

**The Articles of Faith and Covenant
Of the Baptist Church in Rockport
Adapted 1835
The Church was constituted Thirtieth of March, 1808**

Articles of Faith

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect rule of faith and practice; and that, among others, it teaches the following all important truths:

2 Tim. 3:16-17 2 Peter 1:21 1 Peter 1:10-11
2 Sam. 23:2 Acts 1:16-17 and 3:21

1. The existence of one only living and true God, infinite, in every natural and moral perfection.
Mark 11:32 1 Tim.2:5 James 2:19
Exodus 20:1-3 Isaiah 46:9

2. That He has made Himself known to His people under the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, and equal in every divine perfection.
Psalm 14:3 Isaiah 9:6 John 1:1-4 and 5:23
And 10:30 Matt. 28:19 1 John 5:7

3. That man was created holy, but by willfully violating the law of his Maker, he fell from that state and from all communication with God; and, as by divine appointment, Adam was the representative of all his prosperity; we in him became wholly defiled, and dead in trespasses and sins; - so that by nature we are indisposed to all good, and inclined to all evil, and are children of wrath, and subjects of death, and all other miseries, temporal, spiritual, and eternal.
Genesis 1:26-27 Ecclesiastes 7:29 Genesis 3:6-7
Romans 5:12 Genesis 6:5 and 8:21
Psalm 14:1,3 Isaiah 15:9 Matt. 15:18-20
Romans 1:28 and 32 and 6:23

4. That the only way of salvation from this state of guilt and condemnation is through the righteousness and atonement of Jesus Christ who, as the Good Shepherd, laid down His life for His sheep; and those only who receive the gifts of repentance and faith in Him, will finally be saved by His atonement.
Psalm 14 Isaiah 53:4-9 John 10:9-15
Acts 4:11-12 and 5:31 Romans 5:6-12
Romans 6:23 and 3:21-26 John 3:18-36
Luke 10:3-5

5. That whoever have been, or will be brought to repentance and faith in the Gospel, were chosen in Christ to salvation before the foundation of the world, and that in consequence of the eternal love of God to them, through the atonement, the Holy Ghost is sent to effect the work of regeneration in their hearts; without which regenerating influence, none would ever repent and believe.

Jeremiah 31:3 John 15:16 and 17:6
Isaiah 41:8-9 Eph. 1:4-11 1 Peter 1:2
Romans 9:11-23, 8:29-30 and 11:5-7
John 14:16-26, 16:7-14 and 3:3 Psalm 51:10
John 6:64 Romans 6:22 1 Cor. 11:10-12
2 Corinthians. 4:6 Colossians 1:11-13 Eph 1:1-10
2 Tim. 1:9 Titus 3:3-7

6. That nothing can separate true believers from the love of God, but that they will be kept by His power, through faith unto salvation.

Deut. 33:3 John 6:37, 13:1 and 10:28-30
Philemon 1:6 1 Peter 1:5 Hebrews 6:17-18
John 16:23

7. That there will, by a resurrection both of the just and of the unjust, and that Christ will come the second time to judge both the quick and the dead; when those who die impenitent, and un-reconciled to God, will be sentenced to endless misery, as the just dessert of their sins; and those who have been renewed by grace, and who, have washed their robes in the Blood of the Lamb, will be completely delivered from the dominion of sin and admitted into the Holy and Heavenly Jerusalem, with songs and everlasting joy.

So shall they be ever with The Lord.

Job 19:26-27 Isaiah 26:21 Daniel 12:2
Hosea 13:14 Mark 12:24-27 John 5:28-29
John 6:39-40 Matt. 23:46 1Cor. 15
2 Thes. 1:9 Revelation 5:6, 7, 14, 17

Covenant

Having been brought, as we trust, by the influence of the Holy Spirit, to give ourselves up to God, as the supreme object of affection and to embrace The Lord Jesus Christ, as our Savior and Redeemer, we do now enter into solemn covenant engagements with each other relying upon Divine grace to enable us to perform our vows.

We promise, on the truth and sincerity of our hearts as the Lord shall enable us, to turn from the paths of sin and walk in the ways of holiness, all the days of our lives.

We will aim to subdue all those evil dispositions, and practices, passions, and practices which are contrary to Thy mild and holy spirit of the Gospel; and denying ourselves of ungodliness and every worldly lust, to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the world.

We engage to regard each other's spiritual and temporal welfare; to walk together in brotherly love; to exercise a Christian care and watchfulness over each other; administering reproof, rebuke, and admonition as the case may require, with all meekness and affection, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another.

We do solemnly engage that we will regard, with tenderness, each other's reputation; and particularly that we watch our lives, and not speak evil one of another, believing that such practice is most odious and wicked, and remembering that for every idle word that men shall speak, they must give an account thereof at the day of judgment.

We will endeavor to feel warm interest in each other's burden; to visit each other, as we are able in sickness; and, according to our ability, administer to each other's wants.

We will submit ourselves to the government of Christ in His church agreeably to the directions on this subject, contained in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew aiming to have our hearts possessed in this as well as in all duties, with the Spirit of our Divine Redeemer.

We engage by the grace of God to walk together, in constant and devout attendance on all the ordinances and institutions, which Christ has appointed to be observed in His church; we will strive together by contributing our respective proportion, according to our several means, for the support among us of a faithful evangelical ministry.

With a humble reliance on the grace of God, we take upon us these covenant vows, and desire ever to pray, that our union may be conducive, to our mutual happiness on earth, and to our preparation for that blessed world, where love and joy shall be perfect forever.