

# ANCHOR CHURCH BELIEFS

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## **ARTICLE 1 What We Believe About The Trinity.**

It is the testimony of both the Old and New Testaments and of the Christian Church that God is both One and Triune. The biblical revelation testifies that there is only one God and that He is eternally existent in three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### **A. God the Father.**

God the Father is the creator and sustainer of all things, and He created the universe in love. He created man in His own image for fellowship and called man back to Himself through Christ after the rebellion and fall of man.

### **B. The Son.**

Jesus Christ is eternally God. He was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning, and through Him all things were made. For man's redemption, He left heaven and became incarnate by the Holy Spirit through the virgin Mary; and so, He is forever one Christ with two natures—God and man—in one person.

### **C. The Holy Spirit.**

The Holy Spirit is God, the Lord and giver of life, who was active in the Old Testament and given to the Church in fullness at Pentecost. He empowers the believer for service and witness, cleanses man from the old nature and conforms us to the image of Christ. The baptism in the Holy Spirit, subsequent to conversion, releases the fullness of the Spirit and is evidenced by the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit.

## **ARTICLE 2 What we believe about The Scripture.**

We affirm that the Bible, containing the Old and New Testaments, is alone the only infallible, inspired Word of God, and that its authority is ultimate, final and eternal. It cannot be added to, subtracted from or superseded in any regard. The Bible is the source of all doctrine, instruction, correction and reproof. It contains all that is needed for guidance in godliness and practical Christian conduct.

## **ARTICLE 3 What we believe about The Atonement.**

Christ's vicarious death on the cross paid the penalty for the sins of the whole world, but its benefits are only applicable to those who receive Jesus as personal Savior. Healing—body, soul and spirit—and all of God's provisions for His people, are provided for in the atonement, but these must be appropriated by faith

#### **ARTICLE 4 What we believe about Salvation.**

The Word of God declares clearly that salvation is a free gift of God, based on the merits of the death of His Son, and is appropriated by faith. Salvation is affected by personal repentance, belief in the Lord Jesus (justification) and personal acceptance of Him into one's life as Lord and Savior (regeneration). The new life in Christ includes the privileges of adoption and inheritance in the kingdom of God's beloved Son. Salvation is an act of free will in response to God's personal love for mankind. Salvation should produce an active lifestyle of loving obedience and service to Jesus Christ our Savior.

#### **ARTICLE 5 What we believe about The Christian Life.**

We believe that the Scriptures portray the life of a Christ-follower in this world to be one of balance between what is imputed to us as Christians and what is imparted to us according to our faith and maturity. Therefore, God's provision for His children is total, and His promises are final and forever.

The shortcomings of the individual and of the church are because of the still progressing sanctification of the believer. The Christian life is filled with trials, tests and warfare against a spiritual enemy. To remain faithful through all circumstances of life requires dependence upon the Holy Spirit and a willingness to die to personal desires and passions.

#### **ARTICLE 6 What we believe about The Church.**

The goal of the church is to glorify God in making disciples of all nations and to present them as complete in Christ. This requires a high level of intentionality from those who are governing leaders and people of influence in the Church.

The five-fold ministries listed in Ephesians 4 equips and governs the church, along with the Elders and service of the deacons, as well as other leadership roles mentioned in Scripture. The purpose for equipping the church for ministry is to ultimately empower and release people into their most full expression of service and love to God in the local church AND in the world.

All church policy is a balance between congregation and Eldership authority, emphasizing the final authority God exercised through the church leadership. It is essential to the life of the church that scriptural patterns of discipline,

discipleship, and empowerment are practiced and that oversight for church discipline, individual and corporate, is exercised by the leadership of the church.

### **ARTICLE 7 What we believe about Baptism and the Lord's Supper**

The Word of God places on the church two perpetual ordinances of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first, baptism, is the physical expression and spiritual experience of what God has done through the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Baptism is a physical and spiritual experience for a believer. Baptism is also a testimony to all that the believer is united with Christ and clothed with Christ. It is identification with Jesus and is affected in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The Lord's Supper is a commemoration and proclamation of the death of the Lord and is done in remembrance of Him until He comes again; it is a sign of our loving participation in Him. Both institutions are restricted to those who are believers.