

## Article 1: Doctrine of God

We believe that there is but one living, true, and eternal God, the Father; of whom are all things, from everlasting to everlasting, glorious and unchangeable in all His attributes.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that God is the only proper object of worship.<sup>2</sup> The mode of His existence, however, is a subject far beyond the understanding of mankind.<sup>3</sup> There is no thing in all creation that can adequately represent Him.<sup>4</sup> He is the source of all existence,<sup>5</sup> and the Scriptures teach that He is Spirit,<sup>6</sup> present everywhere,<sup>7</sup> all knowing,<sup>8</sup> all powerful,<sup>9</sup> independent,<sup>10</sup> good,<sup>11</sup> wise,<sup>12</sup> holy,<sup>13</sup> just,<sup>14</sup> merciful,<sup>15</sup> redeemer,<sup>16</sup> Saviour,<sup>17</sup> sanctifier,<sup>18</sup> the judge of mankind<sup>19</sup> and all other attributes ascribed to Him in the Scripture.

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1. Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 40:28, 46:9; Jeremiah 10:6–10; Mark 12:29–32; 1 Corinthians 8:4–6; Galatians 3:20; Deuteronomy 6:4, “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.”

2. Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 6:13; Joshua 24:14, 15; Matthew 4:10; Luke 10:27; Revelation 19:10; Exodus 20:3–5a, “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the  
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water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God....”

3. Job 11:7, 26:14, 38—41; Romans 11:33–35; Isaiah 55:8–9, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

4. Exodus 20:1–5, 23; Psalm 89:5–37; Acts 17:29, “Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.”

5. Exodus 20:11; Psalm 33:6–9; John 1:1–4; Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

6. 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 4:24, “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.”

7. 1 Kings 8:27; Isaiah 57:15; Acts 17:24; Psalm 139:7–10, “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell [Sheol], behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

8. 1 Chronicles 28:9, Psalm 94:9–11; Acts 15:18; Acts 1:24, “And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen.”

9. Job 42:2; Psalm 135:6; Matthew 19:26; Luke 18:27; Revelation 19:6; Mark 14:36, “And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but what thou wilt.”

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10. Job 9:12; Daniel 4:35; Romans 11:33–36; Ephesians 4:6, “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”

11. Psalm 106:1, 119:68, 145:9; Matthew 19:17; Psalm 25:8, “Good and upright is the LORD; therefore will He teach sinners

in the way.”

12. Daniel 2:20; Romans 16:27; 1 Timothy 1:17; Jude 25, “To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.”

13. Leviticus 19:2; Job 6:10; Isaiah 6:3, “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

14. Psalm 92:15, 119:137; Zephaniah 3:5; Deuteronomy 32:4, “He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”

15. Exodus 34:6; Nehemiah 9:17; Psalm 100:5; Ephesians 2:4, “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us.”

16. Galatians 4:5; Titus 2:14; 1 Peter 1:18; Revelation 5:9, 14:3, 4; Job 19:25; Psalm 19:14; Isaiah 41:14, 43:14, 44:6; Jeremiah 50:34; Luke 1:68, 24:2–11; Galatians 3:13, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”

17. Acts 13:23; Ephesians 5:23; 2 Timothy 1:1; Titus 1:3; 1 John 4:14; 2 Samuel 22:3; 2 Kings 13:5; Psalm 106:21; Isaiah 19:20, 43:3, 45:15; Hosea 13:4; Luke 1:47, 2:11; John 4:42, “And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.”

18. Exodus 31:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:23, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”; Jude 1.

19. Genesis 18:25; Psalm 50:6; 2 Timothy 4:8; Hebrews 12:23, “To the general assembly and the church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.”

## **Article 2. Doctrine of Christ**

We believe that there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, the only begotten Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary, who was truly God and truly man, whom God freely sent into this world, because of the great love wherewith He loved the world; and Christ as freely gave himself a ransom for all, tasting death for every man; who was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended into Heaven from whence we look for him the second time, in the clouds of Heaven, at the last day to judge both the living and the dead.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that the Scriptures ascribe to Christ all the attributes of God.<sup>2</sup>

1. Acts 24:15; Philippians 2:6, 7; 1 Timothy 2:6, 7; 1 John 2:2; Revelation 1:7; Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 1:26–35; John 1:1–14, 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

2. 1 John 5:20, “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.” (See footnotes of Article 1.)

