



CONSTITUTION WEB-EXCERPTS

ARTICLE V: STATEMENT OF FAITH

A. Doctrine Essentials

These doctrines are essential for membership in Heritage Bible Chapel.

1. The Bible as the inerrant and infallible Word of God (II Timothy 3:16, II Peter 1:21, Heb 4:12)
 2. One Creator, God who is sovereign over all (Genesis 1:1, Exodus 20:11, Deuteronomy 4:39)
 3. The Holy Trinity (Matthew 28:19, II Corinthians 13:14)
 4. Man's voluntary fall into sin from his perfect created state (Genesis 3:1-7, I Corinthians 15:21-22)
 5. The virgin birth of Christ (Matthew 1:18-25, Isaiah 7:14)
 6. The bodily resurrection of Christ from the dead (Luke 24:36-44)
 7. The atonement of Christ for our sins (I Peter 1:18,19, Isaiah 53:5)
 8. Salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone (Ephesians 2:8,9)
 9. The believer's separation from worldliness and apostasy (John 2:15,16), (Galatians 1:9, II Corinthians 6:14-18)
 10. The sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper (Matthew 28: 19, I Corinthians 11:23-30)
 11. Evangelizing the lost (Acts 5:42, Romans 10:11,15)
 12. A literal heaven for the saved (John 14: 2,3)
 13. A literal hell for the lost (Revelation 20:14,15)
 14. The literal second coming of Christ to earth (Acts 1:11, I Thessalonians 5:23, Revelation 22:20)
- We believe and teach that there is one and only one (Deuteronomy 6:4, Isaiah 45:5-7, Mark 12:29, I Corinthians 8:4, Ephesians 4:6) living (Jeremiah 10:10), perfect (Matthew 5:48) and true (Jeremiah 10:10, John 17:3, I John 5:20) God, an infinite Spirit (John 4:24, 5:26) and Maker (Psalm 95:6, 115:15, Isaiah 44:24) and supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth (I Chronicles 29:11). He is glorious (Psalm 19:1) in holiness (Psalm 60:6, Isaiah 43:3, Hebrews 12:10) and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love (Revelation 4:11). (VI.A.1.)

- We believe and teach that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, who are equal in divine perfection and who execute distinct but harmonious offices (II Corinthians 13:14, I Peter 1:2, Matthew 28:19). (VI.A.2.)

- We believe and teach that God the Father orders and disposes of all things according to His own purpose and grace (Psalm 145:8, 9, I Corinthians 8:6). He is the creator of all things (Genesis 1:1-31, Exodus 20:11, Ephesians 3:9). As the absolute and omnipotent ruler of the universe, he is sovereign in creation, providence, and redemption (Psalm 103:19, Romans 11:36). His fatherhood involves both His designation within the Trinity and His relationship with mankind. As Creator, He is Creator to all men (Ephesians 4:6), but He is the spiritual Father of believers only (Romans 8:14, II Corinthians 6:18). He has decreed for His own glory all things that come to pass (Ephesians 1:11). In His sovereignty He is neither author nor approver of sin (Habakkuk 1:13, John 8:38-47), and holds man accountable as moral, intelligent creatures (I Peter 1:17). He has graciously chosen from eternity past those who come to Him through Christ Jesus; He adopts as His own all who come to Him; and He becomes upon adoption, Father to His own (John 1:12, Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:5, Hebrews 12:5-9). (VI.A.3.)

- We further believe that man, within the context of God's sovereignty, is a free moral agent made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26) and responsible for choosing or rejecting God's offer of salvation (John 1-12, Romans 10:13, Matthew 23:37. Luke 12:41,42).

