

## **Emmanuel Baptist Church Articles of Faith**

### **Section 1. THE BIBLE.**

We believe that the Bible, consisting of sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, was given by divine inspiration and is the Word of God (II Tim. 3:16-17, II Peter 1:19-21, 1 Thes. 2:13). It reveals man's state by nature, and presents the only means of his salvation (Romans 3:10-12, Acts 4:12). It constitutes the only perfect rule and final authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice (Acts 17:11, Isa. 8:20), and sets forth the principles by which man will be judged (Romans 2:1-3).

### **Section 2. GODHEAD.**

We believe there is only one living and true God, Jehovah (Ps. 83:18, Ex. 6:2-3). He is perfect, infinite and eternal (Matt. 5:48, I Kings 8:27, Ps. 90:2); and is unchangeable in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, love and truth (Mal. 3:6, I Tim. 1:17, Gen. 17:1, Isa. 6:3, Ps. 19:9, Ex. 34:6, Jn. 3:16). He is the Creator, Preserver, and the Ruler of the Universe (Gen. 1:1, Heb. 11:3, Neh. 9:6, Heb. 1:2-3, Ps. 103:19, Eph. 1:11). He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are equal in their divine perfection and harmonious in the execution of their distinct offices (Matt. 28:19, Jn. 5:17, 14:16-17, 15:26, Eph. 2:18, I Jn. 5:7).

### **Section 3. THE FATHER.**

We believe God is the Father of Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son (Jn. 20:17, 3:16); the spiritual Father of the nation Israel (I Chron. 29:10), and all believers in Christ. God the Father made the supreme sacrifice in giving His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, as a propitiation for the sins of the whole world (Matt. 3:17, Romans 3:24-25, I Jn. 2:2).

### **Section 4. THE SON.**

We believe that in the fullness of time, the Son humbled himself and assumed man's nature by being born of the virgin Mary, thus uniting organically and indissolubly the divine and human natures in their completeness in the one unique person of Jesus Christ (Isa. 9:6, Matt. 1:18-25, Jn. 1:14, 1 Tim. 3:16, Heb. 2:14). By becoming man, He was made near kin to us (Num. 27:11, Ruth 3:12-13), and having a body, He could offer it as a sacrifice for us (Heb. 10:9-10). Being eternally Jehovah God (Jn. 1:1-14, 8:58) without sin (II Cor. 5:21, Heb. 4:15), the sacrifice He made on Calvary was infinite in value (Jn. 1:29, I Jn. 2:1-2).

## Section 5. THE HOLY SPIRIT.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, equal in all aspects with the Father and the Son (Matt. 28:19, Ex. 17:7; Heb. 3:7-9, I Cor. 3:16). He proceedeth from the Father and the Son (Jn. 15:26). His principal ministry since His advent at Pentecost is to reprove or convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (Jn. 16:8-11); to restrain the progress of evil until God's purposes are accomplished (II Thess. 2:7); to bear witness to the truth preached (Acts 5:30-32); to regenerate those who repent of their sins and exercise faith in Christ (Jn. 3:3-8, Titus 3:5); to instruct, comfort and guide God's children (Jn. 14:16-18, 26, 16:13); to sanctify them (II Thess. 2:13, I Peter 1:1-13); to empower them for life and service (Romans 8:2, Acts 1:8, Eph. 3:16, I Cor. 2:1-4, I Thess. 1:5); and to quicken their mortal bodies (Romans 8:11).

## Section 6. MAN.

a) His Creation. We believe that man was created by an immediate act of God and not by a process of evolution; that he was created in the image and likeness of God, possessing personality; that he was endowed with power of rational and responsible choice between good and evil; and that the purpose of his creation was to glorify God (Gen. 1:27, Col. 3:10, Acts 17:24-28).

b) His Fall. We believe that man was subject to trial in the Garden of Eden in order to test his loyalty to his Maker (Gen. 2:15-17). Under trial he lost his estate; was alienated from God; and became depraved physically, mentally, morally and spiritually by voluntarily transgressing His positive command and yielding to the enticement of Satan. In consequence of this act of disobedience, the entire human race became involved. In every heart there is by nature that evil disposition which eventually leads to responsible acts of sin, and to just condemnation (Gen. 3:1-6, Rom. 1:19-31, 3:10-12, 23, 5:12-18, Eph. 4:18, I Jn. 1:8-10).

c) His Redemption. We believe that God has provided redemption for all men through the mediatorial work of Christ. He voluntarily offered Himself on Calvary as a perfect sacrifice for sin, the just suffering for the unjust. He was made sin for us, bearing sin's curse and tasting death for every man. (Matt. 20:28, Heb. 9:11-12, I Pet. 3:18, II Cor. 5:21, Gal. 3:13, Heb. 2:9, I Tim. 2:5-6).

## Section 7. SALVATION, REGENERATION, and JUSTIFICATION.

We believe that salvation is wholly of grace, but conditional solely on repentance to God and acceptance of Christ by faith (Eph. 2:8-9, Titus 3:5, Acts. 4:12, 16:31, II Cor. 7:10). When the sinner has met these requirements, God regenerates and justifies him. Regeneration makes the believer a new creation in Christ Jesus (II Cor. 5:17). By the operation of the Holy Spirit through the Word, he is given a disposition to obey God (Jn. 1:12-13, 3:3, 5, I Pet. 1:23). This experience is witnessed to by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16). Justification is a judicial act of God whereby the believer is declared righteous on the basis of Christ's punishment on the cross (Rom. 4:4-5, 5:1, 9, Acts 13:39).

