

Upper Cross Roads Baptist Church

Articles of Faith

1993 Revision

ARTICLE III: Articles of Faith

In order to establish a firm doctrinal foundation, we have set forth these Articles of Faith (Ephesians 4:14). The Articles of Faith shall always be based upon the infallible Word of God.

Upper Cross Roads Baptist Church is an independent, fundamental, Bible-believing Baptist church, holding to the inerrancy of the Scriptures, and proclaiming the gospel message of salvation free to all who have faith in the blood of Christ alone, apart from works. We are pre-millennial and dispensational in our interpretation of the Scriptures, as set forth in these Articles of Faith.

A. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe in the verbal, plenary inspiration of Scripture, that the Bible is the Word of God, inerrant in the original manuscripts, and that it is the supreme and final authority in faith and practice. The Bible is complete in sixty-six books, nothing can be added to or taken away. Although the Bible is not primarily a science book, where reference is made to science, it is accurate; and although it is not primarily a history book, it is historically accurate.

2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Revelation 22:18-19.

B. THE TRINITY

We believe that God eternally exists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes, and perfections; and executing distinct but harmonious offices.

Exodus 15:11; Matthew 28:19-20; John 1:1-4; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 1 John 4:13-14.

1. God the Father

We believe that God the Father is the first person of the Trinity, the Supreme Being, that He is a spirit, perfect in all attributes, including: Sovereignty, Holiness, Love, Mercy, Omnipotence, Omnipresence, Omniscience, Eternality, Immutability, and Truth. He is the Author of our Salvation, having resurrected His Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Exodus 34:6-7; Isaiah 45:5-6; Malachi 3:6; John 4:24; Romans 11:33-34; James 1:17.

2. God the Son

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, being conceived by the virgin Mary through a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit; and that He was wholly God and wholly man. He lived a sinless life, performed miracles, was crucified, died, was buried, and arose bodily from the dead the third day. He ascended to heaven, was exalted, and took His place at the right hand of God the Father, where He ever lives to make intercession in behalf of all who come to God through Him.

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20, 23; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-3, 14, 10:30; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 7:25.

3. God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures, and, through illumination, He enables believers to understand the truth. The work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. His ministries in the present age are: restraining evil in the world; convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; regeneration of believers; indwelling all who are saved, thereby sealing them unto the day of redemption; and filling those for power and service who are yielded to Him. We believe that some gifts of the Holy Spirit, including speaking in tongues, prophecy, and the gift of miraculous healings, were temporary, and ceased when the canon of Scripture was complete. However, during this present age, the Lord does heal the body in answer to believing prayer, but only according to His sovereign will and for His glory.

John 14:16-17, 26, 16:7-11; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 6:19, 13:8-10; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 5:18; James 5:14-16; 2 Peter 1:21.

C. CREATION

We believe in the Genesis account of creation, that the universe was created in six literal days, that it is to be accepted literally, not allegorically nor figuratively. Man and each kind of plant and animal were created directly by God, not through an evolutionary process over interminable periods of time, or from lower to higher forms.

Genesis 1:1-31, 2:1-22; Exodus 20:11; Jeremiah 10:12; Nehemiah 9:6 John 1:3; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 11:3; Revelation 10:6.

D. SIN

We believe that sin is disobedience to God, whether willful or unknown. Sin entered the human race by Adam's voluntary transgression of God's command and submission to

Satan. The wages of sin is death. Therefore, by Adam sin entered the human race, and death by sin, so that death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.

Sin separates man from God and resulted in the curse of the entire creation. If persisted in, sin will result in the complete and final ruin of the person who does not forsake it and experience the new birth.

Because of God's Holy nature, He cannot compromise on sin; however, because of the blood of Christ, He can and will love, forgive, and restore sinners who repent and confess their sins, and that includes all sins.

Genesis 2:17, 3:1-6, 3:14-19; Ezekiel 18:4; Psalm 51:1-19; 66:18; Proverbs 6:16-19; Romans 3:10, 23; 5:12-17; 6:23; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Colossians 3:5-10; James 1:14-15, 4:17; 1 John 1:9.

E. MAN

We believe that man was originally created in the image of God, having body, soul, and spirit; that conscience and will make him morally responsible to God. Man sinned, thereby incurring not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. We believe that all men are born with a sinful nature as evidenced by sinful acts, being totally depraved (the only exception being the man, Christ Jesus), and that, if not born again, they are under just condemnation to eternal punishment, without defense or excuse.

Genesis 2:7, 6:5; Isaiah 64:6; John 5:40; Romans 1:20, 3:10-18, 23, 5:12; Hebrews 9:27.