- We believe and teach that Jesus Christ is the divine (John 1:1, 10:30, 38, Colossians 2:9), eternal Son of God (Matthew 3:17, 8:29, 11:27, 16:16, 17:5, Mark 1:1, I John 5:9-12). That He was the active agent in the creation of heaven and earth and all that is therein (Colossians 1:13). That He was miraculously conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18-23, Luke 11:34,35, Galatians 4:4.) That He perfectly revealed and accomplished the will of the Father, taking upon Himself the demands and necessities of human nature; that He identified Himself completely with mankind (Romans 1:3-4, Philippians 2:5-8) yet was and remains without sin (I Peter 2:21 - 23, Hebrews 4:15). He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His death on the cross, made provision for the redemption of men from sin (John 1:29, Romans 3:24, I Corinthians 1:30, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:13 -14), delivering him from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13) and the law itself (Romans 7:4, Ephesians 2:14-15), giving life eternal to those who believe on Him (John 11:25-26, 20:31). He was raised from the dead (Romans 6:4, 9 8:24, I Corinthians 15:4, 20, I Thessalonians 1:10) with a glorified body and then appeared to His disciples (Mark 16:14, John 21:14, Acts 1:3) and many others. He ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9) and is now exalted at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1, Acts 7:55-56, Romans 8:24, Ephesians 1:20, I Peter 3:22) where He is the One Mediator (I Timothy 2:5), partaking of the nature of God (Hebrews 1:3) and of man, and in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man (Romans 5:11, II Corinthians 5:18-19). He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission (Revelation 19:11-20:6). He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever-present Lord and Savior (Romans 8:10). (VI.A.4.)

- We believe and teach that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person (Acts 13:2), possessing all of the attributes of deity including omnipotence (Romans 15:13), omniscience (Isaiah 40:13-14), and omnipresence (Psalm 139:7-10), that He was active in creation (Genesis 1:1-3), that He inspired holy men to write the Scriptures (II Peter 1:20-21, II Timothy 3:16); that in His relation to the unbelieving world, he convicts men of sin (John 16:8-11), restrains the Evil One until God's purpose is fulfilled; that He seals (Ephesians 1:13-14), guides (John 16:13, Romans 8:25-27), teaches (John 14:26), witnesses (Acts 5:30-32, Romans 8:16, I John 5:7), sanctifies, and helps (John 14:16-17, 26) the believer, indwelling every true child of God (II Timothy 1:14). (VI.A.5.)

- We believe and teach that all people are descendants of Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:27-28, 2:7, 22, 3:20, 9:19, Acts 17:26). (VI B.4.)

- We believe and teach that the Bible is the written Word of God, that the Holy Spirit superintended the human authors, and that, through their individual personalities and different writing styles, they composed and recorded God's Word to man. (II Peter 1:19-21, II Timothy 3:16, I John 5:9, I Thessalonians 2:13). (VI.C.1)

- We believe and teach that the Bible is divinely inspired and inerrant throughout. Its assertions are factually true in all the original manuscripts (Psalm 19:7, 119:160, John 17:17, II Timothy 3:16). (VI.C.2)

- We believe and teach that, although there may be several applications of any given passage of Scripture, there is but one true interpretation. The meaning of Scripture is found as one diligently applies the literal grammatical-historical method of interpretation under the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit. (VI.C.5.)

- We believe that the final guide to the interpretation of Scripture is Scripture itself. (VI.C.6.)

- We believe and teach that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual body, the church (I Corinthians 12:12-13), the bride of Christ is the head (Ephesians 5:23-32, Revelation 19:7-8), of which Christ is the head (Ephesians 1:22, 4:15, Colossians 1:18). (VI.D.1.)

- We believe and teach that the purpose of the church is to glorify God (Ephesians 3:21) to be built up in the faith (Ephesians 4:11-16), by the instruction of the Word (II Timothy 2:2, 15, 3:16- 17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47, I John 1:3), by keeping the ordinances (Luke 22:19, Acts 2:38-42) and by faithful witnessing, through personal holiness and proclamation of Christ to all men as we have opportunity (Matthew 28:19, I Peter 3:15, Acts 1:8, 2:42). (VI.D.3.)

- We believe and teach that the one, supreme authority for the church is Christ (I Corinthians 11:3, Ephesians 1:22, Colossians 1:18) and that the church leadership, gifts, order, discipline, and worship are all appointed through His sovereignty. (VI.D.6.)

- We believe and teach that Jesus Christ is the head of the church (Colossians 1:18) and that He leads by the Holy Spirit through His under-shepherds, the elders (Acts 20:28, Ephesians 4:11, I Peter 5:1-3) who must meet objective biblical qualifications (I Timothy 5:17-22) and have His authority in directing the church. The congregation is to submit to their leadership (Hebrews 13:7, 17). (VI.D.7.)

