for His church which is personal, pre-tribulational, pre-millennial and may occur at any moment.

- (1) I Thessalonians 4:13-18      John 14:3
- (2) II Thessalonians 2:3                      James 5:8
- (3) I Thessalonians 5:1-6                      Hebrews 9:28                      I Corinthians 15:52

The second is His return to earth to establish His righteous reign over the earth. This coming is visible, personal, pre-millennial and in power and great glory.

- (1) John 14:3                      Acts 1:11
- (2) Matthew 24:27                      Matthew 25:13
- (3) Revelation 20:6                      Revelation 22:20
- (e) The Resurrection of the Righteous Dead
  - I Thessalonians 4:16                      I Corinthians 15:42-44, 52
- (f) The Change of the Living in Christ
  - I Corinthians 15:51-53      I Thessalonians 4:17      Philippians 3:20-21
- (g) On the Throne of David
  - Luke 1:32                              Isaiah 9:6-7                      Acts 2:29-30
- (h) His Reign on Earth
  - I Corinthians 15:25                      Isaiah 32:1                      Isaiah 11:4-5                      Psalm 72:8
  - Revelation 20:1-4      Revelation 20:6                      Revelation 20:14                      Revelation 5:10

**Article 21 - The Christian's Privilege**

We believe (a) that it is the privilege and responsibility of every believer to be a personal soul-winner and (b) to do His utmost to give the Gospel of Christ to the whole world.

(a) Luke 24:46-48 Acts 1:8 Revelation 1:5 with John 20:21

(b) Matthew 28:19 Acts 1:22 Acts 2:32 Acts 4:33 II Corinthians 5:10-11

“An appointed *Proof Team* was used to make grammatical suggestions to this official church documentation.”