



KERSEY COMMUNITY CHURCH

Articles Of Faith

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE KERSEY COMMUNITY CHURCH, DO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HOLY SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS AS BEING THE WORD OF GOD AND THE ONLY INFALLIBLE GUIDE OF CHRISTIAN FAITH AND PRACTICE. THE SCRIPTURAL DOCTRINES TO WHICH WE REQUIRE ALL PASTORS, ELDERS, DEACONS, OFFICERS, MEMBERS AND APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP TO SUBSCRIBE ARE CONTAINED AS FOLLOWS:

Holy Scriptures

We believe the Holy Scriptures, as contained in the Old and New Testaments, to be the infallible Word of God, written by godly men as they were inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that the Holy Scriptures are the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life. II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:20, 21

The Trinity

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons - the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit - and that these three are one God John 14: 16-17; 15:26; Acts 5: 3-4; II Corinthians 13:14; Hebrews 1:1-2; I John 5:7

The Person of God

We believe in God the Father, an infinite, personal spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love. We believe that He infallibly foreknows all that shall come to pass, that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ. Matthew 23:9; Luke 10:21-22; John 3:16; Romans 1:7; I Timothy 1:1-2; 2:5-6; I Peter 1:3

The Person of Christ

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal and unique Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, by the miracle of virgin birth. Luke 1:35; John 1:1-14

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished the redemption of our sins through a substitutional atoning death on the cross (that is, He died for all mankind) as recorded in the Holy Scriptures, and that our justification is made sure by His literal and physical resurrection from the dead. (see Salvation) Rom. 3:23-26; II Cor. 5:21; Eph. 1:7; I Peter 1:3-5; 2:24

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God, where, as our High Priest, He fulfilled the ministry of Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. Acts 1:9; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24; I John 2:1-2

The Person of the Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine person who is motivated to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, to convict men, regenerate the believing sinner, and to indwell, prepare, instruct, and empower the believer for godly living and service. John 14:15-17, 26; John 16:7-11; Romans 8:26-27; 1Cor. 12:12-14

The Total Depravity of Man

We believe that man, originally created in the image and after the likeness of God (not evolving from a lower life form), fell from this high and holy estate by directly disobeying God and eating the forbidden fruit. As the consequences of his disobedience the moral nature of man was not only completely corrupted by the fall, but man totally lost all spiritual life becoming dead in trespasses and sins. Gen. 1:26; Gen. 2:17; Gen 3:6; Romans 5:12, 18; Eph. 2:1, 3

We believe that this spiritual death or total corruption of human nature has been transmitted to the entire human race. Therefore, every child is of Adam and is born into this world with a sin nature which possesses no spark of divine life, is completely sinful, and is an enemy of God. Gen. 6:5; Psalms 51:5; Romans 3:10-12; Romans 8: 6-7

Salvation

We believe that eternal salvation, the complete forgiveness of sin, is available to all people and is motivated by the mercy and grace of God. Eternal salvation is made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on the cross; and is appropriated by individual faith and not based on any work or merit of the individual. It is a work completely dependent upon God. John 1:12; Eph. 1: 7, 2: 8-10; I Peter 1: 18-19

Justification by Faith

We believe that God justifies the ungodly by faith in Christ alone, apart from works, pardoning their sins, and reckoning them as righteous and acceptable in His presence. Justification happens fully and permanently at the acceptance of Christ as Savior.

