

Candies Creek Core Doctrines

CHURCH COVENANT

Having been brought by divine grace to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves to him, and having been baptized upon our profession of faith, in the name of the Father and of the Son and the Holy Spirit, we do now, relying on His gracious aid, solemnly and joyfully enter into our covenant with each other. (Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 28:18-20)

We will work and pray for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:3)

We will walk together in brotherly love, as is becoming of Christ and His Church, exercise an affectionate care and watchfulness over each other and faithfully admonish and entreat one another as occasion may require. (Romans 12:10; 1 Corinthians 12:25; 1 Thessalonians 5:14)

We will not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, and further, we will be a house of prayer for all the nations and faithfully pray for one another, as well as for those not yet a part of the Body of Christ. (Hebrews 10:25; Mark 11:17; James 5:16; Matthew 9:38)

We will endeavor to bring up those as may at any time be under our care, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and by a pure and loving example to seek the salvation of our family, friends, and the lost. We will, further, make every effort to maintain personal and family worship, and to Biblically train our children for the glory of God. (Ephesians 6:4; Romans 9:1-5; Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

We will rejoice at each others' happiness and endeavor with tenderness and sympathy to bear each other's burdens and sorrows. (1 Corinthians 12:26; Galatians 6:2)

We will seek, by Divine aid, to live carefully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, and remembering that, as we have been voluntarily buried by baptism and raised again from the symbolic grave,

so there is on us a special obligation now to lead a new and holy life. (Titus 2:12; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

We will work together for the continuance of a faithful evangelical ministry in this church, as we sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines. We will contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations. (Hebrews 12:12-14; 2 Corinthians 8:1-2; 9:6-7)

We will, having been commissioned by Christ to go 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 everything that Christ has commanded us, commit ourselves by His grace and the authority of Christ and the empowerment of His Holy Spirit to be Christ's witnesses in our Jerusalem, in all our Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth for the eternal glory of our great God. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8)

We will, when we move from this place, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen. (2 Corinthians 13:11-14)

ARTICLES OF FAITH

A. THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired; that it is truth without mixture of error; and that it is the standard by which all human conduct and creeds should be tried (II Timothy 3:15-17).

B. THE TRUE GOD

We believe that there is one, and only one, true and living God; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (John 4:24; 10-30).

1. God the Father reigns with sovereign, providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow and stream of human history. Everything is under His sovereign Hand to fulfill His will and to bring Him glory (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Job 38-39).

2. God the Son was incarnated as the Lord Jesus Christ without ceasing to be God; He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary; He accomplished the redemption of mankind through his substitutionary death on the cross, and has guaranteed man's justification through His literal, physical resurrection from the dead; He is now exalted at the right hand of God, where He is our Intercessor and Advocate forever (Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; Galatians 4:4-5; Acts 2:18-36; Romans 3:24-25; 8:34 1 Peter 2:24; Hebrews 9:24; 1 John 2:1-2).

3. God the Holy Spirit inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures; He is the one who convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ and sealing and indwelling believers until the day of redemption; He is the divine Teacher who assists believers to understand and appropriate Scriptures; He also comforts believers, cultivates Christian character, and bestows spiritual gifts upon believers by which they may serve God through His church (John 16:8-11; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:4-14; Ephesians 1:13-14; 17-18; 4:7-12; 1 John 2:20, 27).

C. THE FALL OF MAN

We believe that man was created in holiness, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy state, in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners and are under condemnation of eternal ruin. We do further believe that man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph 2:1-3; 4:17-19).

D. THE WAY OF SALVATION

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly a work of God's grace in an unbeliever's heart, made possible through the atoning death and

bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, and received by sinners through personal faith in Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8; Isaiah 53:4-5; Hebrews 7:25).

E. JUSTIFICATION

We believe that through justification of the perfect righteousness of God is imputed to the believers in Christ Jesus (Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1-2).

F. THE FREENESS OF SALVATION

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner but his own depravity and rejection of the gospel (Isaiah 55:1; John 3:16).

G. GRACE IN REGENERATION

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again through the work of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3; II Corinthians 5:17).

H. REPENTANCE AND FAITH

We believe that repentance and faith are inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God, and are essential steps in salvation (Mark 1:15; Romans 10:9).

I. GOD'S PURPOSE AND ELECTION

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; and that this is consistent with the free agency of man (Romans 8:28-31; II Peter 1:10-11).

J. SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification is a progressive process by which the believer is made partaker of God's holiness, and that this process begins in regeneration (I Thessalonians 4:3), and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit (Philippians 2:12-13).

K. THE PERSEVERANCE OF SAINTS

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, endure to the end, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith in Jesus Christ, and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1; 38-39; II Timothy 1:12).

L. A NEW TESTAMENT LOCAL CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

We believe that a local church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of baptized believers bound together in the faith and fellowship of the gospel, and that Jesus committed the ministry of His gospel to His churches; that the Church worldwide is the Body and Bride of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation; that both men and women are gifted for service in the church, but that the offices of pastor and deacon are limited to men as qualified by Scripture (Acts 2:41-42; Matthew 28:20; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-27; 1 Timothy 3:1-15).

M. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We believe that baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, Son, Holy Ghost, and on the authority of the New Testament church and that salvation is a prerequisite to the Lord's Supper.

N. THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that Sunday (first day of the week) is the Lord's Day, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes (Acts 20:7; Exodus 20:8).

O. HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one man and one woman; that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex; and that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Leviticus 18:1-30; Romans 1:26-29; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4).

P. THE FAMILY

We believe that God has ordained the human family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25). Family relationships have specific Scriptural guidelines:

1. We believe that men and women are spiritually equal, and of equal worth, in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and in the church (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12).

2. We believe that a husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church, and that the wife is to love her husband and submit herself to the Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the headship of Christ (Ephesians 5:21-33; Titus 2:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7).

3. We believe that children are a heritage from the Lord and that parents are responsible for teaching children spiritual and moral values through their own consistent lifestyle and appropriate discipline, and that children are to honor and obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1-4; Colossians 3:20-21).

4. We believe that parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and modeling Christ-like behavior as the primary disciplers of their own children, and that the Church exists to support, equip, encourage and partner with parents in the disciple-making process. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Ephesians 6:1-4).

Q. MISSIONS

We believe that God has given the church a Great Commission to proclaim the Gospel to, and to make disciples of, all nations; He has equipped the church through the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses in both Jerusalem, and in Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth for the glory of God; we must use all available means to go to the nations of the earth and not wait for them to come to us (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:46-48; John 20:21; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 9:19-22; 2 Corinthians 5:20).

R. ABORTION

We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being made in the likeness of God (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:1-18; Isaiah 44:24; Jeremiah 1:5).

S. THE WORLD TO COME

Refer to the "Baptist Faith and Message" as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention which can be found on file in the church library, or church office.

T. THE BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE

This statement of faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do, however, fully affirm, in its entirety, the Baptist Faith and Message as it has been amended by our denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14, 2000, and it shall serve as an auxiliary document to the statements declared herein.