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### **Article 3. Doctrine of the Holy Spirit**

We believe that there is one Holy Spirit, the precious gift of the Father through his dear Son, who is the divine presence in our lives, who regenerates and sanctifies us, and whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ, and in whom we find our strength and help.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that the Scriptures ascribe to the Holy Spirit all the attributes of God.<sup>2</sup>

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1. John 16:7–14; Acts 2:1–3; Ephesians 2:1, 4–6; John 14:16, 17, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you.”

2. (See footnotes of Article 1.)

#### **Article 4. Doctrine of the Trinity**

We believe that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one God, without beginning or end, who is indivisible in His nature or being.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Peter 1:2;  
1 John 5:7, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word [Christ], and the Holy Ghost [Spirit]: and these three are one."

## **Article 5. Doctrine of Creation and Divine Government**

We believe that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, and all things therein, visible and invisible; and that God is continually working through His creation to sustain it and to nurture His creatures.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that all things are foreseen in the wisdom of God, so that God knows whatsoever can or cannot come to pass upon all supposed conditions. All events are present with God from everlasting to everlasting; but His knowledge of them does not in any sense cause them, nor does He decree all events which He knows will occur.<sup>2</sup>

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1. Genesis 1:1—2: 25; Psalm 104:13; Ephesians 1:11; Colossians 1:16; Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." 2:7, "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

2. Isaiah 42:9; Matthew 6:8, "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

## **Article 6. Doctrine of Man**

We believe that in the beginning God created man in His own image and placed him in a state of glory without the least mixture of misery, from which he voluntarily by transgression fell, and by that means, brought on himself a miserable and mortal state subject to death. Unbelief is the reason why men are condemned in the sight of the just and righteous God.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that the human will is always active and may rebel or respond to the call of Christ in His redemptive offer, that through the grace of God mankind may be saved.<sup>2</sup>

1. Genesis 2:7, 3:1–7; John 3:17,18; Romans 5:12; Genesis 1:26–27, “And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness:…So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.”

2. John 3:17, 18; Ephesians 2:8; Revelation 3:20; Deuteronomy 30:19; Jeremiah 17:9, 10; John 1:12,13, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

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## **Article 7. Doctrine of the Church**

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, all Christians everywhere.

We believe that the local church is an organized body of believers in Christ who stately assemble to worship God and who sustain the ordinances of the Gospel. The local church does not exist in isolation; rather, those churches who believe and practice the Original Free Will Baptist faith and order join together to form a denominational church. Neither the local church nor the denominational church exists independent of the other.<sup>1</sup>

1. Acts 15:1ff; 1 Corinthians 1:1–2; 12:12–13; Ephesians 1:22–23; Colossians 1:18, 24; 1 Timothy 3:15; Ephesians 2:19, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints and of the household of God.”

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### **Article 8. Doctrine of the Holy Scriptures**

We believe these are the Old and the New Testaments, that they were written by holy men, inspired by the Holy Spirit, and are God's revealed word to man. We believe that they are a sufficient and infallibly true rule and guide to salvation and all Christian worship and service.<sup>1</sup>

1. John 5:39; Romans 15:4; Hebrews 1:1–2; 2 Peter 1:18–21; 2 Timothy 3:16. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

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## **Article 9. Doctrine of Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the restoration of man to his right relationship with God.

