IGLESIA BAUTISTA
Sola Gracia

ARTICLES OF FAITH

I. The Bible

We believe the Bible is the inspired word of God and is inerrant in the original writings. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally to each word and to all parts of the sixty-six canonical books. We believe that all the Scriptures center on the Lord Jesus Christ, both the Old and New Testament and that they are the final authority in all matters of faith and life.

Luke 24:27; John 5:46; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:19-21, 3:15-16

II. The True God

We believe that there is only one living and true God existing in divine unity as three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We believe that the members of the Godhead equally share the same divine nature, essence and attributes and are worthy of the same worship and honor.

Isaiah 48:16; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:21-22; 2 Corinthians 13:14

A. **God the Father.** We believe the Father created and sustains the universe and all that is in it, possessing complete knowledge of all things, whether actual or potential. We believe he is the sovereign ruler over all creation and works out his purposes both providentially and miraculously. We believe he sent the Son as his gift into the world, and is worthy of all love, honor, trust, and obedience.

   Exodus 20:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:4-5, 29:29; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Revelation 4:11

B. **God the Son.** We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, eternal and equal with the Father, born of the virgin Mary, and that he is both true God and true man. We believe that all things were created by him and for him. We believe that he died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a voluntary and substitutionary sacrifice. We believe that he was raised physically from the dead and ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He is now ministering as our advocate and high priest. We believe that he will receive us to himself at his coming and will return to establish his Millennial Kingdom on Earth.

Isaiah 53:4-6, 53:10-12; Matthew 1:18-25, 28:1-7; John 1:1-3, 8:58, 14:3; Acts 1:10-11, 2:32-33; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:16-20, 2:9; Hebrews 7:25; 1 Peter 2:24, 3:18; 1 John 2:2

C. **God the Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person who is equal with the Father and Son. We believe he shared in the creation of all things and superintended the writing of Scripture. We believe he convicts the world of sin and regenerates and sanctifies believers. We believe that at their conversion, the Holy Spirit places believers into the body of Christ, seals them as God's possession, indwells them, and gives them gifts for ministry. We believe that the miraculous sign gifts of the Holy Spirit marked historic time periods of divine revelation and authenticated the ministry of the Prophets, Jesus, and the Apostles.

Genesis 1:1-2; Matthew 28:19; Mark 1:8; Luke 24:49; John 3:5-6, 14:16-17; Acts 5:30- 32; Romans 8:14-16, 26-27; 2 Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 1:13-14; Hebrews 2:2-42.

III. Angels and Satan

We believe that angels are spirit beings created to serve and worship God and to render assistance to believers as God directs. We believe that though all angels were created holy, a large number of them followed Satan in his rebellion against God and continue to oppose him. We believe that Christ's work on the cross defeated Satan and his demons, making certain their judgment and eternal punishment. We believe demonic control over Christians is limited to external influences which may be resisted by the believer.

We believe in the reality and person of Satan, the Devil. We believe that he was created by God as an angel but through pride and rebellion became the enemy of his Creator. We believe that Satan became the unholy god of this age and the ruler of all the powers of darkness. We believe Satan is destined to the judgment of eternal justice in the lake of fire.

Genesis 3:1-5; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 6:12; Hebrews 1:6, 2:14-15; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 5:11, 20:10

IV. Creation

We believe that the biblical account of creation is neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God. We believe that Adam and Eve were created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all people are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, the first parents of the entire human race. In light of God's creative design, we believe that the Bible teaches that marriage is the joining of one man and one woman and that sexual intimacy is to be expressed only within the bonds of a biblically defined marriage. We believe that any other form of marriage or sexual intimacy is immoral and contrary to God's design.

Genesis 1:1-2:25; Matthew 19:4-6; John 1:3; Romans 1:24-32; 1 Corinthians 6:15-20, 7:1-5; Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 13:4

V. The Fall of Mankind

We believe all humans are made in the image of God and that human life, beginning at conception, is therefore sacred. We believe that all mankind descended from Adam and Eve, the original created pair, and that man fell through sin and as a consequence became dead in trespasses and sins and became subject to the power of Satan. We believe that sin has been transmitted to the entire human race so that every descendant of Adam is born into the world with a fallen nature devoid of spiritual life and with no power to recover oneself from this condition.

Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 3:1-24; Psalm 139:13-16; Romans 3:1-23, 5:12-14; James 3:9

VI. Salvation

We believe that salvation is entirely of God, by grace, through personal faith in the work of Christ, wholly apart from any human merit, works, or foreseen faith. We believe that believers were chosen sovereignly by God before the foundation of the world for salvation and are enabled by the Spirit to believe. We believe that believers are justified before God as their sins are imputed to Christ and His righteousness is reckoned to them.

We believe that all believers were set apart unto God at the point of salvation and are progressively brought closer to conformity with the holiness of God, a process culminating at the return of Christ. We believe that all who are truly born again will be kept by Christ and will persevere in faith until the day of redemption. We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation. We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit and is an integral part of saving faith.

John 3:3-7, 3:16-17, 14:6, 10:27-29; Acts 16:31, 17:30-31; Romans 5:1, 8:33-39; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:314, 2:1-10; Philippians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Titus 3:4-7; 2 Peter 1:3-4

VII. The Church

We believe that at salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, every believer enters into a covenant relationship with God, and is placed into covenant community with all true believers, known as the Body of Christ, which began at Pentecost. We believe that local churches represent specific covenant communities, of which each believer is to be an active part, and that in turn, these churches represent the Body of Christ expressed more fully. We believe that the local church has the right of selfgovernment as an independent church, while operating in voluntary cooperation with other independent churches of like faith and practice, as found in early church practices of cooperation and accountability.

