

GENESEE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

ARTICLES OF FAITH

1. The Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible as originally written was verbally and plenary inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore is truth without error. We believe the Bible to be the center of true Christian unity and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

2 Tim. 3:16, 17 Luke 16:17 2 Peter 1:19-21 Matt. 22:29

2. The Godhead

We believe there is one and only one living and true God, an infinite, sovereign Spirit, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness, and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

*Ex. 20:2, 3 1 Cor. 8:6 Isa. 44:6
Isa. 45:5a Rev. 4:11 Matt. 28:19*

3. God the Son

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men.

*John 1:1, 2, 14 Luke 1:35
John 10:30 Matt. 1:18-25*

4. God the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, equal with God the Father and God the Son and of the same nature; that He was active in the creation; that in His relation to the unbelieving world He restrains the evil one until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He convicts of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; that He bears witness to the truth of the gospel in preaching and testimony; that He is the agent in the new birth; that He seals, endues, guides, teaches, witnesses, sanctifies and helps the believer. The gifts of tongues and healing were "sign gifts" until the scriptures were completed; these gifts ceased at that time.

*John 14:16, 17 Matt. 28:19 Heb. 9:14
John 14:26 Luke 1:35 Gen. 1:1-3
John 16:8-11 Acts 5:30-32 John 3:5, 6
Eph. 1:13, 14 Mark 1:8 John 1:33
Acts 11:16 Luke 24:49 Rom. 8:14, 16
Rom. 15:19 Heb. 2:4 Rom. 8:26, 27
1 Cor. 13:8*

5. The Devil, or Satan

We believe that Satan was once holy, and enjoyed heavenly honors; but through pride and ambition to be as the Almighty, fell and drew after him a host of angels; that he is now the malignant prince of the power of the air, and the unholy god of this world, we hold him to be man's great tempter, the enemy of God and His Christ, the accuser of the saints, the author of all false religions, the chief power back of the present apostasy; the lord of the Antichrist, and the author of all the powers of darkness--destined however to final defeat at the hands of God's Son, and to the judgment of an eternal justice in hell (lake of fire), a place prepared for him and his angels.

Isa. 14:12-15

Ez. 28:14-17

Rev. 12:9

Eph. 2:2

1 Peter 5:8

Rev. 20:1-3

Rev. 20:10

Matt. 4:1-11

2 Cor. 4:4

Matt. 25:41

6. Creation

We believe the Genesis account of creation as being neither allegory nor myth, but a literal, historical account of the direct, immediate creative acts of God without any evolutionary process; that man, spirit, soul and body, was created by a direct work of God and not from previously existing forms of life; and that all men are descended from the historical Adam and Eve, first parents of the entire human race.

Gen. 1 and 2

Col. 1:16, 17

John 1:3

Eph. 3:9

Heb. 1:2

Ex. 20:11

7. The Fall of Man

We believe that man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression Adam fell from his sinless and happy state, and all men sinned in him, in consequence of which all men are totally depraved, are partakers of Adam's fallen nature and are sinners by nature and by conduct; and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse.

Gen. 3:1-6, 24

Rom. 3:10-19; 5:12, 19; 1:18-20, 32

Rom. 3:23

Ecc. 7:20

8. The Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus was begotten of the Holy Ghost in a miraculous manner, born of Mary, a virgin, as no other man was ever born or can ever be born of a woman, and that He is both the Son of God and God the Son.

Gen. 3:15

Isa. 7:14

Matt. 1:18-25

Luke 1:34, 35

John 1:14

Luke 3:21, 22

Heb. 1:8

9. The Atonement for Sin

We believe that the salvation of sinners is divinely initiated and wholly of grace through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin, honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His death made a full and vicarious atonement for our sins; that His atonement consisted not in setting us an example by His death as a martyr, but was a voluntary substitution of Himself in the sinner's place, the Just dying for the unjust, Christ, the Lord, bearing our sin in His own body on the tree.

<i>Jonah 2:9</i>	<i>Eph. 2:8</i>	<i>Acts 15:11</i>
<i>Rom. 3:24, 25</i>	<i>John 3:16</i>	<i>Matt. 18:11</i>
<i>Phil. 2:7, 8</i>	<i>Heb. 2:14</i>	<i>Isa. 53:4-7</i>
<i>1 John 4:10</i>	<i>1 Cor. 15:3</i>	<i>2 Cor. 5:21</i>

10. Resurrection and Priesthood

We believe in the bodily resurrection of Christ, in His ascension into heaven, where He now sits at the right hand of the Father as our High Priest.

