

BETHEL CHURCH: STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

ARTICLES OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

To be interpreted as expressed in and according to the Natural and Literal meaning of the respective passages of the WORD OF GOD referred to under each ARTICLE.

- A -

The Divine Authority and Plenary Inspiration of the whole Canonical Scriptures

We believe that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God," by which we understand that the whole of the book called the Bible is inspired in the sense that the Holy Ghost gave the identical words of the sacred writings of the holy men of old, chosen by him to be the channel of His revelation to man.

II Timothy 3:16,17 Mark 12:26-36 II Peter 1:21 I Corinthians 2:13 Acts 1:16; 2:4

- B -

The Trinity of the Godhead

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience.

Genesis 1:26; 3:22; 11:6-8 John 1:1-4 Isaiah 63:8-10 Acts 5:3-4
Matthew 28:19,20 II Corinthians 13:14 Mark 12:29 Revelation 1:4-6 Hebrews 1:1-3

- C -

The Deity and the Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ

We believe in the essential Deity and the Virgin Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and that all the scriptures from first to last, centre about Him, His Person and work, His sacrificial death upon the cross and His coming again.

Isaiah 7:14 John 5:39 Matthew 1:18-23 Acts 1:11; 17:2,3; 18:28; 26:22,23; 28:23 Luke 1:35

- D -

The Personality, Deity and Present Mission of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine Personality - the Third Person of the Trinity, who is now, throughout this age of Grace, here present in the true Church, having been sent for the express purpose of revealing Christ Jesus to the members of the Church, that they may be comforted, instructed and built up in their most holy faith, and to the world that sinners may be convicted of sin, of righteousness, and of judgement.

John 7:38,39; 14:16,17; 15:26; 16:8,13-15 Acts 1:8; 2:1-4

- E -

The Fall of Man

We believe that man, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, fell from his high and holy estate through disobedience, by eating the forbidden fruit, and in consequence, the threatened penalty of death was then and there inflicted, so that he totally lost all spiritual life, becoming dead in trespasses and sins, and subject to the power of the devil.

Genesis 1:26; 2:17 Ephesians 2:1-3 Isaiah 64:6 I Timothy 5:6 John 5:40; 6:53 I John 3:8

- F -

The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that this spiritual death, or total corruption of human nature, has been transmitted to the entire race of

man, the man Christ Jesus alone excepted; and hence that every child of Adam is born into the world with a sinful nature.

Genesis 6:5 Jeremiah 17:9 Psalm 14:1-3; 51:5 John 3:6 Romans 5:12-19

- G -

Salvation by Grace through Faith

We believe that sinners are saved by Grace through Faith alone and that not of themselves, it is the gift of God, not of works. We further believe that every saved person is justified from all things from which he could not be justified by the law of Moses.

Acts 13:39 Ephesians 2:8,9 Romans 5:1 Titus 2:11-14

- H -

The Atonement by the Blood of Christ

We believe that our redemption has been accomplished solely by the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, who was made to be sin, and made a curse for us, dying in our room and stead, a Sacrifice acceptable to God and effectual for every sinner who receives Him.

Leviticus 17:11 Galatians 3:13 Matthew 26:28 Ephesians 1:7 John 1:12
I Peter 1:18,19; 2:24 Romans 5:6-9 II Corinthians 5:21

- I -

Regeneration by the Holy Spirit

We believe that, owing to the universal depravity and death in sin, no one can see or enter the kingdom of God unless born of the Spirit whereby he becomes a new creation, sealed unto the day of Redemption.

John 3:5-8 James 1:18 Galatians 6:15 I Peter 1:23 Ephesians 1:13
I John 5:1 Titus 3:5

- J -

The Believer's Security and Assurance

We believe in the Eternal Security of all who are actually born again by the Spirit of God through faith in Christ revealed in the Scriptures and that it is the privilege of all such to be assured of their present salvation and eternal safety.

John 10:28, 29 John 5:24 II Timothy 1:12 Philippians 1:6 Romans 8:33-39

- K -

Sanctification

We believe that the members of the body of Christ are sanctified ones; are perfected as to their standing forever by the one offering of the blood of Christ, and are one with Christ in sanctification. As to their state, they may be sanctified with the constant washing of water by the Word, by the blood of Christ, and by the inworking presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25 Ephesians 4:22-24; 5:25-27 John 17:17-19 Hebrews 2:11; 10:10; 13:12 Romans 15:16
I John 1:7-9 I Corinthians 6:11 Jude 1

- L -

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

We believe that when the Holy Spirit came upon the whole company of believers on the Day of Pentecost as promised by Christ, they were collectively baptized into one body, which was the formation of the Church, the Body of Christ,

(Matthew 3:11; I Corinthians 12:13). Since that time this baptism occurs individually at the moment of salvation, at which time the believer is also indwelt by the Spirit (John 14:15-18; I Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9).

