

ARTICLES OF FAITH
of the
CASAS ADOBES BAPTIST CHURCH
of TUCSON, ARIZONA

1. The Scriptures: We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore it is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. (Luke 16:29-31; 2 Tim. 3:15-17; Eph. 2:20; Heb. 1:1; 2 Peter 1:19-21; John 16:13-15; Matt. 22:29-31)
2. God: There is one and only one living and true God, an intelligent, spiritual, and personal being, the Creator, Preserver and Ruler of the universe. Infinite in holiness and all other perfections, to Whom we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience. He is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct person attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. (Gen. 1:1; 1 Cor. 8:4-6; Deut 6:4; Jer. 10:10; Isa. 48:12; Deut. 5:7; Ex. 3:14; Heb. 11:6; John 5:26; 1 Tim. 1:17; John 1:14-18; Gal. 4:6; John 15:26; Matt. 28:19)
3. The Fall of Man: Man was created by the special act of God, as recorded in Genesis. He was created by the state of holiness under the law of his Maker, but, through the temptation of Satan, he transgressed the command of God and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit a nature corrupt and in bondage to sin, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors. (Gen. 1:27; Gen. 2:7; John 1:23; Gen. 3:4-7; Gen. 3:22-24; Rom. 5:12, 14, 19, 21; Rom. 7:23-25; Rom. 11:18, 22, 32, 33; Col. 1:21)
4. The Way of Salvation: The salvation of sinners is wholly of grace through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, Who by the Holy Spirit was born of the Virgin Mary and took upon Him our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience and made atonement for our sins by His death. Being risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in Heaven, and uniting in His person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a compassionate and all-sufficient Savior. (Col. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:7-10; Gal. 2:19-20; Gal. 3:13; Rom. 1:4; Eph. 1:20-23; Matt. 1:21-25; Luke 1:35; Luke 2: 11; Rom. 3:25)
5. Justification: Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal upon principles of righteousness of all sinners who believe in Christ. This blessing is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but through the redemption that is in and through Jesus Christ. It brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing. (Rom. 3:24, 4:2, 5:1-2, 8:20; Eph. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; 11 Cor. 5:21)

6. The Freshness of Salvation: The blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel. It is the duty of all to accept them by penitent and obedient faith. Nothing prevents the salvation of the greater sinner except his own voluntary refusal to accept Jesus Christ as teacher, Savior, and Lord. (Eph. 1:5; 2:4-10; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Rom. 5:1-9; Rev. 22:17; John 3:16; Mark 16:16)

7. Regeneration: Regeneration or the new birth is a change of heart wrought by the Holy Spirit, whereby we become partakers of the divine nature and a holy disposition is given, leading to the love and practice of righteousness. It is a work of God's free grace conditioned upon faith in Christ and made manifest by the fruit which we bring forth to the glory of God. (John 3:1-8; 1:16-18; Rom. 8:2; Eph. 2:1-10; Eph. 4:30-32; Col. 3:1-11; Titus 3:5)

8. Repentance and Faith: We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God; whereby being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy, at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior. (Luke 22:31-34; Mark 1:15; 1 Tim. 1:13; Rom. 3:25-27, 31; Rom. 4:3, 9, 12, 16, 17; John 16:8)

9. God's Purpose of Grace: Election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners. It is perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, and comprehends all the means in connection with the end. It is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, and is infinitely wise, holy, and unchangeable. It excludes boasting and promotes humility. It encourages the use of means in the highest degree. (Rom. 8:30; 11:7; Rom. 10:12-15; Eph. 1:10; Eph. 1:17-19; Eph. 2:5; Acts 26:18; 2 Tim. 1:9; Psalm 110:3; 1 Cor. 2:14; John 6:44-45)

10. Sanctification: Sanctification is the process by which the regenerate gradually attain to moral and spiritual perfection through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts. It continues throughout the earthly life, and is accomplished by use of all the ordinary means of grace, particularly the Word of God. (Acts 20:32; John 17:17; Rom. 6:5-6; Eph. 3:16; Rom. 4:16; Gal. 5:24; Heb. 12:14; Rom. 7:18-25; 2 Cor. 3:18; Gal. 5:16)

11. Perseverance: All real believers endure to the end. Their continuance in well doing is the mark which distinguishes them from mere professors. A special Providence cares for them, and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (John 10:28, 29; 2 Tim. 2:19; 1 John 2:19; 1 Cor. 11:32; Rom. 8:30, 9:11, 16; Rom. 5:1-10; Matt. 26:70)

12. A Gospel Church: A church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and

privileges vested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Its Scriptural officers are Bishops (or pastors) or Elders and Deacons. (Matt. 16:18; Matt. 18:15-18; Rom. 1:7; 1 Cor. 1:2; Acts 2:41-42; Acts 6:3, 5-6; Heb. 13:17; 1 Cor. 9:6, 14)

13. Baptism and the Lord's Supper: Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The act is a symbol of our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. It is prerequisite to the privileges of a church relation. The Lord's Supper commemorates the dying love of Christ by the use of bread and wine. (Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 4: 1; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Mark 1:4; Matt. 3:16; John 3:23; 1 Cor. 11:23-26; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; Matt. 26:26-27; Acts 8:38-39)

