



Temple Baptist Church of Sullivan, MO

A Missouri Nonprofit Corporation

Articles of Faith

The Scriptures

We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired Word of God without any mixture of error and, therefore, the final authority for faith and life. The Bible is the essential and infallible record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. All of the words in Scripture are God's words in such a way that to disbelieve or disobey any word of Scripture is to disbelieve or disobey God. Church doctrine, theology and practice must be put to the test of the full counsel of God in Holy Scripture. (2 Tim 3:16; 2 Pet 1:21; Prov 30:5, Joshua 1:8, James 1:22)

God the Father

We believe there is but one God who exists eternally as three persons-- Father, Son, and Holy Spirit-- each with distinct personal attributes but without division of nature, essence or being. We believe that by His Word and for His glory, God is the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections, and being infinite in them all. God is faithful, working all things together for good to those who love Him and offering unfathomable grace in His Son Jesus Christ. He has made all things for the praise of His glory and intends for man, in particular, to live in fellowship with Him. (Gen 1:1; Deut 6:4; Rom 3:24, 8:28; Eph 1:12)

The Person and Work of Christ

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, born of a virgin, is the only Son of God. He took upon Himself human nature, thereby existing as fully God and fully man. Through Him all things came into being. He was before all things, and in Him all things hold together. Jesus is perfect in nature, teaching and obedience. Jesus is the only Savior—the only one who can reconcile sinful man to God. Having shed His blood on the cross for our sins, Jesus was buried and literally rose again on the third day, victorious over death and the powers of darkness. After appearing to over 500 witnesses during a 40-day period, the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He makes intercession for His people and rules as Lord over all who are awaiting His return. (Matt 1:22, 23; John 1:1-5; Heb 1:3, 4:14-15; 1Cor 15:3-7; Acts 1:9-11; Eph 1:7-14)

The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit convicts men of sin and judgment, thereby making men aware of their need for Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the Agent in regeneration, which changes the heart, enlightens the mind, and renews the nature of man so that he becomes a new creation, desiring to bring glory to the name of Christ. The Holy Spirit unites believers in faith and leads The Church into a right understanding and application of the truth of God's Word. (John 16:7-11; Acts 1:8; Rom 8:9-11; Titus 3:5)

Man

We believe God created man in His own image but through Adam's sin, all humanity inherited a sinful nature resulting

in rebellion and total opposition to God, and, thus, became the subject of divine wrath. Man is totally depraved, utterly unable to remedy his fallen condition and incapable of returning to God on his own. Fallen, sinful people are lost and without hope apart from salvation in Christ alone. (Gen 1:26-27; Isaiah 59:1-2; Rom 3:22-23, 5:12; Eph 2:1-3, 12)

The Gospel

We believe that the good news of Jesus Christ is revealed in His birth, life, death, resurrection and ascension. Christ's death is a substitutionary atonement and a propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. God's holy justice is satisfied and His holy wrath is appeased because of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. This demonstrates God's love and reveals His grace. Jesus Christ is the Gospel; there is no other name by which men must be saved. (1 John 2:2; Rom 5:9; John 3:16; Acts 4:12)

Salvation

We believe that salvation is the free gift of God provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Salvation is received by a proper response to the Gospel, which includes personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and visible biblical repentance. Neither repentance nor works can save. Unless a person is willing to deny himself, take up his cross and follow Christ, he cannot become His disciple. We believe that all true believers are secure in Christ forever, being kept by God's grace and power, not by any effort of their own. (Rom 1:16, 6:23; Eph 1:7, 2:8-10; Titus 3:5; Mark 8:34; John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Rom 8:38-39)

The Church

The Church is not a religious institution or denomination. Rather, The Church is made up of those who are genuine followers of Jesus Christ, who is the Head of The Church. Therefore, we believe The Church exists to worship and glorify God and to serve Him by faithfully doing His will on the earth. This involves a commitment to see the Gospel preached and to make disciples. We believe those transformed by the Gospel should participate in the ordinances of The Church and devote themselves to the study of the Word, to fellowship, and to prayer. God has given varied and specific gifts to leaders of the local church to equip the body of Christ for the work of ministry. The body, then, has the opportunity and responsibility to employ their own God-given gifts in His service in relation to one another and to the world. (Matt 28:19-20; Eph 1:22-23, 4:11-16; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor 12:12-14)

Last Things

We believe God, in His own time, will bring the present age to an end. Jesus Christ will return; all will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The present heavens and the present earth will be created anew. (Rev 22:12-13; John 14:1-3; 2 Pet 3:10)