**General Provision:** We believe in the doctrine of General provision made of God in Christ, for the benefit of all mankind who repents and believes the Gospel.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance and the knowledge of the truth, that they might be saved;<sup>2</sup> for which end Christ hath commanded the Gospel to be preached among all nations and to every creature.<sup>3</sup>

We believe that sinners are drawn to God the Father by the Holy Spirit through Christ His Son, and that the Holy Spirit offers His divine aid to all the human family so that they all might be saved, if they accept His divine teaching;<sup>4</sup> and if any fail of eternal life, the fault is completely his own.<sup>5</sup>

**Faith:** We believe that faith is the response of an individual in total trust and commitment to God's provision in Christ.<sup>6</sup> The power to believe is the gift of God, but believing is an act of the individual which is required as a condition of

salvation.<sup>7</sup> "Faith if it hath not works is dead, being alone."<sup>8</sup>

**Repentance:** We believe that the repentance which the Gospel requires includes a deep conviction, a penitential sorrow, an open confession, a decided hatred and an entire forsaking of all sin.<sup>9</sup> This repentance God has enjoined on all men; and without it in this life the sinner will perish eternally.<sup>10</sup>

**Regeneration:** We believe that regeneration is an instantaneous renewal of the heart by the Holy Spirit, whereby the penitent sinner receives new life and becomes a child of God.<sup>11</sup> (This is called in Scripture being "born again," "born of the Spirit," being "quickened," passing "from death unto life," and "partaking of the divine nature.")

**Justification:** We believe that justification means that persons who accept by faith the atonement of Christ are pardoned and absolved from the guilt of sin and restored to divine favor where once they stood guilty before God.<sup>12</sup>

**General Provision.** 1. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish but have everlasting life"; Acts 10:34.

2. 2 Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise,

as some men count slackness;...not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.”

3. Matthew 28:19–20, “Go ye therefore...lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

4. John 1:9; 16:8; Acts 10:34; 1 Timothy 2:4; John 14:6, “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

5. John 5:40; 2 Timothy 2:12; Mark 16:16, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

**Faith.** 6. John 3:18; Romans 10:9; Hebrews 11:6, “But without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

7. Ephesians 2:8, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.”

**Sanctification:** We believe that sanctification is the setting apart of the believer for continuing growth in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, for service to God and man.<sup>13</sup>

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8. James 2:17, “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

**Repentance.** 9. Psalm 32:3–5; Ezekiel 18:30; 2 Corinthians 7:10, “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of; but the sorrow of the world worketh death.”

10. Acts 3:19; Luke 13:5, “I tell you, Nay, but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”

**Regeneration.** 11. Ezekiel 36:26; John 1:12–13; 3:3; 5:24; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Titus 3:5–6; Ephesians 2:1. “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins.”

**Justification.** 12. Isaiah 53:11; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:16; Romans 5:1, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

**Sanctification.** 13. 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Peter 3:18; Galatians 2:20, “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

## **Article 10. Doctrine of the Perseverance of the Saints**

We believe that those who abide in Christ have the assurance of salvation. The Christian, however, retains his freedom of choice. Therefore, he should watch and pray since it is possible for him to turn away from God and be eternally lost, which is called making shipwreck of faith.<sup>1</sup>

1. 2 Chronicles 15:2; Ezekiel 33:18; John 15:6; 1 Corinthians 10:12; 1 Timothy 1:19; Hebrews 6:4–6; 2 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 2:20; Mark 13:13, “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake; but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”

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**Article 11. Doctrine of Individual  
Accountability**

We believe that all persons are accountable to God, except those incapable of responding to God's call.<sup>1</sup>

1. Matthew 18:2-5; 19:14; Luke 12:48; Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

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## **Article 12. Doctrine of Christian Service**

We believe that it is the Christian's duty to be tender and affectionate one to another, to study the happiness of the people of God in general, to do justly by all people, and to be singly engaged to promote the honor and glory of God.<sup>1</sup>

1. Zechariah 7:9; Matthew 25:34–40; Acts 20:35; Galatians 6:1,2, 10; Colossians 3:13–14; 1 John 3:17–18; Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

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### **Article 13. Doctrine of the Lord's Day**

We believe in the sanctity of the first day of the week, or Lord's day, and that it ought to be observed in the corporate and private worship of God, and that on it we should abstain from our worldly concerns except in cases of necessity or mercy.<sup>1</sup>

1. Exodus 20:10–11; Leviticus 23:3; Matthew 28:1–7; Mark 16:1–6; 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; Revelation 1:10; Acts 20:7, “And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight.”

