



SOUTHEND ARTICLES OF FAITH

THE BIBLE

We believe the Bible, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments, is the inspired Word of God, and that men were moved by the Spirit of God to write the very words of Scripture which are God's complete and final revelation and therefore they are without error as originally written. The Bible is the complete and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

Proverbs 30:5-6, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Hebrews 1:1-2, 1 Peter 1:25, 2 Peter 1:21

GOD

We believe in one eternal, self-existent God, creator of all, who is all-knowing, all-powerful and present everywhere at the same time. He is holy, sovereign, and coequally exists in three distinct, persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (commonly referred to as The Trinity).

Genesis 1:1, Deuteronomy 6:4, Nehemiah 9:6, Isaiah 45:5;12, Psalm 139, Hebrews 1:1-2, Mark 1:9-11, 2 Corinthians 13:14, Revelation 1:4,8

The Father:

We believe that God the Father has initiated a plan of redemption to restore relationship with his creation, working all things together to fulfill that plan. He adopts as sons and daughters all those who come to him through faith in Jesus Christ.

John 1:12-13; 14:6, 2 Corinthians 6:18, Galatians 4:1-7, Ephesians 1:3-12, 1 John 3:1-3

The Son:

We believe Jesus Christ is the divine Son of God, God's fullest revelation of himself to humankind. He was sent to earth as a man, without ceasing to be God, he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin. He lived a sinless human life in order to offer himself as the perfect and complete sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying as our substitute on the cross. He physically arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate his power over sin and death and making new life available to humanity. He ascended to Heaven and will return in glory and power. (refer to Future Things section)

Matthew 1:20-23, Luke 1:35, John 1:1-5,14; 8:58; 14:7-30, Acts 1:9-11, Romans 1:3-4; 8:34, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9, 1 Timothy 2:5, Titus 2:11-13, Hebrews 4:14-15, Revelation 1:8; 22:12-13

The Holy Spirit:

We believe that the Father and Son have sent the Holy Spirit into the world to make all people aware of their sin and need for Jesus Christ. He also dwells in every Christian from the moment of salvation providing Christians with power to grow in Christlikeness, to understand spiritual truth, to serve the church and be a minister of Jesus Christ to the world.

Luke 12:11-12, John 14:15-26; 16:4-14, Romans 8:1-11, 1 Corinthians 12:1-14, 2 Corinthians 3:4-6, Galatians 5:16-26

HUMANITY

We believe that God created humans in his image after his likeness, to rule the earth, to enjoy fellowship with him and exist forever. As his creation, humans will never become God or a god of any kind. Although originally perfect, the first man Adam sinned against his Creator in an act of rebellion and disobedience. As a result of his sin, all human beings are born sinners, with a natural disposition toward independence and rebellion against God and are responsible before God for their sin. In their sinful state, all humanity is completely unable to reconcile themselves to God, and are alienated from him, justly condemned to physical death and eternity in Hell.

Genesis 1:26-27, Isaiah 64:6, Matthew 25:46, Romans 3:9-20; 5:12; 6:23, Ephesians 2:1-3,12

SALVATION

We believe that God offers all humanity salvation from slavery to sin and eternal punishment. This is God's free and underserved gift (grace) offered to all, which each person must individually accept. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works.

Only by trusting (faith) in Jesus Christ's sacrifice of his own life by the shedding of His blood for our sin can anyone be saved from sin's penalty.

SANCTIFICATION

At the moment of salvation, we are made right with God and born again to new life. This new life is evidenced by repentance, confession, baptism, and a life committed to his service. As saved individuals we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and therefore no longer enslaved to our sin nature, but empowered to pursue holiness and grow in grace unto spiritual maturity. Every saved individual is sealed by the Holy Spirit and therefore guaranteed life forever with God.

John 1:12; 3:1-21; 10:28-29; 14:6, Romans 5:1; 6:11-13; 6:23; 8:1-17; 8:28-39; 10:9-13, 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Galatians 3:26, Ephesians 1:13-14; 2:8-10, Titus 3:5, Hebrews 9:22, 2 Peter 1:3-11, 1 John 3:1

THE CHURCH

The Church is all those individuals who have repented of sin and trusted in Jesus Christ for salvation. Every person who has been saved by Jesus Christ is a member of the global Christian Church. Therefore, the Church exists throughout the world and is witnessed and experienced in local gatherings of believers. The Bible uses relational terms for the church. It is the Body of Christ because it takes its direction from its head, Jesus. It is the Bride of Christ because she is dearly loved by Jesus. It is a Living Temple because God, by the Holy Spirit, dwells in each of his people.

