

ARTICLES OF FAITH



**To be observed by the
CHURCH OF CHRIST
Meeting for Divine Worship in
EBENEZER CHAPEL
BOUNDS CROSS
BIDDENDEN, KENT
1880**

A DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PRACTICE

Having been enabled, through Divine Grace, to give up ourselves to the Lord, and likewise to one another by the will of God, we account it a duty incumbent upon us, to make a declaration of our faith and practice, to the honour of Christ, and the glory of His Name; knowing, that as *with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, so with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation*;¹ which declaration is as follows: viz. -

1. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testament are² the Word of God, and the only rule³ of faith and practice.
2. We believe that there is but one⁴ only living and true God: that there are three⁵ Persons in the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, who are equal in nature, power, and glory; and that the Son⁶ and the Holy Ghost⁷ are as truly and properly God as the Father.
3. We believe that before the world began, God did elect⁸ a certain number of men unto everlasting salvation; whom he

1. Romans 10 v 10

2. 2 Timothy 3 vv 15,16,17 2 Peter 1 v 21

3. John 5 v 39 Acts 17 v 11 2 Peter 1 vv 19,20

4. Deuteronomy 6 v 4 1 Corinthians 8 v 6 1 Timothy 2 v 5 Jeremiah 10 v 10

5. 1 John 5 v 7 Matthew 28 v 19

6. John 10 v 30 Philipians 2 v 6 Romans 9 v 5 1 John 5 v 20

7. Acts 5 vv 3,4 1 Corinthians 3 vv 16,17 2 Corinthians 3 vv 17,18

8. Ephesians 1 vv 4,5 1 Thessalonians 1 v 4 2 Thessalonians 2 v 13 Romans 8 v 30

1 John 3 v 1 Galations 4 vv 4,5 John 1 v 12

did predestinate to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, of his own free grace, and according to the good pleasure of his will; and that in pursuance of this gracious design, he did contrive and make a covenant¹ of grace and peace with his Son Jesus Christ, on the behalf of those persons; wherein a Saviour² was appointed, and all spiritual³ blessings provided for them; as also that their⁴ persons, with all their grace⁵ and glory, were put into the hands of Christ, and made his care and charge.

4. We believe that God created the first man Adam after his image and in his likeness, an upright, holy, and innocent creature, capable of serving and glorifying him;⁶ but he sinning, all his posterity sinned in him and came short of the glory of God;⁷ the guilt of whose sin is imputed⁸ and a corrupt nature derived to all his offspring descended from him by ordinary and natural generation:⁹ that they are by their first birth carnal and unclean; averse to all that is good, incapable of doing any, and prone to every sin;¹⁰ and are also by nature children of wrath and under a sentence of condemnation;¹¹ and so are subject not only to a corporal death,¹² and involved in a moral one, commonly called spiritual:¹³ but are also liable to an eternal death;¹⁴ from all which there is no deliverance but by Christ¹⁵ the second Adam.

1. 2 Samuel 23 v 5 Psalm 89 vv 3,28,34 Isaiah 42 v 6

2. Psalm 89 v 19 Isaiah 49 v 6

3. 2 Samuel 23 v 5 Isaiah 55 v 3 Ephesians 1 v 3

4. Deuteronomy 33 v 3 John 6 vv 37,39 John 10 v 28,29 Jude v 1

5. 2 Timothy 1 v 9 Ephesians 1 v 3 Colossians 3 vv 3,4

6. Genesis 1 v 26,27 Ecclesiastes 7 v 29 Psalm 8 v 5

7. Romans 5 vv 12 & 3 v 23

8. Romans 5 vv 12,14,18,19 1 Corinthians 15 v 22 Ephesians 2 v 3

9. Job 14 v 4 Psalm 51 v 5 John 3 v 6 Ezekial 16 vv 4,5,6

10. Romans 8 vv 7,8 Romans 3 vv 10,11,12 Genesis 6 v 5

11. Ephesians 2 v 3 Romans 5 vv 12,18

12. Genesis 2 v 17 Romans 5 vv 12,14 Hebrews 9 v 27

13. Matthew 8 v 21 Luke 15 vv 24,32 John 5 v 25 Ephesians 2 v 1

14. Romans 5 v 18 Romans 6 v 23 Ephesians 2 v 3

15. Romans 6 v 23 Romans 7 vv 24,25 Romans 8 v 2 2 Timothy 1 v 10

1 Corinthians 15 vv 45,47

5. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ being set up from everlasting¹ as the mediator of the covenant, and he having engaged to be² the surety of his people, did in the fullness of time really assume³ human nature; in which nature he really suffered and died⁴ as their substitute in their room and stead; whereby he made all that satisfaction⁵ for their sins, which the law and justice of God could require; as well as made way for all those blessings⁶ which are needful for them, both for time and eternity.

6. We believe that that eternal redemption which Christ has obtained by the shedding of his blood⁷ is special and particular: that is to say, that it was only intentionally designed for the elect of God and sheep of Christ; who only share the special and peculiar blessings of it.

7. We believe that the justification of God's elect is only by the⁸ righteousness of Christ imputed to them, without the consideration of any works of righteousness done by them; and that the full and free pardon of all their sins and transgressions, past, present, and to come, is only through the blood of Christ⁹ according to the riches of his grace.

8. We believe that the work of regeneration, conversion, sanctification, and faith is not an act of¹⁰ man's free will and power, but of the mighty, efficacious, and irresistible¹¹ grace of God.

