

STATEMENT OF FAITH (CONCISE)

(Based on The New Hampshire Baptist Confession, 1833)

Article I: Of the Scripture

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 mixture of error, for its substance; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.

Article II: Of the One True God

WE BELIEVE that there is one, and only one, living and true God, (an infinite, intelligent Spirit) whose name is YAHWEH, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctives of 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.

Article III: Of The Fall of Man

WE BELIEVE that man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker; but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan, and of their own sinful passions, therefore we are all under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense of excuse.

Article IV: Of The Way of Salvation

WE BELIEVE that the salvation of sinners is wholly of GRACE; through the Mediatory Offices of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who (by appointment of the Father) freely took upon Himself our nature, yet without sin; completely fulfilled 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 wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate, and an all-sufficient Savior.

Article V: Of Justification

WE BELIEVE that the great Gospel blessing, which Christ of His fullness, bestows on all those who believe in Him, is justification; that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life, on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but through the redemption and righteousness of Christ alone, that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

Article VI: Of Grace in Regeneration

WE BELIEVE that in order to be saved, we must FIRST be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in God giving men a desire for true holiness found in Christ alone; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation, by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with the divine truth found in the Bible. True Regeneration will always lead us to a voluntary obedience to the Gospel;

and the only evidence of Regeneration is found when our lives bring forth living fruit to the glory of God.

Article VII: Of Repentance and Faith

WE BELIEVE that Repentance and Faith are sacred duties, and are mandatory for true salvation. They are inseparable graces, created in our hearts 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 genuine repentance, confession, and a prayerful cry for mercy; at the same time sincerely and with joy-filled hearts, receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him ALONE as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

Article VIII: Of God's Purpose of Grace

WE BELIEVE that election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which he graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most gracious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of his free mercy; and it is displayed in and through all who truly believe the gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that it with regard to ourselves, demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

Article IX: Of Sanctification

WE BELIEVE that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration; and that it is carried on the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means-especially the Word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

Article X: Of the Perseverance of the Saints

WE BELIEVE that such only are real believers as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from mere professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

Article XI: Of the Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

WE BELIEVE that the Law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible Church.

Article XII: Of a Gospel Church

WE BELIEVE that a visible 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 invested in them by His Word; that it only proper officers are Elders or Pastors, and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

Article XIII: Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

WE BELIEVE that Christian Baptism is the immersion of a born again believer in water, in the name of the Father and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its purifying power; that it is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church, by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ; preceded always by solemn self-examination.

Article XIV: Of the Sabbath

WE BELIEVE that the whole law of God has been fulfilled completely in Christ alone including the law of the Sabbath. We believe that since the coming of Christ He has become believer's Sabbath, which means "rest". We believe that having our rest in Him alone is to be practiced and honored each and every day of the week, for it is no longer "us who live but Christ who lives in us" (Gal.2:20). However, we also believe that in both a practical and Spiritual manner that we are called to take a day aside from our work to rest with both our family and our church in fellowship. Since Christ rose from the dead on the first day of the week that has become the Lord's Day and is to be used to gather the visible church together in a time of worship and thanks to God for the gift of life in our Savior and to renew our hearts and minds in Him.

Article XV: Of Civil Government

WE BELIEVE that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good of human society; and that leaders in our government are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed, except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of conscience, and the government eternally rests on His shoulders.

Article XVI: Of the Righteous and the Wicked

WE BELIEVE that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all those who continue to display an unrepentant and unbelieving heart are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and the distinction holds among men both in life and death.

Article XVII: Of the World to Come

WE BELIEVE that the end of this world is approaching: that at the last day, Christ will descend from heaven. And raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be judged to eternal punishment, and the righteous to eternal joy and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in heaven or hell, on principle of righteousness.