14. The Lord's Day: The first day of the week is the Lord's day. It is a Christian institution for regular observance. It commemorates the resurrection of Christ from the dead and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private, and by refraining from worldly amusements, and resting from secular employments, works of necessity and mercy only excepted. (Ex. 20:3-6; Matt. 4:10, 28:19, 12:1-3; 1 Tim. 4:13; Col. 3:16; John 4:21; Ex. 20:8; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Acts 20:7; Rev. 1:1)

15. The Righteous and the Wicked: There is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked. Those only who are justified through the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and sanctified by the Holy Spirit are truly righteous in His sight. Those who continue in impenitence and unbelief are, in His sight, wicked and under condemnation. This distinction between the righteous and the wicked holds true and prevails in this life and also after death. The righteous shall be judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ and shall be rewarded according to their faithfulness. (2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:1) The righteous and the wicked shall be separated at the judgment of the nations (Matt. 25:31-46); and after the loosing of Satan (Rev. 20:7). Satan and all of those whose names were not written in the "book of life" shall be "cast into the lake of fire and brimstone" (Rev. 20:1-15). (Giving only a few of the many other Bible references: Acts 13:26, Luke 23:43; 1 Cor. 15:51-56; 1 Thess. 4:13-17)

16. The Resurrection: The dead in Christ shall rise first and the righteous living "shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." (1 Thess. 4:13-17; 1 Cor. 15:51-56; Isa. 26:19-21) "The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." (Rev. 20:5, 15) (Additional Scriptures concerning the Resurrection: 2 Cor. 5:1-8; John 5:28-29; Phil. 3:21; Acts 24:15; John 20:9; Matt. 28:6)

17. Return of the Lord: The Scriptures are definite and clear as to the return of the Lord. He will first come in the air and catch up His redeemed souls – those who are dead (asleep in Jesus) shall be resurrected and the righteous living shall be changed (1 Cor. 15:51-56; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-13; Isa. 26:19-21; Acts 1: 1-11; John 14:1-6). He will return to establish His kingdom of peace (Isa. 26:21; Matt. 25:31-46), only to give a few of the many promises of His return. No one knows the day nor the hour – the time or the season when He will come (Matt 24:44). This we do know: the Old Testament is

abundant in the prophecy of His second coming, and the New Testament glows with the bright promises concerning it. The next to the last verse in the Bible, Revelation 22:20, is a promise by the Lord that He is coming and a reply by the writer John. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus."

18. Religious Liberty: God alone is Lord of the conscience, and He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to the church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state. The term "state" includes political division of government from the lowest precinct office to the highest federal authority or authorities, civil government being ordained of God. The duty of Christians is to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The Gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power. (Rom. 13:1-7, 6:1-2; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Tim. 2:1-2; Gal. 3:1-14; John 7:38-39; James 4:12; Gal. 5:13; 2 Peter 2:18-21; 1 Cor. 3:5; Matt. 22:21; Mark 12:17)

19. Cooperation: Christ's people should, as occasion requires, organize such associations and conventions as may best secure cooperation for the great objects of the Kingdom of God. Such organizations have no authority over each other or over the churches. They are voluntary and advisory bodies designed to elicit, combine, and direct the energies of our people in the most effective manner. Individual members of New Testament churches should cooperate with each other, and the churches themselves should cooperate with each other in carrying forward the missionary, educational, and benevolent program for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. It must be understood by all that such cooperation shall be effected, continued, or terminated at the will and pleasure of Casas Adobes Baptist Church, by a majority vote of the membership. Christian unity in the New Testament sense is spiritual harmony and voluntary cooperation for common ends by various groups of Christ's people. It is permissible and desirable between the various Christian denominations, when the end to be attained is itself justified, and when such cooperation involves no violation of conscience or compromise of loyalty to Christ and His Word as revealed in the New Testament. (Ezra 1:3-4; Ezra 2:68-69, 5:14-15; Neh. 4:4-6)

20. Evangelism and Missions: It is the duty of every Christian, man and woman, and the duty of every church of Christ, to seek to extend the Gospel to the ends of the earth. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life. It is also expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by personal effort and by all methods sanctioned by the Gospel of Christ. (Matt. 10:5, 13:18-23, 22:9-10,

28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16, 16:19-20; Luke 24:46-53; Acts 1:5-8; Acts 2:1, 2, 21, 39, 8:26-40, 10:42-48, 13:2, 30-33; 1 Thess. 1:8)

21. Stewardship: God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are of any worth we owe to Him. We have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the Gospel, and a binding stewardship in our possessions. We are therefore under obligation to serve Him with our time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to us to use for the glory of God and helping others. Christians should cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally contribute of their means to advancing the Redeemer's cause on earth. (Luke 12:42, 16:1-8; Titus 1:7; 1 Peter 4:10; 2 Cor. 8:1-7, 11-19, 12:1-15; Matt. 25:14-30; Rom. 1:8-15; 1 Cor. 6:20; Acts 2:44-47)