

Articles of Faith



1. Inspiration of the Bible

We believe that the Bible in the original writings, consisting of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, was given by divine inspiration and is the Word of God (*II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21; I Thessalonians 2:13*); that it reveals man's state by nature and presents the only means of his salvation (*Romans 3:10-12; Acts 4:12*); that it constitutes the only perfect rule and final authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice (*Acts 17:11; Isaiah 8:20*); and that it sets forth the principles by which man will be judged (*Romans 2:1-3*).

2. Belief in God

We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in Three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (*Matthew 28:19; I John 5:7*)

A. GOD, THE FATHER - We believe in God the Father, creator and sustainer of things visible and invisible, who is true holiness, eternal power, infinite love, perfect justice, absolute truth, the Alpha and Omega, the "I AM THAT I AM." (*Exodus 20:2-3; Genesis 1:1; Leviticus 19:2; Romans 1:20; I John 4:8-9; Romans 3:26; Titus 1:2; Revelation 22:13; Exodus 3:14*)

B. GOD, THE SON - We believe in the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, in His Virgin Birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His bodily ascension to the right hand of the Father, where He ever liveth to make intercession for His saints, in His premillennial coming for His saints and in His return to earth to reign in power and glory. (*John 1:14; Matthew 1:18,22,23; Hebrews 4:15; Acts 10:38; I Peter 1:19; Matthew 28:6; Acts 1:9; Hebrews 7:25; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Acts 1:10-11; Zechariah 14:4-9*)

C. GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT - We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person who moved holy men of God to write the Scriptures, who convicts of sin, who quickens in the new birth, who baptizes the believer into the body of Christ at salvation, who seals and is the earnest of our inheritance, and who indwells the believer with power for holy living and service. (*John 14:16-17; II Peter 1:21; John 16:8-9; Romans 8:11; Ephesians 1:13-14; I Corinthians 12:13*)

3. Man, His Creation, Fall and Need of Redemption

We believe that man was created by an immediate act of God in His own image as given in the Genesis account and not by process of evolution; that through disobedience to God, lost his first estate and thereby became a sinner in need of a Savior, and that since that time all men are born sinners, spiritually dead, alienated from God, and standing in need of personal redemption that is in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. (*Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23-24; Psalm 51:5; Ephesians 2:1; Colossians 2:13; Ephesians 4:18; Colossians 1:14 & 21; Hebrews 9:12*)

4. Blood Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly by grace, that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, shedding His blood on the cross as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who repent and believe in Him, receiving Him by faith as personal Savior, are thereby justified on the ground of His shed blood. (*Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:4-5; I Corinthians 5:6; Isaiah 53:6; Acts 17:30; Matthew 9:14; Acts 10:43; Acts 13:38-39; John 1:2; Colossians 2:6; Romans 5:9; Ephesians 1:7*)

5. The Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His bodily ascension into heaven where He now is at the right hand of God as our High Priest, Mediator, Intercessor and Advocate. (*Mark 16:5-7; Matthew 28:5-7; John 20:27; I John 2:1; Luke 24:36-40; Acts 1:9; Luke 24:50-51; Hebrews 8:1; 9:15; Romans 8:34; Hebrews 1:3*)

6. Personal New Birth

We believe that in order to be saved from hell, all men being sinners, must be born again. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again by the Holy Spirit. We believe that this new birth is instantaneous, not a process; and that it is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Spirit and the Word of God. We believe that in the new birth, God justifies the believer and writes his name in the Lamb's Book of Life and that the Holy Spirit indwells the believer with power for holy living and service. We further believe that every believer stands as a priest before God. (*Romans 3:10; John 1:12-13; Revelation 3:20; I Corinthians 6:19-20; II Corinthians 5:17; Acts 16:30-34; John 16:7-8; I Peter 1:23; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 8:33; Revelation 21:27; Galatians 5:22-23; John 3:3-8; I Peter 2:5; Revelation 1:6*)

7. Justification

We believe that justification is a judicial act of God by which He imparts to the born-again believer complete pardon of sins, the gift of eternal life, and imputes to the believer His own righteousness. We believe that justification is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which the believer has done, but solely because of his faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Romans 4:6-8; Acts 13:38-39; John 5:24; John 6:47; Philippians 3:8-9; Romans 3:21-22; Romans 4:5; Titus 3:5; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:9*)

8. Satan

We believe in the reality of Satan, a living personality who is the unholy prince of this world, the author of all powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire. (*Matthew 4:1-3; II Cor. 4:4; Revelation 20:10*)

9. The Security of the Believer

We believe that all who are truly born again are eternally secure since they have been saved by believing in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, have been sealed by the Holy Spirit, and are kept by the power of God unto salvation. (*I John 5:1; Acts 16:31; John 10:26,29; Romans 10:9-13; Ephesians 1:13; II Corinthians 1:22; I Peter 1:3-5; Romans 8:31-39*)

10. The Church

We believe that the true church is the body of Christ, a living organism made up of born-again believers including those who have gone to be with the Lord, and that this spiritual body is made manifest through the local church, a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His Word; that its officers are pastors and deacons whose qualifications, claims, and duties are clearly defined in the Scriptures. (*Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; Ephesians 4:11; 5:30; Acts 2:47; Colossians 1:18; Acts 29:17-28; II Timothy 3:17; I Thessalonians 4:13-18*)

11. The Ordinances of the Church

We believe that Christ as the Head of the church commanded two ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