<i>1 Cor. 15:3-8</i>	<i>Mark 16:6</i>	<i>Luke 24:2-6, 51</i>
<i>Matt. 28:6, 7</i>	<i>Luke 24:39</i>	<i>John 20:27</i>
<i>Acts 1:9-11</i>	<i>Rev. 3:21</i>	<i>Heb. 8:6</i>
<i>Heb. 12:2</i>	<i>Heb. 7:25</i>	<i>1 Tim. 2:5</i>
<i>1 John 2:1</i>	<i>Heb 2:17, 5:9, 10</i>	
<i>Heb. 10:12</i>		

11. Grace in the New Creation

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that it is instantaneous and not a process; that in the new birth the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God; that the new creation is brought about by our sovereign God in a manner above our comprehension, solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life.

<i>John 3:3</i>	<i>2 Cor. 5:17</i>	<i>1 John 5:1</i>
<i>John 3:6, 7</i>	<i>Acts 16:30-33</i>	<i>2 Peter 1:4</i>
<i>Rom. 6:23</i>	<i>Eph. 2:1, 5</i>	<i>2 Cor. 5:19</i>
<i>Col. 2:13</i>	<i>John 3:8</i>	<i>Eph. 2:8-10</i>
<i>Rom. 11:6</i>		

12. Justification

We believe that justification is the judicial act of God whereby He declares us to be righteous through faith in Christ Jesus; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the imputation of God's righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of

righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in Christ, whose blood was shed for our sin.

<i>Acts 13:39</i>	<i>Isa. 53:11</i>	<i>Zech. 13:1</i>
<i>2 Cor. 5:18-21</i>	<i>Rom. 4:1-8</i>	<i>Rom. 5:1, 9</i>
<i>Rom. 8:1</i>	<i>Titus 3:5</i>	

13. Repentance

We believe that repentance is a change of mind and purpose toward God prompted by the Holy Spirit; that it is characterized by godly sorrow for sin as offensive to God and ruinous to the soul; and that true repentance is inseparably related to true faith.

<i>Luke 13:1-3; 15:7</i>	<i>Acts 8:22</i>	<i>Rom. 2:4</i>
<i>2 Cor. 7:10</i>	<i>Acts 20:21</i>	

14. Faith and Salvation

We believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation.

<i>Acts 16:31</i>	<i>Eph. 2:8, 9</i>	<i>Rom. 4:5</i>
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15. Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the divine setting apart of the believer unto God accomplished in a threefold manner: First, an eternal act of God, based upon redemption in Christ, establishing the believer in a position of holiness at the moment he trusts the Savior; Second, a continuing process in the saint as the Holy Spirit applies the Word of God to the life; Third, the final accomplishment of this process at the Lord's return.

<i>Heb. 10:10-14</i>	<i>Heb. 3:1</i>	<i>John 17:17</i>
<i>2 Cor. 3:18</i>	<i>1 Cor. 1:30</i>	<i>Eph. 5:25, 26</i>
<i>1 Thess. 4:3, 4</i>	<i>1 Thess. 5:23, 24</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:2</i>
<i>1 John 1:8</i>	<i>1 John 3:2</i>	<i>Jude 24, 25</i>
<i>Rev. 22:11</i>		

16. Adoption

We believe that adoption is the gracious act whereby the Father, for the sake of Christ, places new believers into the honored position of joint heirs with Christ, in contrast with regeneration whereby the believers receive the nature of God and become a child of God. The full benefit of the position accorded by adoption as the sons of God awaits the glorification of the believers at the coming of the Lord.

<i>Eph. 1:5</i>	<i>Gal. 4:1-7</i>	<i>Eph. 1:13, 14</i>
<i>1 John 3:1, 2</i>	<i>Rom. 8:14-17</i>	

17. The Security of the Saints

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever.

John 6:37-40
1 Cor. 1:4-8

John 10:27-30
1 Peter 1:5

Rom. 8:1,38,39

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's word; which however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh.