- We believe and teach the unique creation of Adam as one man and Eve as one woman (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:20-23) and that they were created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27, James 3:9), innocent under the law of their Maker (Genesis 2:25), but by voluntary transgression fell from their sinless, perfect state (Genesis 3:1-7), and that this fall is the basis for the necessity or redemption of mankind (I Corinthians 15:21-22). (VI.E.1.)

- We believe and teach that all of mankind are sinners, inherently from Adam and individually (by choice), and are therefore subject to God's wrath and condemnation (Romans 3:23, 5:17-19). (VI.E.4.)

- We believe and teach that sin is rebellion against God or lawlessness (I John 3:4); it is anything in the creature which does not express, or which is contrary to, the holy character of the Creator (I Peter 1:15-16). Sin may not only involve acts of commission but also omission (James 4:17). (VI.E.5.)

- We believe and teach that salvation is by grace alone, on the basis of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, who by death made a full satisfaction to God for our sins, not on the basis of human merit or works (John 1:12, Romans 3:24-25, Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-10, I Peter 1:18-19). (VI.F.2.)

- We believe and teach that in order to be saved, sinners must be born again; that the new birth is a new creation in Christ Jesus; that in the new birth, one dead in trespasses and sins partakes of the divine nature and receives eternal life. The proper evidence of the new birth appears in repentance and faith and newness of life (John 3:3, II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:1, 8-9). (VI.F.3.)

- We believe and teach that Angels are a part of the creation (Colossians 1:16, Exodus 20:11) and are therefore not to be worshipped. Although they are currently a higher order of creation than man (Hebrews 2:5-9) they were created to serve and worship God (Luke 2:9-14, Hebrews 1:6- 7, 14, 2:6-7, Revelation 5:11-14). (VI.G.1.)

- We believe and teach that Satan is a created angel and the author of sin. He incurred the judgment of God by rebelling against his Creator (Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:11-19); he took numerous angels with him in his fall (Matthew 25:41, Revelation 12:1-14) and he introduced sin into the human race by his temptation of Eve (Genesis 3:1-15). He is the open and declared enemy of God and man (Isaiah 14:13-14, Matthew 4:1-11, Revelation 12:9-10), the prince of this world (Ephesians 2:2) who has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 16:20) and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire (Genesis 3:4-5, Luke 4:1-13, 22:31, John 8:44, Revelation 20:10). (VI.G.2.)
- We believe and teach that the establishment and continuity of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament (Acts 14:23, 27, 20:17, 28. Galatians 1:2, Philippians 1:1, I Thessalonians 1:1, II Thessalonians 1:1) and that the local church is a congregation of believers, baptized, and associated by a covenant of faith and fellowship, who observes the ordinances of Jesus Christ and are governed by His Word (I Corinthians 11:18-20, Hebrews 10:25). (VI.D.5.)
- We believe and teach the importance of discipleship (Matthew 28:19-20, II Timothy 2:2), mutual accountability of all believers to each other (Matthew 18:5-14), as well as the need for discipline of sinning members of the congregation in accord with the standards of Scripture (Matthew 18:15-22, Acts 5:1-11, I Corinthians 5:1-13, II Thessalonians 3:6-15, I Timothy 1:19-20, Titus 1:10-16). VI.D.8.)
- We believe and teach that God gives the church spiritual gifts; men chosen for the purpose of equipping the saints (Ephesians 4:7-12) and unique and special spiritual abilities to each member of the body of Christ (Romans 12:5-8, I Corinthians 12:4-31, I Peter 4:10-11). (VI.D.9.)
- We believe and teach that death, both physical and spiritual, entered in this world subsequent to, and as a direct consequence of man's sin (Romans 5:12, I Corinthians 15:21-22). (VI.E.3.)
- We believe and teach that justification is that act of God whereby He declares righteous him who believes on Christ; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood (Isaiah 53:11, Romans 8:1, 5:1-9, Titus 3:5). (VI.F.5.)
- We believe and teach that the Father keeps all who are truly born again for Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:6, John 5:24, 6:37-50, 10:27-30, Romans 5:9-10, 8:1, 31-39, I Corinthians 1:4-8, Ephesians 4:30, Hebrews 7:25, 13:5, I Peter 1:5, Jude 24). (VI.F.5.)
- We believe and teach that our physical bodies will be changed into glorified bodies like that of the glorified Christ (I Corinthians 15:51-53, I Thessalonians 4:13-18, Philippians 3:20-21). (VI.F.6.)