

**The Scriptures**

- We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired Word of God and the supreme and final authority in doctrine and practice (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; John 17:17). Though Scriptural truth is spiritually discerned (I Corinthians 2:13, 14), it is not subjective or a matter of personal opinion (II Peter 1:20). Ultimately, its reliability rests on the promises of God that it is powerful, will endure, and will accomplish what God pleases (Isaiah 40:8, 55:11; Matthew 5:18; Hebrews 4:12).

**The Trinity**

- We believe in one God eternally existing in three equal persons -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who have the same nature and attributes, but who are distinct in office and activity (Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14). God is immutable (Psalm 102:26, 27; Malachi 3:6), eternal (Psalm 90:2, 15a; Isaiah 57:15), omnipotent (Psalm 115:3), omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-12), omniscient (Psalm 147:5), and too holy to look upon sin (Habakkuk 1:13). Yet, He is not wishing that any should perish (II Peter 3:9). He is the Lord of history, declaring the end from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10) and working all things according to the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:11).

**Jesus Christ**

- We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God (John 1:1; 17:5, Hebrews 13:8) became man without ceasing to be God (Hebrews 2:17, 18; John 1:1, 14; Philippians 2:5-10), having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:35), in order that He might reveal God (John 8:19; 14: 7, 9) and redeem sinful man (Galatians 3:13; 4:4, 5). We believe that He accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice (II Corinthians 5:21). We believe that our redemption and salvation are guaranteed by His literal physical resurrection from the dead (Romans 4:25; I Corinthians 15:1-4, 17, 20). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is now in heaven, where as High Priest He fulfills the ministry of intercession and advocacy for His people (Hebrews 1:3, 3:1, 7:23-25; I John 2:1-2).

**The Holy Spirit**

- We believe that God-the Holy Spirit is a person (John 14:16, 17, 26) who convicts people of sin (John 16:8), regenerates those who receive Christ as savior (John 3:5-8), baptizes them into the church (I Corinthians 12:13) the body of Christ, indwells them permanently (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19), seals them unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30) and fills those yielded to Him (Ephesians 5:18). To those who live in submission to the Spirit, He leads, gives assurance and prays for them (Romans 8:14, 16, 26). He also bestows spiritual gifts on each one in order to equip for ministry and edify the church (Ephesians 4:11, 12). These gifts are not for personal gratification (I Corinthians 14:12), but for the benefit of the believing community and the world.

**Creation and the Fall**

- We believe all things in heaven and earth were created by God and exist by His power (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 8:3, 19:1; Job 26:7; Isaiah 45:12; John 1:3, 10; Colossians 1:16-17). We believe that Satan was created as a perfect being until iniquity was found in him (Ezekiel 28:12-15) and that Satan is the origin of sin. We believe that man was created innocent in the image of God (Genesis 1:27) but that he was led into sin by Satan (Genesis 2:17; 3:6-19) and so death was spread to all men because all sinned (Romans 5:12, 15, 19). Satan is still the god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4), who with great power (I Peter 5:8), is waging war against the saints (Ephesians 6:11, 12), while blinding the

lost (Ephesians 4:18; II Corinthians 4:4) and deceiving the nations (Revelation 20:10), but his doom is sure (Hebrews 2:14; Revelation 20:10). Because of the fall, natural man is dead in trespasses and sin, and incapable of understanding (Ephesians 2:1; Romans 3:11) and it is impossible for him to come to Christ unless the Father draws him (John 6:44).

## **Salvation**

- We believe that salvation is a gift of God (Romans 5:15; 6:23) and is received by man through personal faith in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for sin (II Corinthians 5:21). We believe that man is justified by grace through faith apart from works (Romans 3:21-28; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-10; Titus 3:5). We believe that all true believers, once saved, are kept secure in Christ forever (Romans 8:1, 38-39; John 10:27-30), having been called according to His purpose and grace which was given us in Christ before there was time (II Timothy 1:9).

