

Heritage Bible Church

DECLARATION OF FAITH

*Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.
Ps. 119:111 Established September 17, 2000*

Amended: May, 2015

Article I – The Bible

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, was, as originally given, written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; that it is verbally inspired of God; that it is inerrant, sufficient, and eternal, and therefore of supreme and final authority in faith and life (**2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:16-21**)

Article II – God

Section 1- The Tri-Unity

We believe in the Triune nature of God: that there is but one God existing in three Persons- Father, Son,

and Holy Spirit-- Who are co- eternal, and co- equal. (**Jn. 16:7-15; 1 Jn. 5:6-8**) Section 2- The Father

We believe that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Heavenly Father of all who have come to a saving knowledge of His only begotten Son. (**Jn 20:17; 1 Pet. 1:3-5**)

Section 3- The Son, Jesus Christ

We believe in the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ, His incarnation by means of Holy Spirit begettal and virgin birth, His sinless life and miraculous ministry on earth, His death on the cross as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all men, His bodily resurrection from among the dead, His exaltation to the right hand of the Majesty on high as Lord, Mediator, Priest, and Advocate, and His personal, pre-millennial, and imminent return to bring into consummation His work of redemption by ultimate triumph over Satan and his hosts.

(Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:18-23; Lk. 1:30-35; 2:6-11; Heb. 4:15; 20:30-31; 1 Cor. 15: 3-5, 12-28; Heb. 9:24)

Section 4- The Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that it is by His power that sinners are brought under conviction of sin and are drawn to Christ for salvation, that through Him men are regenerated and sanctified, that by Him the saints are indwelt with the Divine Presence, and that by His endowment and enduement God's people are enabled to serve the Lord acceptably. We believe that He is the Divine Witness, Seal, Earnest, Anointing, Guide, Comforter, Teacher, and Administrator. **(Jn. 14:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4;**

2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27)

Article III – Creation

We believe that the entire universe was brought into existence by the creating act of the great Triune God. **(Gen. 1:1--2:1-3, 3; Jn. 1:1-3)**

Article IV – Satan

We believe in the personality of Satan, “the old serpent, the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the world”, that he is the arch-enemy of God and man, and that in God's own appointed time, he will suffer ultimate defeat at the hands of the Lord, Jesus and will be tormented throughout eternity in the fires of hell. **(Is. 14:12-17; Jn. 8:44; Rev. 12:9-10, 20:1-2, 7-10)**

Article V – Man

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited a sin nature, and became alienated from God; that man is totally unable to remedy his lost condition apart from God's grace. **(Gen. 1:26-27; Rm. 3:22-23, 5:10-19)**

Article VI – Sin

We believe in the universality and exceeding sinfulness of sin and that there is no remission of sins apart from the shedding of the blood of the Son of God and man's repentance. **(Ez. 18:4; Lk. 24:46-47; Rm. 3:20-26, 6:23)**

Article VII – Salvation

Section 1- The Atonement

We believe in the single, substitutionary, sacrifice of the Lord, Jesus Christ, for sinners, one for all and once for all; that salvation is wholly of divine grace apart from any works of merit of the sinner; that it is provided in the atonement of Jesus Christ, wrought by God, and is received by a sinner when he puts his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Savior and repents towards God; that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by personal faith as Savior are thereby born again and have eternal life through the indwelling Christ. **(Jn. 3:16, Rm. 5:8, Tit. 3:4-7; Heb. 10:10)**

Section 2- The Eternal Security and Assurance of the Believer

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus in Christ forever. **(Jn. 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom. 8:38-39; 1 Cor. 1:7-8; 1 Pet. 1:3-5)** We believe that it is the privilege of the believer to rejoice in assurance of his salvation through the testimony of God's word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh. **(Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Tit. 2:11-15)**

Section 3 - The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provisions made for victory of the spiritual nature over the carnal, fleshly, soulish nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature *in this life* are unscriptural. **(Rm. 6:13; 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-18, 24-25; Eph. 4:22-24)**

Section 4 - Sanctification

We believe in the positional sanctification of each believer in Christ at the time of salvation and a practical sanctification, which is progressive, depending upon the believer's appropriation of divine grace. **(Jn. 17:17)** We believe in righteous living and good works, not as a means of salvation, but as its evidence and fruit. **(Jn. 15; Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 1:14-16)**

Article VIII – The Church

Section 1 - The Universal Church

We believe in the universal Church (the body of Christ, the bride of Christ), which includes all true believers, whose purpose is to glorify God through worship, prayer, fellowship, teaching, witnessing of Christ, and observing the ordinances of baptism by immersion and the Lord's table. **(Mt. 28:19-20; Acts 8:36-39; I Cor. 11:23-24; Col. 1:18)**

Section 2 - The Local Church

We believe that the establishment and continuance of the local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament scriptures; that a local New Testament church is a body of believers in Christ that have followed the Lord through the waters of baptism, associated together under the direction and government of the Holy Spirit for worship, instruction, fellowship, service, and the spread of the Gospel to the uttermost part of the earth; that is absolutely sovereign, under the administration of the Holy Spirit, in the handling of its own affairs and in determining its own relationship; that its relationship with other ecclesiastical bodies is one of fellowship only. **(Mat. 16:17- 18; Acts 2; 14:27; Titus 1: 5)**

Section 3 - Spiritual Gifts

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the edification and perfecting of the saints today. Prophesying and the giving of knowledge beyond that revealed in Scripture ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established; therefore we will not allow the exercising of any so-called gift of speaking in tongues, extra- Biblical prophesying, or healing. **(Eph. 4:11)**

We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted, but that healing is not in the atonement (*reconciliation*). **(James 5:13-16)**