F. SALVATION

We believe that it is impossible for man to save himself, it is the work of God. Salvation is freely available, by the grace of God, to all who, having been brought under conviction of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God, will repent and believe. It is obtained through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ - His substitutionary death for our sins, His burial, and His resurrection on the third day. Men are justified on the grounds of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ alone, which washes away our sin. All who believe are born again, from above, by the Holy Spirit, and thereby become the children of God and joint-heirs with Christ.

Leviticus 17:11; John 5:24; Romans 5:6-9, 10:9-10, 17; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Ephesians 1:7, 13, 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Hebrews 9:11-12, 21-22; 1 Peter 3:18; Revelation 1:5.

G. ETERNAL SECURITY

We believe that it is the privilege of all who are born again to be assured of their salvation. All those who are regenerated from above are sealed by the Holy Spirit and are thereby eternally secure.

John 10:27-29; Romans 8:33-39; Ephesians 1:13; Philippians 1:6; 2 Timothy 1:12; 1 John 5:10-13.

H. SANCTIFICATION

We believe that sanctification of believers, which is a setting apart unto God, occurs in three phases:

1. Positional Sanctification

Positional sanctification is already complete because we are in Christ.

2. Progressive Sanctification

Progressive sanctification is the process whereby the Christian is to grow in grace and to be changed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Although saved, we retain our sin nature (the flesh) which cannot be eradicated in this life. Therefore, while the standing of the Christian is perfect in Christ, his present state is one of striving daily to be more Christ-like.

3. Perfect Sanctification

Perfect sanctification will occur when we shall see the Lord Jesus Christ and shall be like Him.

John 17:17; Romans 8:13, 29-30, 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 7:1; Ephesians 1:4; Galatians 5:16-17; Ephesians 4:24, 5:25-27; Philippians 3:10; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 10:10, 14, 12:10; 1 John 3:2-3.

I. SEPARATION

We believe that all who are saved should live in such a manner as not to bring a reproach upon their Savior and Lord. Separation from all religious apostasy, all sinful worldly pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded of God.

Romans 12:1-2, 13:14, 14:13; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; 2 John 1:9-11.

J. SATAN

We believe that Satan is a created angelic being who fell from his first estate through pride. He is the god of this world, ruling by the permissive will of God. He exercises authority over the unsaved, tempts the believer to sin, continually accuses the brethren before the throne of God, and counterfeits the works of God by fostering religious movements and systems of false doctrine. These systems are typically characterized by a denial of the efficacy of the blood of Christ, His absolute Deity, the absolute authority of the Scriptures, and salvation by grace alone. Satan has been defeated by the finished work of Christ. During the millennium he will be confined to the abyss to be released at the end of the period to lead the armies of evil against God. He will finally be judged and doomed to the lake of fire forever.

Isaiah 14:12-17; Job 1:6-12; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4, 11:13-15; Ephesians 2:2, 6:12; 1 Timothy 4:1; Jude 1:6; Revelation 12:10, 20:1-3, 7-10.

K. THE CHURCH

We believe that the universal church is the body and bride of Christ. This spiritual organism was established by our Lord Jesus and is made up of all born again believers of this present age, irrespective of their affiliation.

We believe that the local church is a congregation of baptized believers who have placed themselves under the authority of the body, and have covenanted together for worship, observance of ordinances, and the work of the ministry. This work includes equipping and edifying the believers, evangelizing the lost, and discipling those who believe, both locally and in the uttermost parts of the earth.

Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8, 2:41-42; Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:12, 5:25-27.

L. CHURCH ORDINANCES

We believe that the ordinances of the local church are two: baptism and the Lord's supper. Both ordinances are commanded by Christ and should be observed only by believers, and administered only by the authority of the local church.

Baptism is the total immersion in water of a believer in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit to show, in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. It is symbolic of our death to sin and our resurrection to a new life in Him. We believe that Scriptural baptism is a prerequisite to church membership.

The Lord's Supper, communion, is the highest act of worship. It is a memorial of Christ's death for us and a symbol of His sustaining our spiritual life and growth. It is to be practiced, only after solemn self examination, until Christ returns.

Matthew 3:3-17, 28:19; John 3:22-23, 4:1-2; Acts 2:38, 8:12, 36-39, 16:32-34, 18:8; Romans 6:3-7; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30.

M. THE CHRISTIAN WALK AND SERVICE

We believe that, as believers, we are called with a holy calling to walk, "not after the flesh, but after the Spirit," and thus not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. We believe that it is the obligation of all believers to witness by their life and by their words to the truths of the Holy Scriptures, to seek to proclaim the gospel to the lost, to pray for the work of the Lord, and to support it with their means, as the Lord has prospered them.

