

ARTICLES OF FAITH

A. ONE TRUE GOD

- We believe in one true God who is infinite, all knowing, everywhere present, all-powerful, the creator of heaven and earth, inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor.
- In the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who execute distinct but harmonious offices in the work of redemption.

B. FALL OF MAN

- Man was created in the image of God, but by voluntary transgression rebelled against Him and thus has fallen under God's judgment.
- Man inherited this sinful nature since his fall and is in absolute need of a Savior.

C. WAY OF SALVATION

- Although man openly transgressed the laws of God, the Lord put into effect a plan of redemption through Christ's voluntary action to suffer death as punishment for man's sin even though He himself was sinless.
- Salvation of sinners is wholly by God's grace.
- Salvation can be experienced only by confession and repentance of sin, by simple faith accepting the free gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ.
- Once a person is "born again," he or she is forgiven of sin, is justified in God's sight, receives the Holy Spirit and becomes a child of God.

D. BELIEVER'S BAPTISM

- Baptism is a testimony of one's salvation through Christ and only for believers.
- Baptism is a symbol of the death and burial of the old sinful nature and the birth of the new forgiven child of God.
- As Baptists, we believe immersion is the true way of illustrating "the New Birth" as taught in the New Testament.

E. THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST

- Christ, the Son of God, was born of a virgin, walked on the earth, died on the cross, was buried, and rose the third day for the salvation of all mankind.
- Christ alone is our Savior and Lord and the ultimate authority in all matters of life and faith for the believer.

F. SUPREMACY OF THE SCRIPTURES

- The Bible is the revelation of God's Eternal Truth. It can be read and understood by all mankind with guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- The Bible has been given to us by the inspiration of God and is the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions shall be tried.

G. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

- The membership of the Church is only for those who have confessed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- A person is baptized as a testimony of that experience.

H. PRIESTHOOD OF BELIEVERS

- Every believer can directly approach God through Christ without the aid of human priests.

I. CHRIST-LIKE LIVING

- Jesus Christ has not only come to save us but has also called each believer to a "holy calling" through the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

- Each member must seek to live a life worthy of that calling through faith and obedience to Christ.
- All believers must strive to perfect their faith so that the love of Jesus may abound in their hearts while the Holy Spirit guides, instructs, disciplines, and enables each individual believer to partake of God's holiness.
- Living our "holy calling" is a progressive act that begins at conversion and continues until God calls believers home to heaven.

J. SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

- We believe in the separation of Church and State, and we recognize the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- The State should protect all religious groups but favor none.
- The Church must not dictate to the State or the State to the Church.

K. AUTONOMY OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

- Each local church is self-governing and shall be democratic and autonomous in its government.
- Each local church will choose its own Pastor and manage its own affairs.

L. THE LORD'S SUPPER

- The Lord's Supper is a sacred ordinance. In symbolic form, through the elements of the bread and the cup, it depicts the death of Christ and the shedding of His blood for the remission of our sins.
- According to Scripture (*I Corinthians 11:26-30*), the practice of this ordinance is preceded by a time of self-examination.

M. EVANGELISM OF THE WORLD

- Baptists take seriously the Great Commission of Christ (*Matthew 28:18-20*).
- Through the power of the Holy Spirit, our purpose as a church and as individuals shall be to win people to Christ at home and abroad.

N. SECOND COMING

- As Christ promised before He ascended to heaven, He will return for His Bride, which is His Church (*Acts 1:9-11, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Revelation 19:6-9*).
- Christ's Return, which is referred to as the Rapture, will occur when no one expects it (*Matthew 24:26*).
- Christ will appear in the clouds, the dead in Christ shall rise first, then those who are alive will follow, and so shall we ever be with the Lord (*I Thessalonians 4:17*).
- After the Rapture, there will be a great tribulation with satanic forces gathering for the last battle at which time Christ will defeat Satan and set up His Kingdom on this earth for 1,000 years (*Revelation chapters 19 & 20*).
- After that will come the Great Judgment followed by a new heaven and a new earth (*Revelation chapter 21*).

O. THE CHURCH COVENANT

- A Covenant is an agreement between two or more persons.
- The Covenant of The First Baptist Church of Augusta shall be The New Testament.