Matthew 16:16-18, Acts 2:41-47; 14:23;27, Romans 12:5, 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:12-27, Ephesians 1:20-23; 4:3-16; 5:24-32, Colossians 3:14-15, 1 Tim 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-11

Communion

The Lord Jesus instructs those of us who are following Him to regularly remember the sacrifice He made on our behalf. It is a memorial wherein the believer remembers the Lord's sacrifice by partaking of the bread symbolizing Christ's broken body, and the fruit of the vine, symbolizing his shed blood; and proclaiming the Lord's death till He comes.

Luke 22:14-20, 1 Corinthians 11:17-34

Baptism

We believe that those who have received salvation have the privilege and responsibility of being baptized declaring their new life in Jesus Christ. Baptism is an act of obedience, whereby through immersion, the believer publicly identifies with Jesus' death, burial and resurrection as patterned in the New Testament we encourage people to be baptized soon after salvation.

Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:41, Romans 6:3-4

RELATIONSHIPS

We believe that God, who is relational by nature (Father, Son, Spirit), created us for relationship—both with Himself and with one another. This is emphasized by Jesus in the Greatest Commandments. It is by our primary relationship with God, through Jesus, with the Holy Spirit working in us, that love and all righteousness is possible. It is by our love for one another as Christians that people will know we are true disciples of Jesus Christ. We bring glory to God by living our lives in authentic, life-changing relationship with Him and with one another. Spiritual gifts have been given to each member of the body to build one another up in their walk with God. We as fellow believers, work together to accomplish the Great Commission given by Jesus Christ, resulting in God being glorified.

Leviticus 19:18, Deuteronomy 6:4-7, Matthew 22:34-40, John 13:12-15; 34-35, 1 Corinthians 12-13, Hebrews 10:24-25, 1 Peter 4:7-11, 1 John 4:7-21

THE GREAT COMMISSION

In his final conversation with his disciples before returning to heaven, Jesus laid out the following mission for the church:

"And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 ESV

THE GREAT COMMANDMENT

When asked what the most important commandment was, Jesus replied with:

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

Matthew 22:36–40 ESV

SATAN

We believe that Satan was created by God as a glorious archangel and servant of God but through his own rebellious choice became the originator of sin and the archenemy of God and man. We believe that he exists today, blinding people to the truth of God, perpetuating lies and actively seeking to destroy all lives. Ultimately, his destiny will be one of eternal punishment in the lake of fire.

Genesis 3:1-19, Isaiah 14:12-17, Matthew 4:2-11, John 8:4, Ephesians 6:10-12, 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, Revelation 20:10

FUTURE THINGS

We believe that according to his promise Jesus Christ will personally and visibly return to the world in glory and power to have final and complete victory over Satan and death restoring all things to perfection. All people will be raised to life, and Christ will judge all people justly. Those who have repented of their sin and trusted in Jesus will be resurrected in a glorified body to live eternally as physical people on the glorious, sinless, new earth. Those who have not repented remain in their state of sin and separation from God and will be justly consigned to the lake of fire, the place of eternal punishment.

Matthew 24:30-31; 25:31-46, John 5:28-31, John 14:1-3, Acts 1:9-11, Romans 2:5; 3:19; 8:22-25; 14:12, 1 Corinthians 3:10-15; 15:12-58, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:2, Revelation 20:10-21:8

CREATION

We believe that the Book of Genesis presents an historically accurate and literal account of the origin of the universe and humankind, the fall of humanity, the call of Abraham, and the origin of God's chosen people, Israel. God created the universe from nothing, it was glorious and perfect in every respect. Death entered the world because of sin, i.e. Adam's disobedience. We believe that God created the universe and all that is in it, in six literal, 24 hour days.

Genesis 1:3, Exodus 20:8-11, Hebrews 11:3

SEXUALITY and MARRIAGE

God designed humanity to exist as male or female. As such they are equally human and intentionally complementary socially and sexually.

God's intention for marriage is that one man and one woman join their lives in a lifelong, exclusive union. All forms of sexual intimacy are God's gracious gift, to be enjoyed only within the framework of that marriage relationship.

Genesis 2:18-25, 1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4

For further clarity and information on this please see the Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada's policy statement on Marriage and Human Sexuality to which we subscribe.

SANCTITY OF LIFE

We believe that all human life is created by God in His image and is therefore sacred. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life.

Genesis 1:26-31; 9:5-6, Psalm 139, Matthew 6:25-26

These articles of faith do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe.