

CALVARY MEMORIAL CHURCH

ARTICLES OF FAITH

The Articles of Faith express the basic theological beliefs of Calvary Memorial Church. They represent the teaching position of this church and are the basis for the theological qualification of our Pastor, pastoral staff, Elders, deacons, Sunday School teachers, and the missionaries supported by this church. These articles of faith have been adapted and modified from the Evangelical Free Church of America on September 21, 2021 and approved by the congregation on November 14, 2021.

A. God

We believe in one God, Creator of all things, holy, infinitely perfect, and eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having limitless knowledge and sovereign power, God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory.

Ex.8:10; Dt. 4:39; Dt. 6:4; Mk. 12:29; Jn. 17:11; 2 Cor. 13:14

B. The Father

We believe in God the Father, almighty maker of heaven and earth, who is the source of all goodness and the fount of divinity, who eternally begets the Son, and from whom, together with the Son, the Holy Spirit eternally proceeds. We believe the Father is the Father of Jesus Christ, as well as all those who are united in faith to Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit. The Father loves His children with an eternal love and has sent His only begotten Son Jesus Christ in history past to atone for human sin and will send Him again in history future to redeem the Church and all of creation.

Gen. 1:1; Jer. 32:17; Is. 44:24; 1 Pet. 1:3; 2 Cor. 1:3; Eph. 1:3

C. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is God incarnate, fully God and fully man, one Person in two natures. Jesus—Israel's promised Messiah—was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, was crucified under Pontius Pilate, arose bodily from the dead, ascended into heaven and sits as King of Kings and Lord of Lords at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Advocate.

Dt. 18:18; Is. 7:14; Is. 9:6; Jn. 1:1; Lk. 1:35; Heb. 4:15

D. The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, shed His blood on the cross as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice for our sins. His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation.

Gen. 3:15; Gen. 12:3; Is. 53:5; Mk. 10:45; Rom. 4:25; 1 Jn. 2:2

E. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ. He convicts the world of its guilt. He regenerates sinners, and in Him they are baptized into union with Christ and adopted as heirs in the family of God. He also indwells, illuminates, guides, equips and empowers believers for Christ-like living and service and mission.

Ex. 35:31; 1 Sam. 16:13; Ez. 36:25-27; Jn. 16:8; Rom 5:5; Acts 1:8; Gal 4:6

F. The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, through the words of human authors and inspired by the Holy Spirit. As the verbally inspired Word of God, the Bible is without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of His will for salvation, and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge and endeavor should be judged. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises.

Dt. 10:2; 1 Kgs. 8:9; Ps. 119:89; Matt. 4:4; Rom. 15:4; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

G. The Human Condition

We believe that God created Adam and Eve in His image, but they sinned when tempted by Satan. In union with Adam, human beings are sinners by nature and by choice, alienated from God, and under His wrath. Only through God's saving work in Jesus Christ can we be rescued, reconciled, redeemed, and renewed.

Gen. 6:5; Jer. 17:9; Ps. 14:1; 1 Jn. 5:19; Eph. 2:3; Rom. 6:20

H. The Church

We believe that the true church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone. They are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ, of which He is the Head. The true church is manifest in local churches, whose formal membership should be composed only of believers. The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism and the Lord's Supper, which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer.

Is. 56:8; Gen. 15:5; Ruth 2:12; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 4:5; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

I. Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose. God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially, and to live out our faith with care for one another, compassion toward the poor and justice for the oppressed. With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name, we are to combat the spiritual forces of evil. In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people, always bearing witness to the gospel in word and deed.

Dt. 6:5; Lev. 18:3; Mic. 6:8; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 7:1; Jn. 13:34-35

J. Marriage and Family

We believe that marriage was ordained by God at creation as the sacred union of one man and one woman (as understood according to biological sex). All sexual relations must therefore be reserved for that union. Christian marriage is a representation of Christ's relationship to His church. We also believe that children are a blessing from the Lord. Thus, all human life is sacred and worthy of protection and care from the moment of conception through one's entire life.

Gen. 2:24; Lev. 18:22; Ps. 127:3; Matt. 19:5-6; Eph. 5:31-32; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor 7: 1-9

K. Race and Ethnicity

We believe that God created all humans in His image and that our ethnicity is an intentional aspect of image-bearing. We affirm the beauty of our God-given ethnic diversity. Racism and racial injustice are sins against God and against one another that violate the dignity of every human being created in His image. We believe that God is working to reconcile people from every tongue, tribe, and nation who will worship together around his throne throughout eternity in resurrected ethnic bodies.

Gen. 1:27; Lev. 24:22; Num. 15:15; Rom. 10:12; Col. 3:11; Gal. 4:28; Eph 2:11-20

L. Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and energetic Gospel mission.

Joel 1:15; Mic. 4:6-7; Zephaniah 3:14-20; Dan. 12:1-2; Matt. 24:30; Matt. 25:31; Acts 1:11; Rev 1:7; Tit. 2:13; 2 Thess. 1:6-8

M. Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God commands everyone everywhere to believe the gospel by turning to Him in repentance and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that all those who are justified by God's grace will be sanctified and glorified by that grace. We believe that God will raise the dead bodily and judge the world, assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment and the believer to eternal blessedness and joy, reigning with the Lord in the new heaven and the new earth, to the praise of His glorious grace.

Is. 55:6-7; Dan. 12:2; Ps. 112:10; Matt. 25:46; Jn. 3:18; 2 Cor. 15:42