## **Regeneration**

- We believe that regeneration is a supernatural work of the Holy Spirit by which the divine nature and divine life are given (John 3:3-7; Titus 3:5). It is instantaneous and is accomplished solely by the power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of the Word of God (John 5:24) when the repentant sinner, as enabled by the Holy Spirit, responds in faith to the divine provision of salvation. Genuine regeneration is manifested by fruits worthy of repentance, as demonstrated in righteous attitudes and conduct. Good works are the proper evidence and fruit of regeneration (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 2:10), and will be experienced to the extent that the believer submits to the control of the Holy Spirit in his life through faithful obedience to the Word of God (Ephesians 5:17-21; Philippians 2:12b; Colossians 3:16; 2 Peter 1:4-10). This obedience causes the believer to be increasingly conformed to the image of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

## **Sanctification**

- We believe that at salvation we are justified, declared righteous and set apart or sanctified on the basis of the finished work of Christ (Romans 5:1, 16, 4:5; I Corinthians 1:2; Hebrews 10:10). Experientially, however, believers may be immature (Hebrews 5:12-14). The faithful Christian's life is characterized by a walk of faith (Romans 14:23; II Corinthians 5:7; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 11:6) in the Spirit (Galatians 5:16-18) toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:14). Thus, we may be His disciples as we abide in His word (John 8:31).
- We believe that experiential sanctification (Ephesians 4:7-15, 5:26, 27; I Thessalonians 5:23; II Timothy 2:21), or discipleship, is not to be equated to the possession of eternal life. A disciple bears much fruit (John 15:8), but unfortunately, there are carnal believers (I Corinthians 3:1) who, not having the joy of faithfully abiding in Christ (John 15:9-11; Galatians 5:22; Philippians 4:4-7), have not produced good fruit, but at the Judgment Seat of Christ they are saved, yet as through fire (I Corinthians 3:11-15).

## **The Church**

- We believe that the Church—the Body and Bride of Christ (Ephesians 1:22, 23; II Corinthians 11:2), is a spiritual organism, made up of all born-again persons of this present age (Ephesians 2:19-22; 3:6-10; 4:4, 5; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 12:23). We believe that the Church began at Pentecost (John 7:39; Acts 2:4) and that a believer is placed into the Church by the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13). We believe that the Church is distinct from Israel (Ephesians 3:3-6, 9, 10; Romans 11:1, 11, 25-29).
- We believe that the local church is an assembly of professed believers in Jesus Christ who are voluntarily joined together in one locality (Romans 16:1-5, 23; I Timothy 3:5) for the purposes of

worship, study of the Word of God, observance of the ordinances, Christian fellowship, and being equipped for Christian service (Acts 2:42; Ephesians 4:11-13).

- We believe that men and women are spiritually equal in position before God, but that God has ordained distinct and separate spiritual functions for men and women in the church. The Elders of CBC are to be men called by God. (Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:18; 1 Timothy 2:8-15; 3:4-5, 12)

### **Human Sexuality**

- We believe that marriage has been ordained and instituted by God and that the Bible defines “marriage” as the exclusive covenantal union of one man and one woman as a lifetime commitment. Any civil government’s sanction of a union will be recognized as a legitimate marriage by this church only to the extent that it is consistent with the definition of marriage found in these Articles.
- We believe that legitimate sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Hence, sexual activities outside of marriage are inconsistent with the teachings of the Bible and this church. (Genesis 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Romans 1:26-29; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 5:1; 6-9; 7:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Hebrews 13:4; Ephesians 5:22-23)

### **Ordinances**

- We believe that Christ instituted the ordinances of water baptism and the Lord’s Supper, which are to be observed by believers until He returns (Matthew 28:19-20; I Corinthians 11:23-26).
- We believe that water baptism by immersion is a picture of our identity with Christ in His death and resurrection. It depicts the death of the old man and new birth in newness of life and thus is for believers only (Romans 6:3-6; I Peter 3:21). This precludes infant baptism.
- We believe that the Lord’s Supper is a memorial of Christ’s death, the elements being symbols of His body and blood. We believe that every Christian has a right to partake of the elements of the Lord’s Supper, but that participation must always be preceded by solemn self-examination (I Corinthians 11:23-29).