Section 4- The Blessed Hope

We believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of living church saints and resurrection of dead church saints-- at which time both companies will meet the Lord in the air to forever be with Him. **(1 Thes. 4:13-18)**

We believe that all the Old Testament saints and the martyred Tribulation saints will be resurrected at the end of the tribulation at the Second Advent. **(Dan. 12; Jn. 5:28-29)**

Article IX – Ordinances

Section 1- Baptism

We believe that there are two Christian ordinances and that they are symbolic, not sacramental: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; that it sets forth in picture the essential facts of redemption – the death and resurrection of Christ, the essential facts in the experience of the believer – death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life, and the essential facts in the hope of the believer – that should he experience physical death, he will be raised from the dead to participate in the eternal glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

(Matt. 28:18-20; Rom. 6:4)

A person, who puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and professes Him publicly at any worship service, shall be received for baptism.

Section 2- The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper- We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death to be observed till He comes; that the elements – the bread and the fruit of the vine are only symbols of His broken body and shed blood, and that our observance of it is a pictorial testimony of the believer's fellowship with the crucified Savior and should be preceded by solemn heart-searching and self- examination. **(Mat. 26:26-30; I Cor. 11:17-30)**

Article X – Civil Government

We believe that all governmental authority is ordained of God for the good of the citizens under its jurisdiction, that believers in Christ are to be the most ardent to obey its every ordinance for the Lord's sake, and that we are to faithfully pray for those who occupy

positions of civil authority and lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. **(Mat. 22:17-21; Rm. 13:1-7; I Tim. 2:1-4, 1 Pet 2:13- 17)**

Section 1 - Civil Disobedience

The position held by the Scriptures is one of Biblical submission. Thus:

We believe that only when our Biblical conscience is violated, in that we are commanded or compelled to commit evil, may we disregard the rule of civil law.

We believe that civil disobedience is permitted when the government's laws or commands are in direct violation of God's laws and commands.

We believe that if a Christian disobeys an evil government, unless he can flee from the government, he should prepare to suffer the consequences for his actions.

(Exodus 1:17-21, Daniel 3:4-12; 6:4-11, Acts 5:17-20; 25-29, I Pet 2: 18-23)

Article XI – Evangelism

We believe that it is in the heart of God to save sinners, that He has committed Himself to the faithful witness of His redeemed children to reach them with the gospel, and that He has commissioned us to be diligent and zealous in publishing the saving message of Jesus Christ throughout the world so that sinners may be persuaded to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, repent of their sins and be saved. **(Mat. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15; Lk. 24:46-47; Acts 1:8;**

I Tim. 2:3-6)

Article XII - The Resurrection

We believe that there will be two resurrections and that all the dead will be raised: that the righteous dead will have part in the first resurrection which will issue in eternal life, and that the wicked dead will have part in the second resurrection which will issue in eternal damnation. **(Jn. 5:28-29; I Cor. 15:20- 26)**

We believe 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. **(Lk. 23:43; Rev. 20: 4-6; 1 Thes. 4:16-17)**

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (**Lk. 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; II Thes. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mk. 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15**)

Article XIII – Eternity

We believe that eternity will be composed of Heaven and Hell: that Heaven is a place of eternal blessedness and that Hell is a place of eternal suffering; that all true believers in Jesus Christ will be fully redeemed from sin's penalty, power, and presence, will be glorified with the Lord when He comes, and will enjoy the blessing of unbroken fellowship with God in Heaven forever; that all unrepentant sinners will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ according to their deeds, without respect of persons, by the glorious Gospel of God, and will be cast out from God's presence to suffer the torments of the lake of fire in Hell forever. (**Mat. 25:46; Lk. 16:19-31; 2 Cor. 5:1; Rev. 20:1-15**)

Article XIV – The Separated Life

Section 1- Life Message

We believe in the separation of believers unto Christ and from the world so as to maintain good works and to have no fellowship with the evil works of darkness but rather reprove them; that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon our Savior and Lord; and, that separation from all worldly and sinful practices and associations is commanded by God. We, therefore, encourage every member of Heritage Bible Church to abstain from every questionable thing, keeping himself/herself from every "appearance of evil", according to the teaching of God's Holy Word. (**Rom. 12:1-2; II Cor. 6:14-18; 16-23; Eph. 2:10, 4:17-29; Phil. 2:12-16; 2 Tim. 3:1-5; Tit. 3:1-8; Jam. 4:4; 1 Pet. 4:14-17; 1 Jn. 2:15-16; 2 Jn. 1:9-11**)

Section 2- Marriage

We believe that marriage is an inseparable union until death parts, in spite of divorces allowed by society; our Lord Himself teaches that at the beginning, God made them male and female for which cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall become one flesh. He also taught that, “*whomsoever shall put away his wife, and marry another committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband and be married to another, she committeth adultery*”. We further believe that any form of sodomy, fornication, and adultery, are sinful perversions of God’s design for marriage. (**Gen. 2:24, Rom. 1:24-32; Heb. 13:4**)

Article XV- The Family

We believe in the importance of the family. With the knowledge that the family was the first established unit in God’s divine order on earth, we are committed to the fact that all endeavors of Heritage Bible Church should have a family overtone and should tend toward keeping the family intact at every cost. We will encourage heads of families to nourish and instruct family members in the things of the Lord and will seek to develop and provide materials, which would facilitate this process. We will seek to remain sensitive to this priority and seek to avoid planning such programs that would violate this principle. (**Gen. 2:18-24; Tit. 2:1-8**)

We acknowledge that the above declaration of faith in no way exhausts the content of our faith, which is the entire Word of God. We do believe that these statements are representative of the sound doctrine taught in the Bible.