

Mell Baptist Association 1893

Articles of Faith

We agree in the belief that the following doctrines are taught in the Scriptures, and receive them without question upon the testimony of God.

1. There is one, and only one, true and living God. He subsists in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three persons are not three Gods, but one God. Deut. 6,4; 2 Sam. 7,22; Ps. 86,10; Isa. 43,10; Matt. 19,17; 1 Cor. 8,6; Gal. 3,20; 1 Tim. 2,5. Trinity-Jno. 1,1; Acts 9,3,4; Matt. 11,27; 1 Cor. 2,10; Matt. 3,17; Jno. 3,35; 1 Cor. 12,4-6; Gen. 1,3; 8,11.

2. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, given by inspiration, and are the only rule of faith and practice, 2 Tim. 3,16,17; Ps. 19,7; Deut. 12,32; Rev. 22,18,19.

3. Adam fell and all men fell in him. By this fall the race became totally depraved and powerless to recover themselves from their lost estate, Rom. 5,12,19; Ps. 5,5; Job 15,14; Gen. 6,5; Jno. 16,12; Ju. 17,9; Eph. 4,18; 2,7; Co. 2,13; Rom. 3,11,12; 8,7,8.

4. God from eternity loved his people, and before the world began chose them in Christ to grace and glory. The effectual calling, justification and glorification of each is infallibly secured through an eternal covenant between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Rom. 8,29; Ju. 13,1,3; Rom. 9,11,16; Eph. 1,4,5; 9,11; 2 Thess. 1,13; 1 Pet. 1,1,2; 1 Tim. 1,9; Heb. 13,20.

5. Sinners are justified before God only by the righteousness of Christ, wrought out ___ his vicarious atonement for sins and imputed to them through faith. Rom. 4,5,6; 4,1; 5,1,22; Heb. 2,4; Gal. 3,11,13; 2,21; 3,22,26; Eph. 2,8,10; Phil. 3,9.

6. The Spirit and power of God will effectually call all the elect, and will support, sustain and keep them through faith, so that they will persevere to the end, and not one will be lost. Rom. 8,30,39; Jno. 6,37(?); 17,2,9; Acts 13,48; 1 Pet. 1,5; Jno. 10, 28, 29; Rom. 11,29; Phil. 1,6; 2 Tim. 1,12; 1,9; Jno. 5,24; 2 Tim. 2,19.

7. Good works are fruits of faith; they follow justification, and are evidences of a gracious state. Eph. 2,10; Phil. 2,13; James 2,18; Matt. 7,20.

8. There will be a resurrection of the dead and a general judgement, and the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be consciously eternal. Jno. 5,28,29; 1 Cor. 15,13,17,22,43,51,52; Phil. 3,21; Acts 24, 13(?), 17,31; 1 Thess. 4,14,16; Matt. 25,31,46; Rom. 2,16; 2 Cor. 5,10; Heb. 9,27,28; Rev. 20,12.

CHURCH ORDER

1. A gospel church is a congregation of baptized believers, agreeing in the belief of what Christ has said, and convenanting to do what he has commanded. Its nature, power and duties, are to be learned from the New Testament model. Acts 1,3; 2,41,42; Matt. 28,20; Jno. 18(?), 26; Titus 1,5; 1 Cor. 1(?),34.

2. Of the church Jesus Christ is the head and only law-giver. By his appointment His church is the sole executive and authoritative expounder of His law, independent of all other government and responsible solely to Him for what it does. Eph. 1,22; Acts 5,29; Matt. 18,18; 1 Cor. 5,4,5,13; Rom. 14,4; Rev. Chapters 1 and 2; 1 Tim. 3,15.

3. Baptism in water and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, to be observed till his second coming. Matt. 28,19,20; Mark 16,15,16; 14,22,25; Matt. 16,26,29; Luke 22,19,20; 1 Cor. 11,23,26; 2; 1 John 5,8.

4. The Scriptures prescribe no mode of Baptism. The Lord commands the immersion of a believer in water into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and a change of this in any particular violates the command, and what is done is not baptism. Matt. 28,19,20; Mark 16,15,16; Acts 8,16,38,19; 1,5; 20,7.

5. The Lord's Supper is to be observed by the churches as a body and not by individual members. Hence, terms of church fellowship are terms of communion. Its design is memorial and symbolic; a perversion of its design is its destruction as an ordinance of Christ. Acts. 2,41,42; 1 Cor. 11,18,20,22,33,34; 5,11; 11,20,24,26.

6. It is the duty of every regenerate soul to put on Christ by baptism, to become a member of a gospel church, and to discharge every duty which the church relation imposes. Acts 2,38,41,42; Gal. 3,27; Rom. 13,14; 1 Cor. 6,20; John 15,14; Jude 3.