### **Last Things**

- **The Rapture of the Church:** We believe in the personal, bodily return of our Lord Jesus Christ before the seven-year tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:16; Titus 2:13) to translate His church from this earth (John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:11) and, between this event and His glorious return with His saints, to reward believers according to their works (1 Corinthians 3:11-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10).
- **The Tribulation Period:** We believe that immediately following the removal of the church from the earth (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18), the righteous judgments of God will be poured out upon an unbelieving world (Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:27; 12:1; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12; Revelation 16), and that these judgments will be climaxed by the return of Christ in glory to the earth (Matthew 24:27-31; 25:31-46; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12). At that time, the Old Testament and tribulation saints will be raised and the living will be judged (Daniel 12:2-3; Revelation 20:4-6). This period includes the seventieth week of Daniel’s prophecy (Daniel 9:24-27; Matthew 24:15-31; 25:31-46).
- **The Second Coming and the Millennial Reign:** We believe that after the tribulation period, Christ will come to earth to occupy the throne of David (Matthew 25:31; Luke 1:31-33; Acts 1:10-11; 2:29-30) and establish His messianic kingdom for 1,000 years on the earth (Revelation 20:1-7). During this time, the resurrected saints will reign with Him over Israel and all the nations of the

earth (Ezekiel 37:21-28; Daniel 7:17-22; Revelation 19:11-16). This reign will be preceded by the overthrow of the Antichrist and the False Prophet and by the removal of Satan from the world (Daniel 7:17-27; Revelation 20:1-7).

- We believe that the kingdom itself will be the fulfillment of God's promise to Israel (Isaiah 65:17-25; Ezekiel 37:21-28; Zechariah 8:1-17) to restore them to the land that they forfeited through their disobedience (Deuteronomy 28:15-68). The result of their disobedience was that Israel was temporarily set aside (Matthew 21:43; Romans 11:1-26), but will again be awakened through repentance to enter into the land of blessing (Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-32; Romans 11:25-29).
- We believe that this time of our Lord's reign will be characterized by harmony, justice, peace, righteousness, and long life (Isaiah 11; 65:17-25; Ezekiel 36:33-38), and will be brought to an end with the release of Satan (Revelation 20:7).
- **The Judgment of the Lost:** We believe that following the release of Satan after the 1,000-year reign of Christ (Revelation 20:7), Satan will deceive the nations of the earth and gather them to battle against the saints and the beloved city, at which time Satan and his army will be devoured by fire from heaven (Revelation 20:9). Following this, Satan will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:10), whereupon Christ, who is the Judge of all men (John 5:22), will resurrect and judge the great and small at the Great White Throne Judgment.
  - We believe that this resurrection of the unsaved dead to judgment will be a physical resurrection, whereupon receiving their judgment (John 5:28-29), they will be committed to an eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:11-15).
- **Eternity:** We believe that after the closing of the millennium, the temporary release of Satan, and the judgment of unbelievers (2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 20:7-15), the saved will enter an eternal state of glory with God, after which the elements of this earth are to be dissolved (2 Peter 3:10) and replaced with a new earth, wherein only righteousness dwells (Ephesians 5:5; Revelation 20:15; 21:1-27; 22:1-21). Following this, the heavenly city will come down out of heaven (Revelation 21:2) and will be the dwelling place of the saints, where they will enjoy forever fellowship with God and one another (John 17:3; Revelation 21-22). Our Lord Jesus Christ, having fulfilled His redemptive mission, will then deliver up the kingdom to God the Father (1 Corinthians 15:24-28), that in all spheres the triune God may reign forever and ever (1 Corinthians 15:28).