## Section 8. SANCTIFICATION.

We believe that sanctification is one aspect of the experience known as baptism with the Holy Spirit. It has to do primarily with separation, cleansing, and setting apart unto God. Every believer at regeneration receives the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:9), is sealed (Eph. 1:13), baptized (I Cor. 12:13), and sanctified by the Holy Spirit (I Thess. 2:13, I Pet. 1:2). The measure of the Holy Spirit rests with the believer, for he is told not to grieve (Eph. 4:30), nor to quench (I Thess. 5:19), but to yield to (Rom. 6:13, 19), and be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

## Section 9. ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER.

We believe that a person once saved can never be lost, for he is born of incorruptible seed (I Pet. 1:23). He is given everlasting life (Jn. 5:24, 10:27, 29), sealed unto the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30), and hid with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). He is given knowledge and assurance of eternal life (1 Jn. 5:11-13). He is assured of no condemnation nor separation from God (Rom. 8:1, 35-39).

## Section 10. THE CHURCH.

We believe that the church, invisible and universal, is an organism composed of all those who are called out of the world, separated from sin, and vitally united by faith to Christ, the living head and ruler (I Pet. 2; Jn. 15:18; Eph. 1:22, 23, 4:15, 16; I Cor. 12:12-27). The church, local and visible, is an organization made up of a company of professed believers in Christ, voluntarily joined together and meeting at stated times for worship, and instruction in the Word, observing the ordinances, and administering discipline (Acts 2:46, 47; 20:7). It is the duty of the church to give the Gospel as a witness to all men (Matt. 28:18-20, Acts 1:8, 5:42), to build itself up in the most Holy faith (Jude 20, 21; Eph. 4:11, 12, 16; Acts 20:32), to minister to the widows, orphans, sick, and afflicted (Acts 6:1-9; James 1:27), and to glorify God (I Pet. 4:11).

## Section 11. ORDINANCES.

We believe that Christian ordinances are outward rites appointed by Christ to be administered in each church, not as a means of salvation, but as visible signs and seals of the facts and realities of salvation.

a) Baptism. We believe that baptism by immersion in water is the public confession of Christ as Savior and Lord. It is a symbol of one's union by faith with Christ in death, burial and resurrection. Therefore, it is to be administered only to those who have given evidence of faith in Christ as their personal Savior (Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41, 8:36-39; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12).

b) The Lord's Supper. We believe that the Lord's Supper should be observed by all believers in obedience to the command, "This do in remembrance of Me." It consists in partaking of the elements, unleavened bread and unfermented grape juice. It symbolizes the death of Christ for the remission of our sins. The Lord's table should be open to all believers who are in right relationship with God (Matt. 26:26-30; Luke 22:19-20; I Cor. 10:16, 11:23-26).

## Section 12. CHRIST'S SECOND COMING.

We believe in the personal, visible, premillennial and imminent return of Christ (Jn. 14:1-4; Acts 1:10, 11; Mark 13:34-37). This will be accomplished in two stages, the rapture and the revelation. The Rapture is Christ's coming for His saints. He will descend into the air to catch away His waiting bride, the church (I Thes. 4:14-18; I Cor. 15; Rev. 3:11). The Revelation is Christ's descending with His saints (Jude 14; Rom. 8:16-19; Col. 3:4; Rev. 19:14), to establish the long promised kingdom, and to reign on the earth for a thousand years (Dan. 7:3, 14; Luke 1:32, 33; Rev. 5:9, 10, 20:4-6). Between these two stages the tribulation judgments are visited upon the apostate and rebellious world (Matt. 24:21; II Thes. 1:3-10; Rev. 6:19).

## Section 13. RESURRECTION AND IMMORTALITY.

We believe that at the return of the Lord (the Rapture), the righteous dead will be raised, and the living believers will be changed. They both will have literal, spiritual and immortal bodies like unto Christ's own glorious body (Rom. 8:23; I Cor. 15:1-58; I Thes. 4:16, 17; Phil. 3:20, 21; Luke 24:36-43; Acts 1:3).

#### Section 14. JUDGMENTS.

We believe that the believer's sins are judged in Christ on the cross (II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 3:13; Jn. 5:24); and that his work will be judged for rewards at the judgment seat of Christ immediately following the rapture (I Cor. 3:8-15, 4:5; II Tim. 4:8). We believe that the impenitent wicked will be judged at the Great White Throne Judgment after the millennium. The wicked will be consigned to the Lake of Fire, to suffer forever and ever together with the devil and his angels (Eccl. 12:14; Matt. 10:28; Mark 9:43-48; Rom. 2:8; Heb. 9:27; Rev. 14:9-11, 20:10-15).

#### Section 15. THE ETERNAL STATE.

We believe that after the enemies of God are consigned to their place of punishment, the present order of things will be dissolved. The new heaven, the new earth and the New Jerusalem wherein dwelleth righteousness, shall be brought in as the final state in which the righteous shall dwell forever. (Isa. 65:17, 66:22; II Pet. 3:10-13; Rev. 21:1-22).

#### Section 16. SATAN.

We believe in the reality of Satan. He is a personality who is the unholy prince of this world, the author of all powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire (Matt. 4:1-3; II Cor. 3:3; Rev. 20:10).

#### Section 17. ATTITUDE TOWARD CIVIL GOVERNMENT.

We believe that civil government is ordained of God for the punishment of evil doers and for the protection of the good (Rom. 13:1-7). We, therefore, consider it our duty to pray for rulers and magistrates (I Tim. 2:1-3). We are to be submissive and obedient to their authority, except in things opposed to the will of God (Titus 3:1; I Pet. 2:13-14; Acts 4:19; 5:29; Matt. 23:10) and separation of church and state.