



Articles of Faith

The Articles of Faith of South End Fellowship Baptist Church are as follows:

- (a) **THE SCRIPTURES:** We believe in the plenary, verbal inspiration of the original writings of the sixty-six (66) books of the Bible, the Word of God, and that it is the full and complete revelation of God's will for man, the supreme and final authority in the matters of faith and practice (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20-21; Jude 3).
- (b) **THE GODHEAD:** We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit; that in the unity of the Godhead they are equal in every divine perfection and execute distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption (Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14; Matthew 28:18-19).
- (c) **THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST:** We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ
 - (i) the only begotten Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man (John 1:1-2, 14, 18; Luke 1:35);
 - (ii) accomplished our complete redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, propitiatory and substitutionary sacrifice, a redemption made sure to us by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 3:24-25; 5:8-10; I Peter 2:24; Ephesians 1:7);
 - (iii) ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of Representative, Intercessor and Advocate (Acts 1:9-11; Romans 8:34; I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:3; 6:9, 20; 7:24; 9:24; I John 2:1-2).
- (d) **THE PERSON AND WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that
 - (i) the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, possessing all the attributes of deity; and that in essence, He is equally God (Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14);
 - (ii) the Holy Spirit is the Supernatural Agent in regeneration and sanctification, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, indwelling equally and permanently every believer, and sealing them unto the day of redemption (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:11; 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:13-14);
 - (iii) every unregenerated person, the moment he or she exercises faith in Christ as Saviour, immediately receives the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19; Galatians 4:6; I Thessalonians 4:8);
 - (iv) He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; that He sovereignly bestows a spiritual gift(s) upon each believer; and that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled (controlled) by the Spirit (John 16:13; I Corinthians 12:4-7; Ephesians 5:18).

- (e) **THE TOTAL DEPRAVITY OF MAN:** We believe that man, as a three-part being, was created in the image and likeness of God but through Adam's sin, the whole race fell, became alienated from God and inherited a sin nature, is totally depraved, possesses no spark of divine life, and, of himself, is utterly helpless to remedy his lost condition apart from the grace of God (Genesis 1:25-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12).
- (f) **SALVATION:** We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to sinful man by grace and received solely by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who accomplished complete redemption by His substitutionary death and shedding of His precious blood (John 3:18; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; Philippians 3:4-9; Titus 3:5; I Peter 1:18-19).
- (g) **SANCTIFICATION:** We believe that sanctification is a setting apart unto God (John 17:17, 19). It consists of three steps in the believer's life:
- (i) **Positional:** Every believer, by his being "in Christ" and partaking of all He is, has a complete standing before God (I Corinthians 1:2; 30; 6:11; Hebrews 10:10, 14).
 - (ii) **Progressive:** Yet every believer, because he retains a sin nature, lives in a present state that is imperfect, to the extent that he fails to appropriate the power of the Holy Spirit by which to live the Christian life. Therefore, he is in need of a progressive sanctification by growing in grace unto spiritual maturity (II Corinthians 3:18; 7:1; Ephesians 4:24; Hebrews 12:10).
 - (iii) **Ultimate:** Every believer will be fully and completely sanctified when he shall see the Lord and shall be like Him (Romans 8:29; Ephesians 5:25-27; II Corinthians 3:18; 1 John 3:2).
- (h) **THE COMFORT OF THE BELIEVER:** We believe
- (i) because of the eternal purpose of God, the nature of the Word and promise of God, and the immutability of the unchangeable covenants of God, that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by the power of God, indwelt by the Holy Spirit, and interceded for by Christ and are therefore secure in Christ forever (John 6:27-40; 10:27-30; 17:11; Romans 8:1, 29-30, 38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; II Timothy 1:12; I Peter 1:5; Jude 24);
 - (ii) that God, as a Holy and Righteous Father of all the redeemed, cannot overlook the sin of His children, and, when they persistently sin, He will chasten and correct them in infinite love (I Corinthians 11:27-32; Hebrews 12:5-11);
 - (iii) that it is the universal privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which truth excites within His children filial love, gratitude, and obedience (I John 5:10-13; 3:14; II Corinthians 5:6-8; Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).
- (i) **THE CHURCH:** We believe
- (i) that the universal church, which is the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons of the present age which began at Pentecost and will be terminated at the rapture (Ephesians 1:22-23; I Corinthians 12:12-14; Romans 12:5; Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:42-47);
 - (ii) that the establishment and continuance of the local church is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures, being composed solely of believers (Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-32; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11). These churches worshiped on the first day of the week, the Lord's Day. (John 20:19, 26; Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; Hebrews 10:25).