We believe that leadership within the local church is vested in two biblical offices, identified as elders and deacons. We believe that the ordinances of the church are baptism by immersion as the identifying symbol of one's belief in Christ's death and resurrection, and communion, which is a commemoration of Christ's death until he comes. We believe the church has the responsibility to

take the gospel message to all nations of the earth and to be a voice for justice and truth in the world. We believe in separation from all sinful practices and all spiritual apostasy.

Matthew 16:18, 18:15-17; Acts 2:37-47, 15:1-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-28; 2 Corinthians 6:14, 8:18-24; Galatians 1:2, 1:22; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:11-12; Colossians 4:13-18; 1 John 2:15-16, 4:1-3.

VIII. Civil Government

We believe that governing authorities are appointed by God to bring order to society, to promote good and to punish evil. We believe that mankind is to submit to and respect his governing authorities, including praying for his leaders and paying taxes. We believe that governing authorities should be obeyed, except when obedience results in violation of the will of God.

Daniel 3:17-18; Matthew 22:15-22; Acts 5:27-29; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2

IX. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is distinct from the church, and that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ. We believe that Israel will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the church, will be saved as a nation at the second coming of Christ.

Genesis 13:14-17; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 37:1-28; Romans 11:1-32 4

X. Future Events

We believe in the imminent coming of Jesus Christ for his church at the Rapture, at which time all church saints will be raised, glorified and rewarded. We believe that the Tribulation, which follows the rapture of the church, will be culminated by the return of Christ to earth as messianic king to establish the Millennial Kingdom, overthrow Satan, and regather Israel to her promised land according to the Old Testament promises. We believe in the physical resurrection of all the dead: the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to eternal judgment and separation from God in the lake of fire. We believe the eternal state will begin after the judgment of the lost with believers of all time enjoying God forever in the New Heaven and Earth.

John 14:1-3; Romans 14:10-13; 1 Corinthians 15:22-26; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 1:4-7, 19:11-16, 20:1-6, 21:1-4, 22:1-21

X1. God's Purpose of Grace.[1]

[1] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message," https://bfm.sbc.net/, accessed January 2, 2024, https://bfm.sbc.net/bfm2000/.

Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, justifies, sanctifies, and glorifies sinners. It is consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is the glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility.

All true believers endure to the end. Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end. Believers may fall into sin through neglect and temptation, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, and bring reproach on the cause of Christ and temporal judgments on themselves; yet they shall be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31ff.; Matthew 16:18 19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John1:12 14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts20:32; Romans5:9-10; 8:28, 39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:111; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39–12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

XII. The Kingdom.[2]

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

XIII. Evangelism and Missions.[3]

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts

[2] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."
[3] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."

1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17

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XIV. Baptism and the Lord's Supper. [4]

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony to his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is prerequisite to the privileges of church membership and to the Lord's Supper.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

XV. Education. [5]

Christianity is the faith of enlightenment and intelligence. In Jesus Christ abide all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. All sound learning is, therefore, a part of our Christian heritage. The new birth opens all human faculties and creates a thirst for knowledge. Moreover, the cause of education in the Kingdom of Christ is co-ordinate with the causes of missions and general benevolence, and should receive along with these the liberal support of the churches. An adequate system of Christian education is necessary to a complete spiritual program for Christ's people.

In Christian education there should be a proper balance between academic freedom and academic responsibility. Freedom in any orderly relationship of human life is always limited and never absolute. The freedom of a teacher in a Christian school, college, or seminary is limited by the pre-eminence of Jesus Christ, by the authoritative nature of the Scriptures, and by the distinct purpose for which the school exists.

Deuteronomy 4:1,5,9,14; 6:1-10; 31:12-13; Nehemiah 8:1-8; Job 28:28; Psalms 19:7ff.; 119:11; Proverbs 3:13ff.; 4:1-10; 8:1-7,11; 15:14; Ecclesiastes 7:19; Matthew 5:2; 7:24ff.; 28:19-20; Luke 2:40; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:3,8-9; 1 Timothy 1:3-7; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:14-17; Hebrews 5:12-6:3; James 1:5; 3:17.

XVI. Stewardship. [6]

[4] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."
[5] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."
[6] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

XVII. The Christian and the Social Order.[7]

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in our own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality, and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the needy, the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. Every Christian should seek to bring industry, government, and society as a whole under the sway of the principles of righteousness, truth, and brotherly love. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16,43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12–14; 1Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

XVIII. Peace and War.[8]

It is the duty of Christians to seek peace with all men on principles of righteousness. In accordance with the spirit and teachings of Christ they should do all in their power to put an end to war.

The true remedy for the war spirit is the gospel of our Lord. The supreme need of the world is the acceptance of His teachings in all the affairs of men and nations, and the practical application of His law of love. Christian people throughout the world should pray for the reign of the Prince of Peace.

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[7] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."
[8] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."

Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 5:9,38-48; 6:33; 26:52; Luke 22:36,38; Romans 12:18-19; 13:1-7; 14:19; Hebrews 12:14; James 4:1-2.

XIX. Religious Liberty.[9]

God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7,24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1,13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

XX. The Family.[10]

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children

[9] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."
[10] "Baptist Faith & Message 2000 - The Baptist Faith and Message."

spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; Psalms 127; Psalms 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

Core Beliefs

There is only one true God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
God is sovereign as creator and sustainer of all things.
The 66 books of the Bible are inspired by God and authoritative.
All people are sinners in need of salvation.
Jesus lived a perfect life, died, and rose again to save us from our sins.
Through faith in Jesus our sins are forgiven, we receive salvation, and we are made right with God.
The church is established by God and vital to Christian living.
Jesus is coming back again to rule and reign.