1. Proverbs 8 vv 22,23 Hebrews 12 v 24

2. Psalm 40 vv 6,7,8 Hebrews 7 v 22

3. John 1 v 14 Galations 4 v 4 Hebrews 2 vv 14,16,17

4. Romans 4 v 25 1 Corinthians 15 v 3 Ephesians 5 v 2 1 Peter 3 v 18

5. Romans 8 vv 3,4 Romans 10 v 4 Isaiah 42 v 21 Romans 8 vv 1,33,34

6. 1 Corinthians 1 v 30 Ephesians 1 v 7

7. Matthew 20 v 28 John 10 vv 11,15 Revelation 5 v 9 Romans 8 v 30

8. Romans 3 v 28 Romans 4 v 6 Romans 5 vv 16,17,18,19

9. Romans 3 v 25 Ephesians 1 v 7 Colossians 2 v 13 1 John 1 vv 7,9

10. John 1 v 13 Romans 9 v 16 Romans 8 v 7

11. Philippians 2 v 18 2 Timothy 1 v 9 James 1 v 18 1 Peter 1 v 3 Ephesians 1 v 19
Isaiah 43 v 13

9. We believe that all those who are chosen by the Father, redeemed by the Son, and sanctified by the Spirit, shall certainly and finally¹ persevere; so that not one of them shall ever perish, but shall have everlasting life.

10. We believe that there will be a resurrection of the dead both of the just and the unjust;² and that Christ will come a second time³ to judge both quick and dead; when he will take vengeance on the wicked and introduce his own people into his kingdom and glory, where they shall be for ever with him.

11. We believe that baptism⁴ and the Lord's supper are ordinances of Christ, to be continued until his second coming; and that the former is absolutely requisite to the latter; that is to say, that those⁵ only are to be admitted into the communion of the church and to participate of all ordinances in it,⁶ who upon profession of their faith, have been baptised⁷ by immersion in the⁸ name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

12. We also believe that singing of psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs vocally,⁹ is an ordinance of the gospel to be performed by believers; and that every one ought to be left to their liberty¹⁰ in using of it.

Now all, and each of these doctrines and ordinances we look upon ourselves under the greatest obligations to embrace,

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1. Matthew 24 v 24 John 6 vv 39,40 John 10 vv 28,29 Matthew 16 v 18
 Psalm 125 vv 1,2 1 Peter 1 v 5 Jude v 24 Hebrews 2 v 13 Romans 8 v 30
 2. Acts 24 v 15 John 5 vv 28,29 Daniel 12 v 2
 3. Hebrews 9 v 28 Acts 17 v 31 2 Timothy 4 v 1 2 Thessalonians 1 vv 7,8,9,10
 1 Thessalonians 4 vv 15,16,17
 4. Matthew 28 vv 19,20 1 Corinthians 11 vv 23,24,25,26
 5. Acts 2 v 41 Acts 9 vv 18,26
 6. Mark 16 v 16 Acts 8 vv 12,36,37 Acts 16 vv 31,32,33,34 Acts 18 v 8
 7. Matthew 3 vv 6,16 John 3 v 23 Acts 8 vv 38,39 Romans 6 v 4 Colossions 2 v 12
 8. Matthew 28 v 19
 9. Matthew 26 v 30 Acts 16 v 25 1 Corinthians 14 v 15,26 Ephesians 5 v 19
 Colossions 3 v 16
 10. James 5 v 13

maintain, and defend, believing it to be our duty¹ to stand fast in one spirit, with one mind, striving together for the faith of the gospel.

And whereas we are very sensible that our conversation, both in the world and in the church, ought to be as becometh² the gospel of Christ, we judge it our incumbent duty,³ to walk in wisdom towards them that are without, to exercise a conscience⁴ void of offence towards God and men by living⁵ soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.

And as to our regards to each other in our church-communion we esteem it our duty to walk with⁶ each other in all humility and brotherly love; to watch over⁷ each other's conversation; to stir up one⁸ another to love and good works; not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together as we have opportunity, to worship God according to his revealed will; and when the case requires, to warn,⁹ rebuke, and admonish one another, according to the rules of the gospel.

Moreover, we think ourselves obliged¹⁰ to sympathise with each other in all conditions, both inward and outward, which God in his providence may bring us into; as also to¹¹ bear with one another's weaknesses, failings, and infirmities; and particularly to pray for one another,¹² and that the gospel and the ordinances thereof, might be blessed to the edification and comfort of each other's souls, and for the gathering in of others to Christ besides those who are already gathered.

1. Philippians 1 v 27 Jude v 3

2. Philippians 1 v 27

3. Colossions 4 v 5

4. Acts 24 v 16

5. Titus 1 v 12

6. Ephesians 4 vv 1,2,3 Romans 12 vv 9 10 16 Philippians 2 vv 2,3

7. Leviticus 19 v 17 Philippians 2 v 4

8. Hebrews 10 vv 24,25

9. 1 Thessalonians 5 v 14 Romans 15 v 1 Leviticus 19 v 17 Matthew 18 vv 15,16,17

10. Romans 12 v 15 1 Corinthians 12 v 26

11. Romans 15 v 1 Ephesians 4 v 2 Colossions 3 v 13

12. Ephesians 6 vv 18,19 2 Thessalonians 3 v 1

All of which duties we desire to be found in the performance of, through the gracious assistance of the Holy Spirit: whilst we both admire and adore the grace which has given us a place and a name in God's house better than that of sons and daughters.¹

1. Isaiah 56 v 5