

## Abstract of Principles

### *Article 1 – The Scriptures*

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God. Therefore, all scripture is authoritative, infallible and inerrant. The Scriptures are the only sufficient rule for faith and practice (Ps. 19:7; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

### *Article 2 - God*

There is only one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself, all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience that springs from faith. (Deut. 6:4; Ps. 145:3; John 1:3; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1Tim. 1:17)

### *Article 3 – The Trinity*

The Scriptures reveal that the one God eternally exists in three persons: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each person has distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being. (Gen. 1:26; Matt. 3:16-17; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14)

### *Article 4 - Providence*

God from eternity, decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and constantly upholds, directs, and governs all creatures and all events. Yet, God is not in any way the author or approver of sin, nor does He destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures. The plan of God does not force us to act in particular ways, but renders it certain that we will freely act in those ways. (Isa. 46:9-11; Prov. 16:33; Acts 4:28; Col. 1:17; Heb. 1:3; Jas. 1:13-15)

### *Article 5 - Election*

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life—not because of foreseen merit in them, but of His mere mercy in Christ—in consequence of which choice they are called, justified and glorified. (Rom. 8:28-30; 1 Cor. 1:27-29; Eph. 1:4, 11)

### *Article 6 - The Fall of Man*

God originally created Man in His own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, Adam transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby he and all his descendants inherit a nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law. As a result they are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors. (Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-7; Eccl. 7:29; Rom. 5:12-19; Eph. 2:1-3)

### *Article 7 – The Mediator*

Since Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, is fully God and fully man, He is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law; suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He ever lives to make intercession for His people. He will return again visibly and bodily. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe. (Isa. 53:10-12; John 1:1, 14; Acts 1:9-11; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:34; 1 Cor. 15:3-4; Gal. 3:13; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 1:1-3)

### *Article 8 - The Holy Spirit*

The Holy Spirit brings glory to the Father and the Son. He applies the work of Christ to believers and gives us everything we need for life and godliness. The Spirit empowers every believer according to His sovereign good pleasure for the purpose of building up the body of Christ. He is the Comforter, the Spirit of Adoption, the Seal of our Salvation and the Guarantor of our inheritance in Christ. (John 14:16-17; 16:14; Acts 5:3; Rom. 8:14-17; Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Peter 1:3)

### *Article 9 - Regeneration*

Regeneration is a change of heart, worked completely by the Holy Spirit, who gives life to those dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the word of God, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is a work of God's free and special grace alone. (Eph. 2:1-6; Tit. 3:5; 1 John 5:1)

### *Article 10 – Repentance*

Repentance is an evangelical grace (a result of regeneration), wherein a person being by the Holy Spirit, made sensible of the filthiness and manifold evil of his sin, humbles himself due to it, with godly sorrow, utterly disgusted by it, with a purpose and pursuit to walk before God so as to please Him in all things. (Acts 2:37-38; 11:18; 2 Cor. 7:10-11)

### *Article 11 – Faith*

Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatever is revealed in His word concerning Christ; accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is worked completely in the heart by the Holy Spirit, and is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness. (Rom. 3:27-28; 4:1-5; 4:17-25; 10:14, 17; Phil. 1:29; Eph. 2:8; Jas. 2:14-26)

#### *Article 12 – Justification*

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not due to anything good or deserving in them or done by them; but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, The sinner can only receive and rest on Him and His righteousness by faith. (Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:34; 10:3-4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Phil. 3:9)

#### *Article 13 – Sanctification*

Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in joyful obedience to all Christ's commands. (Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:27-27; Rom. 8:1-17; Gal. 5:13-24; 2 Pet. 1:3-11)

#### *Article 14 - Perseverance of the Saints*

All those whom God has regenerated will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall through carelessness and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (John 6:37-40; 10:28-29; Rom. 8:28-39; 1 Cor. 1:8-9; Phil. 1:6)

#### *Article 15 - The Church*

The Lord Jesus is the head of the church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular congregations; and to each of these local assemblies He has given needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a church are Elders (Pastors) and Deacons. (John 10:16; Acts 20:17, 28; Eph. 1:22; 5:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; 5:17-18; Tit. 1:5-9; Heb. 10:25)

#### *Article 16 – Baptism*

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, commanded toward every believer, wherein he is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving himself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:3-5; 1 Cor. 12:13)

#### *Article 17 - The Lord's Supper*

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him, and a display of their unity in like-minded service to Him. (Matt. 26:26- 29; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-34)

#### *Article 18 - The Lord's Day*

The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. Each believer should be careful to regard every day as praiseworthy to God. (Ps. 118:24; Rom. 14:5; Col. 2:16; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Rev. 1:10)

#### *Article 19 - Liberty of Conscience*

God alone is Lord of the conscience; and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in anything contrary to His word, or not contained in it. Earthly lawmakers and enforcers are given their authority by God, therefore, subjection in all lawful things commanded by them ought to be yielded by us in the Lord, not only for judgment, but also for conscience sake. (Matt. 15:9; Rom. 13:1-7; 14:4; Acts 5:29; Col. 2:20-23)

#### *Article 20 - The Resurrection*

The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God -- the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised. (John 5:28-29; 1 Cor. 15:12-28; 2 Cor. 5:1-10; Phil. 1:23)

#### *Article 21 - The Judgment*

God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting and conscious punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life. (Matt. 25:46; John 5:22, 27- 29; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:6-11; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2 Tim. 4:8; Rev. 7:13-17; 14:9-11)