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#### **Article 14. Doctrine of Worship**

We believe that worship is the adoration of God and is duly required of all His children through praise, prayer, and the reading and preaching of His Word. Every Christian may worship God privately; however, this should never replace the corporate worship of the church.

We believe that in addition to the ordinances of the Gospel, there are other rites of worship which are valid for use by the local church. Some of these rites are: laying on of hands, anointing the sick with oil, fasting, singing praise to God, corporate affirmation of faith, and corporate prayer.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Psalm 100; 103:1–4; Matthew 6:16–18; Mark 6:13; John 4:23,24; Acts 2:46,47; Ephesians 5:19; Philippians 3:3; 1 Timothy 4:14; James 5:14; 1 Peter 2:9; Psalm 95:6, “O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.”



## **Article 15. Doctrine of Christian Stewardship**

We believe that good works are the fruits of saving faith and include being good stewards of all God's blessings. Christians are to be responsible in the use of their time and talents. Furthermore, Christians are required to be faithful in the use of their finances for the expense of the program of Christ in the world.

The Old and New Testaments teach tithing as God's financial plan for the support of His work.<sup>1</sup>

1. Ecclesiastes 3:1–8, 17; Malachi 3:8; Matthew 25:12–30; 1 Corinthians 4:1,2; 1 Corinthians 16:2; 2 Corinthians 9:6–8; Ephesians 5:16; 1 Peter 4:10,11; Malachi 3:10, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

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## Article 16. Doctrine of the Ordinances of the Gospel

1. **Christian Baptism:** We believe that this is the immersion of believers in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,<sup>1</sup> in which are represented the burial and resurrection of Christ, the death of Christians to the world, the washing of their souls from the pollution of sin, their rising to newness of life, their commitment to serve God, and their resurrection at the last day.<sup>2</sup>

2. **The Lord's Supper:** We believe that this is a commemoration of the death of Christ for our sins, in the use of **bread** which He made the emblem of His broken body, and the **cup**, the emblem of His shed blood; and by it the believer expresses his love for Christ, his faith and hope in Him, and pledges to Him perpetual fidelity.<sup>3</sup>

3. **Washing the Saints' Feet:** We believe that this is a sacred ordinance, which teaches humility, the necessity of the servanthood of every believer, and reminds the believer of the necessity of a daily cleansing from all sin. It was instituted by the Lord

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Jesus Christ as an "example" on the night of His Last Supper and betrayal.

It is the duty and happy prerogative of every believer to observe these sacred ordinances.<sup>4</sup> We believe that no man has a right to forbid these tokens to the least of His disciples.

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1. Mark 16:16; John 3:5; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16; Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

2. Acts 2:41; 8:12, 38; 9:18; 16:15, 33; 18:8; 19:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13; 15:29; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3,4, "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

3. Matthew 26:20–29; Mark 14:18–25; Luke 22:14–20; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 21; 1 Corinthians 11:23–26, "For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you; this do in remembrance of me. After the same manner also, he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come."

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4. John 13:4–17; 1 Timothy 5:10; John 13:12–15, "So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to

you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you."

## **Article 17. The Doctrine of Death**

We believe that Adam, while in the Garden of Eden in a state of innocence and in the image of God,<sup>1</sup> was commanded by God not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and if he did he would surely die. As a result, Adam was liable or subject to death,<sup>2</sup> but not under the result or penalty of it. However, when he disobeyed and rebelled against the command of God, he passed under the result and penalty of death; and as Adam represented all the human race, death passed upon all men.<sup>3</sup>

We believe that there is much mystery associated with the act or fact of dying; therefore, no living person can completely understand it. However, the Bible assures that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, changed death from the destroying scourge to the doorway to heaven to all who exercise saving faith in Him.<sup>4</sup>

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1. Genesis 1:26,27, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

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2. Genesis 2:16,17; Proverbs 8:36; Romans 6:23; 8:6; James 1:15; 5:20; Revelation 21:8; Ezekiel 18:20, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him."