We believe that the New Testament distinguishes between being indwelt by the Spirit, which is true of all believers, and being filled with the Spirit, which is the believer's privilege and duty (Acts 2:4, cf, Acts 4:8-31; Ephesians 1:13-14, cf, Ephesians 5:18), producing power in Christian witness. There is one baptism with the Spirit and it is into the Body of Christ, but there are many fillings. Pentecost is an historical event and is not repeated.

- M -

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit administers spiritual gifts to the Church to glorify Christ in the building of His Body (I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 3:18)

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowing of His gifts for the perfecting of the saints for the works of their ministry (Romans 12:3-8; I Corinthians 12:4-11), and that it is not God's will that any one gift should be given to all believers, although all believers have at least one gift, (I Corinthians 12:18-21, 29, 30). We further believe that whenever spiritual gifts are exercised, they will always be within the limits expressly given in the Scriptures, (eg. I Corinthians 14:23-40).

We believe that speaking in tongues (Acts 2:11; I Corinthians 14:6-15) and the working of miracles were sign gifts (I Corinthians 14:22; Hebrews 2:3,4) demonstrated in the early church to authenticate God's revelation through the apostles (II Corinthians 12:12) and to authenticate the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-48), but no such signs give evidence of the baptism today, nor do they appear as a mark of spiritual maturity or of the filling of the Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13; Hebrews 2:3,4).

We believe that special Divine revelation for authoritative Scripture ceased with the Apostolic age (Revelation 22:18,19; Ephesians 2:20; Galatians 1:8,9; John 14:26; Article 1).

- N -

The Unity of the True Church in the Mystical Body of Christ

We believe that the Church is composed of all who are united by the Holy Spirit to the risen and ascended Son of God, and that by the same Spirit we are all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, thus being members one of another and knit together by love.

Romans 12:5

Ephesians 4:3-10

I Corinthians 12:12-27

Colossians 2:19

- O -

The Pre-Millennial Coming of our Lord

We believe this present age will end with the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, first to receive His Church unto Himself, and then to establish the throne of David upon the earth and to reign in righteousness over it for a thousand years.

II Samuel 7:16

John 14:1-3

Psalms 72:7-8

Acts 1:10,11

Isaiah 9:6,7

I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Micah 5:2

Hebrews 9:28

Luke 1:32,33

Titus 2:13

- P -

The Resurrection of the Body

We believe that Jesus Christ rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, in bodily form, and thus became the first fruits of them that sleep; that upon His return He will raise out from among the dead those that have died in Christ, this being the first resurrection; and that after the thousand years, He will raise them that have died in unbelief from their graves to receive their sentence.

Psalms 90:3,4

John 5:28,29

Isaiah 26:19

I Corinthians 15

Daniel 12:2

Romans 1:4; 8:23

Revelation 20:5,6

- Q -

The Eternal Blessedness of the Saved,
and the Eternal Punishment of the Lost

We believe that the attitude either of reconciliation or enmity toward God is fixed eternally at death, and that the saints of all the ages will be forever with the Lord and will become joint heirs with Him as their Redeemer in His inheritance. We further believe that there is an appointed day for the judgement of the wicked when they will be cast into the Lake of Fire, there to remain forever and ever, in varying degrees of torment according to their works.
Daniel 12:3; 7:22-27 I Thessalonians 4:17 Romans 8:17 II Peter 2:9 Rev. 20:11-15; 21:8; 22:11

- R -

The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the Father of lies, a murderer from the beginning and the great deceiver of all nations; that he will be overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ as the seed of the woman and cast into the bottomless pit for a thousand years, and finally committed to the Lake of Fire with all his angels to be tormented forever and ever.
Job 1:6-12 II Corinthians 11:13-15 John 8:44 Ephesians 6:12-16
Revelation 20:1-3, 7-10 Genesis 3:15

- S -

Divine Healing of the Body

We believe that the Divine healing of the body is not in the Atonement in the sense that Salvation and forgiveness of sins are in the atonement. The suffering and death of Christ according to the New Testament was substitutionary, penal and vicarious. (Romans 4:25; I Corinthians 15:3; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24; 3:18). It is nowhere taught in Scripture that Christ died for the effects of sin but for sin, and sickness is directly or indirectly the effect of sin.

- T -

Baptism

We believe that our Lord and Saviour clearly prescribed for His believing disciples the simple rite of Baptism by immersion as a symbol and proclamation of the sinner's death to sin and his resurrection in newness of life in Christ Jesus. Matthew 28:19,20 Acts 2:38; 8:12

- U -

The Lord's Supper

We believe that our Lord and Saviour clearly prescribed for His believing disciples the solemn rite of the Lord's Supper as a memorial of the Lord's death to be kept by His disciples until He comes again, according to His promise and the Father's revealed plan.
Luke 22:19,20 I Corinthians 11:23-27