John 5:24; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1; Galatians 2:16; Titus 3:5-7

Assurance/Security of Eternal Life

We believe that it is the privilege of all who are born again by the Spirit, through faith in Christ as revealed in the Scriptures, to be assured of their salvation from the very day they take Him to be their Savior. This assurance is not grounded upon any fancied discovery of their own worthiness or fitness, but wholly upon the testimony of God in His written Word. Luke 23:39-43; John 6:47; John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:33-39; II Timothy 1:12; I John 5:11-13

The Two Natures of the Believer & Christian Behavior

We believe that upon true conversion every person is given a new nature by God. This new

nature leads one to desire to set oneself apart from worldly practice and instead live to please God and to become more holy. However, the old, sinful nature is still present and active to the extent that we, as believers, allow it. We must choose to feed and follow the new nature (read God's Word and obey it). This will mean severe struggle at times and great struggle most of the time as we choose to live Christ-like lives and fight against all sin. It is God's will and command that we be holy as He is holy and that our lives reflect what we believe and know is true. Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; 12:1-2; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:17-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:1-10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 2:15-17; II John 9-11

The Ministry of Spiritual Gifts

We believe that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the perfecting of the saints today. Sign-gifts, including performing miracles, healings, tongues and interpretation of tongues, gradually ceased as the New Testament scriptures were completed and their authority became established. In accord with His will, we believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith for the sick and afflicted. John 15:7-8; Romans 12:6-8; I Corinthians 12: 4-11; 13:8-10; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-12; James 5:15

The Church, A Unity of Believers

We believe that the true or invisible Church which began on the Day of Pentecost is the full body of Christ, that each one who receives Jesus Christ as his personal Savior for the penalty of sin is a member of that invisible Church, the body of Christ, and that each individual believer or member is indwelt by the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. I Corinthians 12:12-14

- A. *The Universal Church. We believe that all who are united to the risen and ascended Son of God are members of the Church which is the Body of Christ, regardless of membership or non-membership in the organized churches of the earth; that by the same Spirit we are all baptized into and thus become one body that is Christ's, whether we are Jew or Gentiles, and having become members one of another, we and all Christians are under solemn duty to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, rising above all sectarian differences, and fervently loving one another with a pure heart. Matthew 16:16-18; Acts 2:32-47; Romans 12:5; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4-6; Colossians 3:14-15*
- B. *The Local Church. We believe that God's primary (intended) organization of believers, after the family unit, in the present age, is the local church, which is committed to the Lord and to each other for the purpose of carrying out the universal church's visible activities. It is God's intention that all believers publicly identify with a visible, local assembly. These activities include: the communication of God's truth to the people of God, the worship of and prayer to God, the loving care of God's people for one another, and the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Kersey Community Church endeavors to cooperate with other like-minded churches, yet remain nondenominational. Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 1:1-2, 11-13; I Corinthians 3: 4-7; I Thessalonians 1:1-3; Hebrews 10:24-25*

Missions

We believe it is the obligation of the saved to witness by life and by word the truths of the Holy Scripture and to seek to proclaim the gospel to all mankind personally and/or by supporting world-wide evangelistic missions. Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8; II Corinthians 5:19-20

Water Baptism

We believe that water baptism is the believer's testimony to the oneness with Christ in His death and resurrection. We believe that baptism is the immersion of the believer's body into the water. Baptism does not produce spiritual life, rather it is an outward picture to what has already taken place within the heart of faith. Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:5, 9-10; Acts 8:12, 36-39

Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the believer's testimony that his soul is living day by day upon the crucified Christ. We believe the bread represents the broken body of Christ and the wine/juice represents the shed blood of Christ. Matthew 26:26-29; I Corinthians 11:23-26

The Personality of Satan

We believe that Satan is a person, the originator/author of sin, that he is the open and declared enemy of God and man, that through his deception, man chose to disobey God and thus fell from innocence, and that he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire. Isa. 14:12-17; Rev. 20:10

The Blessed Hope and The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in that "Blessed Hope", the personal, imminent, pre-tribulation and pre-millennial coming of the Lord Jesus Christ for His redeemed ones; and in His subsequent return to earth, with His saints to establish His Millennial Kingdom. John 14: 1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-53; I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Titus 2:13; Revelations 3:10, 20:1-6

The Eternal State/ Heaven and Hell

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

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 at His coming, when spirit, soul, and body will be reunited.

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 for everlasting, conscious punishment. Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:34-46; Luke 16:19-26; John 5:28-29; II Corinthians 5:8; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelations 20:11-15