A. BAPTISM—We believe that baptism, as taught in the Scriptures as immersion, is not necessary for salvation, yet it is the privilege and duty of every child of God to follow the Lord in baptism as an open confession of his identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. (*Mark 1:9; John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39; Luke 23:39-43; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-5*)

B. THE LORD'S SUPPER—We believe that the Lord's Supper is to be observed by the born-again believers in remembrance of the Lord Jesus Christ that its observance shows forth His death till He comes, and should always be preceded by self-examination. (*Mark 26:26-29; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 10:47-48; Romans 6:3-5*)

12. Attitude Toward Civil Government

We believe that civil government is ordained of God for the punishment of evil-doers, and for the protection of the good. (*Romans 13:1-7*) We therefore consider it our duty to pray for rulers and magistrates, (*I Timothy 2:1-3*) and to be submissive and obedient to their authority except in things opposed to the will of God. We believe in separation of church and state. (*Titus 3:1; I Peter 2:13-14; Acts 4:19; Acts 5:29; Matthew 23:10*)

13. Christ's Second Coming

We believe in the personal, visible, premillennial and imminent return of Christ. (*John 14:1; Acts 1:10-11; Mark 13:34-37*) This will be accomplished in two stages. First, the Rapture – Christ's coming for His Saints – when Christ will descend into the air to catch away His waiting bride, the church. (*I Thessalonians 4:14-18; I Corinthians 15; Revelation 3:11*) Second, the Revelation – Christ's descending with His Saints (*Jude 14; Romans 8:16-19; Colossians 3:4*) to establish the long-promised kingdom and to reign upon the earth for a thousand years. (*Daniel 7:13-14; Luke 1:32-33; Revelation 5:9-10; 20:4-6*) Between these two stages the great tribulation judgments are visited upon the apostate and rebellious world. (*Matthew 24:21; II Thessalonians 1:3-10; Revelation 6:19*)

14. Divorce

We believe that God intends existing marriages to last until one of the spouses dies, and that God forbids divorce except on the grounds of adultery/fornication or if an unbelieving spouse wishes to depart (*Malachi 2:14-17; Matthew 19:3-12; Romans 7:1-3; I Corinthians 7:17*). Divorces in ones past do not disqualify a person from joining with or serving in a church, but may disqualify a man from holding certain church offices. (*1 Timothy 3:2,12*)

15. Euthanasia

We believe that the direct taking of an innocent human life is a moral evil, regardless of the intention. Life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Thus we believe that an act or omission which, of itself or by intention, causes death in order to eliminate suffering, constitutes a murder. Discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome can be a legitimate refusal of over-zealous treatment. (*Exodus 20:13; 23:7; Matthew 5:21; Acts 17:28*)

16. Functions of Men and Women

We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the home and the church. The husband is to be the leader and head of the home. Men are to be the pastors and deacons of the church. Accordingly, only men are eligible for licensure and ordination by the church. (*Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5,12*)

17. Giving

We believe that the church is supported through the giving of its members. The church should exhort its members to follow the biblical principle of tithing (10% of gross earnings). It is our belief that the tithe belongs to the Lord; and should be given to the local church, 'upon the first day of the week' (regularly and systematically); and 'As God has prospered him' (proportionately to their income). Giving in excess of the tithe are offerings to the Lord; exhibiting a love and desire for the work of the Lord to go forward through the ministries of our local church. We believe that once given, all monies become the property of the Lord's work, the local church. We believe that the giver relinquishes all rights to direct the use of his tithes and offerings once the gift has been made, but that it is appropriate for givers to designate offerings, at the time of giving, to special projects within the church. (*I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-8, Malachi 3:10*)

18. Human Sexuality

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage. A marriage should exist only between one man and one woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe 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; I Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; Romans 7:2; 1 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 5:22-23*)

19. Lawsuits Between Believers

We believe that Christians are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the church to resolve personal disputes. We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members. We do believe, however, that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander. (*1 Corinthians 6:1-8; Ephesians 4:31-32*)

20. Missions

Lakeshore Baptist Church believes that the Bible instructs us through the Great Commission to reach beyond our normal sphere to share the gospel. We believe this can be accomplished through home and foreign missions. Monthly financial support is provided to our missionaries for the purpose of establishing and strengthening independent local churches in their place of ministry. Members of Lakeshore Baptist Church participate in missions through prayer and faith promise giving. (*Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8; Philippians 4:15-17*)

21. Separation

We believe separation is a doctrine as well as a practice. We believe that true spiritual fellowship is a result of common faith and practice. We believe there are several aspects of biblical separation.

A. Political Separation: the separation of church and state. The people of a country should be able to worship and express religion freely in public or private, without government intervention or taxation. (Luke 20:25)

B. Personal Separation: the separation of the believer from the world in order to serve God. Personal separation involves a separation from acts of sin, the world system, heretics, and false teachers. (*Joshua 24:15; Romans 12:1-2; II Corinthians 6:14-7:1; Ephesians 5:15-18; Titus 3:10; I John 2:15-17; 4:1; II John 10-11*)

C. Ecclesiastical Separation: the separation of the church from apostasy. We believe we are to rebuke rather than reason with apostates; to reject rather than receive or unite with them. We believe that loyalty to Christ also demands separation from those groups content to walk with or tolerate religious unbelief. (*I Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; II Timothy 4:2-4; II John 10-11*)