

ARTICLE 3 FAITH AND DOCTRINE

- A. **The Holy Scriptures:** We believe in the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be verbally inspired Word of God, the final authority for faith and life, inerrant in the original writings, infallible, and God-breathed. (II Tim. 3:6,17; II Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 5:18; John 16:12-13).
- B. **The Godhead:** We believe in one triune God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- C. **The Person and Work of Christ:** We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, is true God and true man, is the only Saviour of mankind, and is the proper object of our worship.
- D. **The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is a person who reproves the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment; that He is the supernatural agent in regeneration, baptizing all believers into the body of Christ, and indwelling and sealing them unto the day of redemption. (John 16:9-11; II Cor. 3:6; I Cor. 12:12-14; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13-14); that He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth; that it is the privilege and duty of all the saved to be filled with the Spirit. (John 16:13; I John 2:20-27; Eph. 5:18).
- E. **The Total Depravity of Man:** We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; that in Adam's sin, the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God; that man is totally depraved, and of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; Eph. 2:1-3, 12).
- F. **Salvation:** We believe that faith in the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died, was buried, arose from the dead, and has ascended to the right hand of the Father, is the only hope of salvation (Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5); that this faith is begotten through hearing the Word of God wholly apart from human works (Eph. 2:8-9); that by a new birth one dead in trespasses and sin is quickened unto eternal life, made righteous, justified (II Cor. 5:21; I Cor. 1:30; Rom. 3:21-26), made partaker of the Divine nature (II Peter 1:4), and is eternally secure unto the praise of His glory.
- G. **The Eternal Security of Believers:** 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; 10:27-30; Rom. 8:1, 38-39; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5); 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 excuse for willful sin. (Rom. 13:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).
- H. **Separation:** We believe that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon their Saviour and Lord; that separation from all religious apostasy, practices, and associations is commanded of God. (II Tim. 3:1-5; Rom. 12:1-2, 14:13; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11; II Cor. 6:14, 7:1).
- I. **The Church:** We believe that a local church is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws, and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in it by His Word; that its officers are pastors (elders, bishops)

(Eph. 4:10-11; Acts 20:26-32; I Tim. 3:1-7; I Peter 5:1-4; Titus 1: 5-9; Phil. 1:1) and deacons (Acts 6: 1-7; I Tim. 3:8-13); that it has the absolute right of self government directed by the Holy Spirit and is answerable only to Christ; that in all matters of membership, polity, government, discipline, and benevolences the will of the local church is final (Acts 2:41-42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23, 5:23-24; Col. 1:18; Acts 20: 17-18).

J. **The Ordinances**; We believe that there are two church ordinances: baptism and the Lord's Supper.

a. **Mode of Baptism**: The pastor or some other person, of the same faith, authorized by the church shall administer the ordinance of baptism by immersion in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Baptism sets forth in a beautiful and solemn way our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Saviour, with its effect in our life of death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership. (Acts 8:36-38; Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; I Peter 3:21).

b. **The Lord's Supper**: The Lord's Supper shall be served to the congregation by the pastor, or some other person authorized by the church on the designated time established by the church body. Since it is the Lord's Table, none who are His shall be barred, but the pastor shall frequently state the scriptural order, which places baptism as a prerequisite to communion, and shall explain the meaning of the ordinance. Believers, who, through no fault of their own, are unable to participate in the public observance of the Lord's Supper, may request special administration of the ordinance at a time and place of mutual convenience. (I Cor. 10:21; II Cor. 11:24-27; Matt. 26:26-28).

K. **Satan**: We believe that Satan is a person, the author of sin, and the cause of the fall of man; that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man; that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-17; Matt. 4:2-11, 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

L. **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. 25:46; John 5:28-29, 11:25-26; Rev. 20:5, 6, 12, 13). We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord. There in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when the soul and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the Lord. (Luke 23:43; Rev. 20:4-6; II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23; I Thes. 4:16-17). We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain in conscious misery after death until the second resurrection. Then, with the soul and body reunited, they shall appear at the Great White Throne Judgment, and shall be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment. (Luke 16:19-26; Matt. 25:41-46; II Thes. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Mark 9:43-48; Rev. 20:11-15.)

By signing below, I signify concurrence and agreement with the Antioch Missionary Baptist Church Faith and Doctrine Statement:

Signature: _____

Date: _____