- (j) THE MINISTRY AND SPIRITUAL GIFTS:** We believe
- (i) that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts, and that the gifts of 1) evangelist 2) pastor/teacher are for the perfecting of the saints today for the ministry (I Corinthians 12:4-11; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12; I Corinthians 13:8);
 - (ii) that every believer possesses a spiritual gift, or gifts, for the edification of the body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:20-27; Ephesians 4:12);
 - (iii) God is sovereign and can use any spiritual gift as He chooses.
- (k) THE CHRISTIAN WALK:** We believe
- (i) that every Christian possesses two natures (Romans 6:1-13; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16);
 - (ii) that the Christian life consists of a positive abiding in union with the living Christ and by living in the power of the indwelling Spirit so that the fruit of the Spirit is produced in their life in contrast to the lusts of the flesh (John 15:1-16; Galatians 5:16-23; Ephesians 4:22-24);
 - (iii) that all the saved should live in such a manner as to not bring reproach upon their Saviour and Lord; that the separation from all religious apostasy, and all sinful worldly pleasures, practices and associations is commanded of God (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13, 21; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; II Timothy 3:1-5; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11);
 - (iv) that every believer should be a faithful steward of all his substance for the furtherance of the Gospel at home and abroad (I Corinthians 16:2; II Corinthians 9:6-8).
- (l) THE GREAT COMMISSION:** We believe that it is the obligation of all believers to witness by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19- 20; Romans 10:11-17).
- (m) THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN:** We believe that Satan is a personal being, the highest rank of all angelic creatures; that he sinned through pride, thereby becoming author of sin and the cause of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; and, that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire (Genesis 3:1-19; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; 25:41; Revelation 20:10).
- (n) THE BLESSED HOPE:** We believe that the next great event in the fulfilment of prophecy will be the imminent, personal, pre-tribulation return of the Lord in the air to receive to Himself into heaven both His own who are alive and remain unto His coming and also all who have fallen asleep in Him, and that this event is the blessed hope set before us in Scripture, and for this we should be constantly looking (John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; I Thessalonians 1:10; 4:13-18, Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 3:10).
- (o) THE TRIBULATION:** We believe that the translation of the church will be followed by the fulfilment of Israel's seventieth week (Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:1-19, 21) during which the church, the body of Christ, will be in heaven. This entire period of seven years will be a time of judgement on the whole earth, at the end of which the times of the Gentiles will be brought to a close. The latter half of this period will be the time of Jacob's trouble (Jeremiah 30:7), which our Lord called the great tribulation (Matthew 24:15-21; Revelation 6:1; 19:21).

- (p) THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST:** We believe that the period of the great tribulation in the earth will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth as He went, in person on the clouds of heaven, and with power and great glory to introduce the millennial age, to bind Satan and place him in the abyss, to lift the curse which now rests on the whole creation, to restore Israel to her own land and to give her the realization of God's covenant promises, and to bring the whole world to the knowledge of God (Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Isaiah 11:4-9; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Zechariah 14:4; Romans 8:19-23; 11:25-27; Revelation 20:1-3).
- (q) THE ETERNAL STATE:** We believe
- (i) in the bodily resurrection of all men; saved to eternal life, and at the Great White Throne, the unsaved to judgement and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13).
 - (ii) that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord (Luke 23:43; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 20:11-15).
 - (iii) that the souls of unbelievers remain after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with spirit, soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgement and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6, 7; Revelation 20:11-15).
- (r) CREATION:** Concurrent with our belief in the infallibility of Scripture, we believe that the Book of Genesis presents an historically accurate and literal account of the origin of man, the fall of man, the call of Abraham, and the origin of God's chosen people, Israel. Included in this is our belief that special creation of the existing universe, consisting of time, space, energy, and matter, was accomplished in six (6) literal, twenty-four (24) hour days, as detailed in Genesis Chapter One.
- (s) MARRIAGE AND FAMILY:**
- (i) We believe that marriage is a holy covenant, valid only between one man and one woman according to God's original design. Marriage is a reflection of Christ's relationship with the church. Marriage is the only context for God-honouring sexual expression. (Genesis 2:21-24; I Corinthians 4:1-5; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4)
 - (ii) Children are a heritage of the Lord, and from the moment of conception, life is sacred and to be protected. (Psalm 139:13-16; Psalm 127:3-5; Psalm 90:12)