Rom. 13:13, 14 *1 Cor. 6:19, 20* *Gal. 5:13*
Titus 2:11-15

18. The Church

We believe in the unity of all true believers in the Church which is the Body of Christ, which was established on the Day of Pentecost, and that all believers, from Pentecost to the Rapture, both Jews and Gentiles, are added to this Church by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that this Church is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of born again believers associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word; and that its officers are Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are clearly defined in the Scripture. We believe the true mission of the church is: (1) the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity; (2) baptizing and receiving into the fellowship of the church those who have been saved; (3) teaching and edifying the saints. We hold that the local church has the absolute right of self-government free from the interference of any hierarchy or individuals or organizations; that the one and only Superintendent is Christ through the Holy Spirit; that it is scriptural for true churches to cooperate with each other in contending for the faith and for the furtherance of the gospel; that each local church is the sole judge of the measure and method of its cooperation; and that on all matters of membership, of polity, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final.

Acts 2:41,42

Acts 15:13-18

Acts 20:17-28

1 Cor. 11:2

1 Cor. 12:12, 13

Eph. 1:22, 23

Eph. 3:1-6

Eph. 4:11-14

Eph. 5:23, 24

Col. 1:18

1 Tim. 3:1-7

19. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water, under the authority of the local church, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, through Whom we died to sin and rose to a new life. We believe that the Lord's Supper is the commemoration of His death until He comes and should be preceded always by solemn self examination. We believe that participation is only for born again believers.

Matt. 3:16

Matt. 28:19, 20

Acts 2:41, 42

Acts 8:36, 38, 39

Rom. 6:3-5

1 Cor. 11:23-28

Col. 2:12

20. Personal Separation

We believe in the Biblical commands to separate entirely from worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations. All the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Savior and Lord.

Rom. 12:1, 2 *Eph. 2:10* *James 4:4*
1 John 2:15-17

21. Ecclesiastical Separation

We believe in separation from ecclesiastical apostasy unto God. We repudiate the ecumenical movement, new evangelicalism, and such organizations that aid and abet these movements, including the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

2 Cor. 6:14-7:1 *1 Thess. 1:9, 10* *1 Tim. 6:3-5*
2 Tim. 3:1-5 *Rom. 16:17* *2 John 1:9-11*
Titus 3:10

22. Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society; that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, as revealed in the Word of God.

Rom. 13:1-7 *Ex. 18:21, 22* *Acts 23:5*
Matt. 22:21 *1 Tim. 2:1, 2* *Acts 5:29*
Acts 4:19, 20 *Dan. 3:17, 18*

23. Israel

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God's eternal covenant people, that she is now dispersed because of her disobedience and rejection of Christ, and that she will be regathered in the Holy Land and, after the completion of the Church, will be saved as a nation at the second advent of Christ.

Gen. 13:14-17 *Rom. 11:1-32* *Ezek. 37*

24. The Rapture and Subsequent Events

We believe in the imminent, pre-millennial return of Christ for His Church, and that at that moment the dead in Christ shall be raised in glorified bodies, and the living in Christ shall be given glorified bodies without tasting death, and all shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before the seventieth week of Daniel.

1 Thess. 4:13-18 *1 Cor. 15:42-44* *1 Cor. 15:51-54*
Phil. 3:20, 21 *Rev. 3:10*

We believe that the Great Tribulation, which follows the Rapture of the Church will be culminated by the revelation of Christ in power and great glory to sit upon the throne of David and to establish the millennial reign.

Dan. 9:25-27

Matt. 24:29-31

1 Thess. 1:10

Luke 1:30-33

Isa. 9:6, 7

Isa. 11:1-9

Acts 2:29, 30

Rev. 20:1-4, 6

25. The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment.

Matt. 25:34-36

John 5:28, 29

John 11:25, 26

Rev. 20:5, 6, 11-15

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord.

Luke 23:43

Rev. 20:4-6

2 Cor. 5:8

Phil. 1:23

Phil. 3:21

1 Thess. 4:16, 17

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be cast into the Lake of Fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment.

Luke 16:19-26

Matt. 25:41-46

2 Thess. 1:7-9

Jude vs. 6, 7

Mark 9:43-48

Rev. 20:11-15