Acts 1:8; Romans 6:11-13; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Galatians 5:16-18; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 2:6-7; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 1:4-7.

N. MARRIAGE

We believe in the sanctity of marriage as a lifelong covenant relationship between one man and one woman, designed by God to be permanent until death. The Scriptures clearly teach that believers are not to marry unbelievers, thereby creating an unequal yoke. The clear teaching of Jesus, "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder" (Matthew 19:6b), is not contradicted elsewhere in the Bible.

Genesis 2:23-24; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32, 19:3-9; Mark 10:4-9; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:34; 2 Corinthians 6:14-16.

O. THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that God has ordained that one day in seven should be observed as a day of rest. Under Old Testament law, the seventh day (Saturday) was strictly observed as the Sabbath unto the Lord. Under grace, we observe the first day of the week (Sunday) as the Lord's day because on it He arose from the dead and because the early church met on the first day of the week. The day should be kept sacred to rest, worship, and service to the Lord.

Genesis 2:2-3; Isaiah 58:13-14; Matthew 28:1-6; Mark 16:9; John 20:19-22; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 10:25; Revelation 1:10.

P. CIVIL GOVERNMENT

We believe that God has ordained and instituted civil government for the welfare of society, to promote good and restrain and punish evil. It is the duty of Christians to pray for those who are in authority, to render due loyalty, respect, and obedience to them, and to pay taxes and customs demanded of them. Where the demands of civil law on Christians conflict directly with the supreme and higher law of God to them, Christians must obey God rather than men; however, a Christ-like attitude must prevail.

Daniel 4:17; Matthew 22:21; Acts 4:19, 5:29; Romans 13:1-3; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13-14

Q. ELECTION AND PREDESTINATION

We believe that salvation is made free to all by the gospel, and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the gospel. Election is a sovereign act of love and mercy by God Almighty, according to His foreknowledge. Those elected are predestined unto adoption as children of God, in Christ and to conformity to His image.

John 3:14-18, 6:37-40; Romans 8:29-30, 9:15; Ephesians 1:4-6, 11; 1 Thessalonians 1:3-6; 2 Timothy 1:9; 1 Peter 1:2; Revelation 22:17

R. SECOND COMING OF CHRIST AND THE MILLENNIUM

We believe in the imminent, pretribulational, premillennial return of Jesus Christ in the air for His church. Those who have died in Christ will be resurrected and then those which remain alive will be caught up together with them in the air. There will be seven years of tribulation, after which our Lord Jesus Christ personally and bodily will return to the earth, with the saints, in great power and glory, to bind Satan, place him in the abyss, and establish His millennial Kingdom on earth for 1000 years, lifting the curse which is now upon creation, and restoring Israel to the land.

Isaiah 11:1-9; Zechariah 14:4-11; John 5:28-29, 14:1-3; Acts 1:8-11, 15:16-17, 24:15; Romans 8:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6.

S. JUDGMENT

We believe in two resurrections: the resurrection of the saved at the rapture of the church; the resurrection of the lost at the end of the millennium. All men will be judged: believers before the Judgment Seat of Christ to receive rewards according to their works; unbelievers before the Great White Throne to be condemned to eternal punishment in hell.

Romans 14:10-12; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 9:27-28; Revelation 20:11-15.

T. THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe in a literal heaven where those who have received Christ as Savior during their life will live forever with God. Those who die in Christ go immediately into the presence of the Lord. Our dwelling place will be mansions prepared for us by Christ in the presence of God, with no sickness, sorrow, pain, or death.

We believe in a literal hell where those who have not received Christ as their Savior will spend eternity in the awful, conscious torments of hell-fire, prepared for Satan and his angels.

Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9, 2:7-12; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3:10-13; Jude 1:6-7; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6, 20:11-15, 21:3.

U. HUMAN SEXUALITY

We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity should be engaged in, outside of marriage. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, sodomy, bestiality, transvestism, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex and shall not be condoned.

Genesis 2:24, 19:5, 19:13, 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.

V. SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

We believe in the sanctity of human life, as man was created in the image of God. We believe that human life begins at conception and that the unborn child is a living human being. Abortion constitutes the unjustified, inexcusable taking of human life, and is therefore murder. We reject any teaching that abortions due to birth defects, gender selection, population control or the mental well being of the mother are acceptable. We reject the practices of infanticide, euthanasia, mercy killing, and such. These are sinful murders forbidden by God.

Genesis 9:6; Exodus 20:13; Job 3:16; Psalms 51:5, 139:14-16; Isaiah 44:24, 49:1,5; Jeremiah 1:5, 20:15-18; Luke 1:44; Hebrews 9:27.