

# **BCC Policy: Articles of Faith**

Approved October 2005

We have made three changes to the Berean Fellowship Articles of Faith with the approval of the Berean Fellowship. These three changes are in statements # 4, 6, 10, in areas we believe represent non-essentials. The changes have been noted under each of these three statements.

## **Berean Community Church Core Beliefs**

1. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, authoritative Word of God.
2. We believe there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
3. We believe in the deity of Jesus Christ, His Virgin birth, His sinless life, His death on the cross for our sins, His resurrection and return.
4. We believe all persons are sinners by nature and condemned by God.
5. We believe God in His Grace has provided salvation for all who will trust Jesus Christ alone to forgive them and give them His life.

## **Berean Community Church Articles of Faith**

### **1. BIBLE**

We believe the Bible, consisting of both the Old and New Testament Scriptures in their entirety, is the only divinely inspired, inerrant, objectively true, and authoritative written Word of God, and the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The divine inspiration of Scripture extends to each word of the original manuscript but not to the various copies or translations of Scripture. The Bible should be interpreted literally, grammatically, contextually, and historically. *Genesis 1-3; Deuteronomy 29:29; John 10:35; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 2:13.*

### **2. GOD**

We believe in only one God, the Creator, who is infinite, personal, eternally existing in three persons, revealed to us in Scripture as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 44:6, 45:22; Matthew 28:19; John 4:24, 5:26; Colossians 1:16-19; 1 Corinthians 8:4.*

### **3. JESUS CHRIST**

We believe that Jesus Christ is God the Son who has neither beginning nor ending. He was conceived in the flesh by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is fully God and fully man. Jesus died for our sins, was buried, and arose bodily on the third day. He ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father as our only mediator, high priest, and advocate. *Matthew 1:23-25; John 1:1, 14:3; Acts 4:12; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4 & 20; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 4:14-16; 1 Peter 2:22.*

### **4. HOLY SPIRIT**

We believe the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. He is a person, not a force. The Holy Spirit's ministries include: Convicting all people of sin; calling, regenerating, indwelling, and baptizing believers into the Body of Christ; setting them apart to a holy life; and teaching, keeping, and empowering them day by day. The Holy Spirit distributes spiritual gifts to each believer according to His will. *John 3:5-8; Acts 1:8, 5:3-4, 16:7-14; 1 Corinthians 2:9-12, 3:16, 12:3-13 & 28-31, 13:8-11; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 1:13-14, 5:18; Hebrews 2:3-4.*

*NOTE: The following sentence was omitted from the Berean Fellowship statement, which states: "God in His sovereignty still works in miraculous ways; however, we understand that the sign gifts have served their purpose and should not be expected in the church today."*

*We believe that Scripture teaches the sign gifts are still here today.*

## **5. HUMAN RACE**

We believe that both man and woman were created in the image of God to enjoy a personal relationship with Him. As a result of deliberate disobedience they fell from their sinless state and they and all their descendants became sinners. Consequently, they cannot save themselves and apart from the grace of God in Jesus Christ, they are condemned to a place of eternal torment. *Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7; Matthew 5:20-48; John 3:16-18; Romans 2:6-16, 5:12-21, 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-9; Revelation 20:13-15.*

## **6. SALVATION**

We believe we are saved solely by the grace of God through faith in Christ alone. This salvation was purchased by the substitutionary death and shed blood of Jesus Christ for sinners and is offered to everyone as a free gift. The person who has trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior is eternally secure and can enjoy the assurance of salvation. We believe that at death believers enter eternal glory and that unbelievers enter eternal torment. *Acts 16:31, 20:20-21; Romans 3:28, 10:9; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; John 1:12, 3:16, 10:28; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 1:6.*

*Note: The sentence above was changed from the following statement that is found in the Berean Fellowship Statement: 'This salvation was purchased by the substitutionary death and shed blood of Jesus Christ for the sins of every person and is offered to everyone as a free gift.'*

*This change was made so that this statement is not committed to either view of the atonement (Arminian or Reformed).*

## **7. SANCTIFICATION**

We believe that every believer has been sanctified, set apart with a perfect standing before God. As we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit, we will experience spiritual growth in holiness, but we will not experience perfection in conduct. Future rewards are determined by our obedience to the Lord. *Hebrews 10:10; Philippians 3:12; Romans 6:13-19; 1 Corinthians 3:8.*

## **8. CHURCH**

We believe that Christ is the Head of the Church, which is His body. All who have trusted in Him as Savior are members of it. Christians should commit themselves to worship, instruction, fellowship, stewardship, and service in a local church. The church is responsible to represent Jesus Christ in the world through godly living and evangelism. All believers are commanded to participate in two church ordinances, believers' baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper. *Matthew 26:26-29, 28:18-20; Acts 2:42; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:19-22, 3:6-10, 4:11-13, 5:23-27; 1 Thessalonians 2:14; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 1 John 4:17.*

## **9. SATAN**

We believe that Satan was created an angelic being. He became the author of sin, our adversary and accuser, and the great deceiver of the nations. He will finally be overcome by the Lord Jesus Christ and suffer eternal punishment in the lake of fire. *Genesis 3:1; Job 1:6-12; Matthew 4:3-11; John 8:44; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 3:8, 5:19; Revelation 12:9-10, 20:10.*

## **10. FUTURE EVENTS**

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ will return again in glory to the earth. This will be followed by the final judgment of the wicked in the lake of fire and eternal bliss for God's children in a new heaven and a new earth. *John 14:3; Acts 1:7 & 11; Romans 8:1; 1 Corinthians 15:20 & 23; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Philippians 1:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; Revelation 11:15, 19:11 - 21:5.*

*NOTE: The full Berean Fellowship Statement is the following: 'We believe, on a day known only by God the Father, Jesus will rapture His church to deliver it from the judgments that God will pour upon the earth. After this terrible period, the Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory to establish His Millennial Kingdom on the earth.'*

*This will be followed by the final judgment of the wicked in the lake of fire and eternal bliss for God's children in a new heaven and a new earth.'*

*We have reworded this statement to eliminate any specific reference to a premillennial, pretribulational position. We believe what is essential is that the Bible teaches that Jesus will return to conclude HIStory: He will judge all and all will live forever, either with Him (heaven) or apart from Him (lake of fire). While many in the church personally see scriptural support for the premillennial and pretribulational views, we don't believe it should be made a test for membership in Christ's church.*