3. Psalm 49:10; 89:48; Ecclesiastes 8:8; 1 Corinthians 15:21,22; Romans 5:12, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

4. Psalm 116:15; Proverbs 14:32; Luke 16:22; 23:43; Romans 14:8; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Philippians 1:21; Hebrews 11:13; Revelation 6:9; 14:13; 2 Corinthians 5:6-9, "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."

### **Article 18. The Doctrine of Immortality**

We believe that the soul does not die with the body, but immediately after death enters into a conscious state of happiness or misery, according to the individual's relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Matthew 10:28; John 8:51; 11:26; Romans 2:7; 1 Corinthians 15:53,54; 2 Corinthians 5:1; Philippians 3:21; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 2 Timothy 1:10; Revelation 20:4; Ecclesiastes 12:7, "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

### **Article 19. The Doctrine of the Resurrection**

We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of all people, each in its own order; the Christian to eternal life and the non-Christian to eternal damnation.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Daniel 12:2; Matthew 16:19; 28:1–6; Mark 9:9; 16:1–6; Luke 24:1–8; John 11:1–44; 20:1–10; Acts 24:15; 26:22,23; 1 Corinthians 15:1–58; 1 Thessalonians 4:13,14; John 5:28,29, “Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.”

## **Article 20. Doctrine of Last Things**

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father. He will come again to glorify His saints, to judge the world, and to consummate His Eternal Kingdom.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Matthew 24:26,27, 44; 25:31,32; 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 12:37–40; Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 4:5; 1 Thessalonians 4:16–5:6, 23; 1 Timothy 4:1; 6:14; 2 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 9:28; 10:37; James 5:8; Jude 14–15; Revelation 1:7; 3:11; 16:15; 22:20; Titus 2:13, “Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.”

## **Article 21. Doctrine of Angels**

We believe that angels are created spiritual beings (and are not spirits of the dead, nor are they glorified human beings). Angels are ministering spirits and messengers of God. Angels convey the instructions of God to men, announce special events; protect the faithful, both individually and collectively, and execute punishment on the adversaries of the work of God.<sup>1</sup>

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1. Nehemiah 9:6; Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 104:4; Hebrews 12:22, 24; Genesis 22:11,12; 31:11; Exodus 3:2; Genesis 16:11; Judges 13:3–5; Luke 1:5–24; 1:26–35; Matthew 1:20,21; Colossians 1:16, “For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”



## Article 22. Doctrine of Satan

We believe that Satan is a created spirit being.<sup>1</sup> Names applied to Satan in the Bible are: Lucifer, Belial, Beelzebub, the Devil, the Evil one, the Accuser, the enemy, the tempter, the Prince of Demons, the prince of the power of the air and the Ruler of this world.<sup>2</sup>

In the New Testament Satan appears as a distinctive personality. He incites people to shut their ears to God's message.<sup>3</sup> He maliciously hinders Christian endeavor<sup>4</sup> and is essentially a power of darkness, the enemy of the Light and of God,<sup>5</sup> though he sometimes disguises himself as an angel of light.<sup>6</sup>

Though Satan is all of the above, man is a free moral agent<sup>7</sup> and is responsible for his own sins and is responsible for his acceptance or rejection of Christ,<sup>8</sup> who gives victory over all evil.

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1. Isaiah 14:12–15; Ezekiel 28:12–19; Luke 10:18, "And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

2. Isaiah 14:12; 2 Corinthians 6:15; Mark 3:22; Luke 11:15, 18–19; 1 Peter 5:8; Matthew 13:19; 1 John 5:18; Revelation 12:10; Matthew 13:39; Luke 10:19; Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 9:34; 12:24; Mark 3:22; John 12:31; John 16:11; Ephesians 2:2, "Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of  
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this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience."

3. Revelation 2:9; 3:9; Mark 4:15, "And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts."

4. 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 1 Corinthians 7:5, "Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency."

5. Ephesians 6:12, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

6. 2 Corinthians 11:14, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light."

7. Revelation 22:17, "...And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

8. Proverbs 8:4; Mark 16:15–16, "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."