

PBC Constitution

SECTION 1 - THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the whole of the book called the Bible (the combined 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) to be God's inerrant and infallible revelation to man. We believe all scripture to be "inspired by God" and therefore profitable in all areas of faith and practice. We understand inspiration to be God's superintendence of the human authors so that, using their own individual personalities, they composed and recorded without error, in the words of the original autographs, His revelation to man. (II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:21; Revelation 22:18-19)

We believe that God in His perfect providence has faithfully preserved His revelation to man so that today we possess accurate and reliable texts of both testaments. (Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 5:18; I Peter 1:24-25)

SECTION 2 - 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 having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience. (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 12:29; John 1:1-14; Acts 5:3-4; II Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 1:1; Hebrews 1:1-3)

SECTION 3 - GOD

We believe that God is the creator and sustainer of all things. God, by the Word of His power, instantaneously created the heavens and the earth without pre-existent material and that this creation took place in six literal, twenty-four hour days. (Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11; Psalm 33:6, 9)

We believe God's attributes to be those qualities which characterize His Person. The following are only a few of those attributes.

God is:

1. Eternal - Without beginning nor end. (Genesis 21:33; Psalm 90:2)
2. Immutable - Unchangeable. (Malachi 3:6; James 1:17)
3. Omnipresent - Everything within His presence. (Psalm 139:7-10)
4. Omniscient - Knows all. (Psalm 94:11; 139:2; Acts 15:8)
5. Omnipotent - All powerful. (Genesis 18:14; Revelation 19:6)
6. Sovereign - In authority over all. (Psalm 66:7; Ephesians 1:11)
7. Holy - Absolutely pure and righteous. (Psalm 99:3; Isaiah 6:3; I Peter 1:16)

SECTION 4 - CHRIST

A. His Pre-existence

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God, the second person in the Godhead, is co-eternal in being with the Father and the Holy Spirit from eternity past. (John 1:1, 14, 17:5; Hebrews 13:8)

B. His Deity

We believe Jesus Christ to be co-identical in substance or essence, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections as God the Father and God the Holy Spirit. We believe that Jesus Christ has never at any time ceased to be God. (John 1:1, 8:58, 10:30; John 14)

C. His Virgin Birth

We believe that Jesus Christ was miraculously conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary with the result that the second person of the triune God was joined to a real human body and nature. We; therefore, believe that the virgin birth was the method by which the second person of the Godhead entered into humanity and became the God-man. (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:35)

D. His Humanity

We believe that Jesus Christ the Eternal Son of God became man and that His human nature was genuine and complete. We believe that the incarnation forever united God with humanity in the God-man, Jesus Christ. (Isaiah 53:2; John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:5-8)

E. His Sinless Character

We believe that Jesus Christ the Eternal Son of God and perfect man, though tempted in all things as we are, yet, was without sin, which did not in any way demean His humanity. Sin, being an intrusion upon humanity and not a necessary element of it, marred man and brought death. Jesus Christ was perfect humanity without ever experiencing sin. (II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 2:22)

F. His Death

We believe that the death of Jesus Christ was a literal, complete, and final physical death. (John 19:30; Romans 5:6-8; I Corinthians 15:4-5)

G. His Resurrection

We believe in a literal, physical, bodily and personal resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (Mark 16:6; I Corinthians 15:20-21; I Thessalonians 4:14)

H. His Redemptive Character

We believe that the death of Jesus Christ paid the penalty for sin. We believe that He is the redeemer by His substitutionary death in which He provided unlimited atonement for all sins of all times, and thus sufficient for all men. We believe that this atonement which is available to all, becomes effective only to those who receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior from sin. (Galatians 3:13; Hebrews 10:10; I Peter 1:18-19)

I. His Priestly Ministry

We believe that Jesus Christ is ascended into heaven at the right hand of God to intercede on the behalf of believers as High Priest and Advocator. We also believe that as all judgment has been given unto the Son, that He as the Judge will evaluate the works of believers at the Bema (Judgment Seat of Christ), and those of unbelievers at the Great White Throne Judgment. (John 5:22, 26-27; II Corinthians 5:10; Hebrews 1:3, 7:25, I John 2:1; Revelation 20)

J. His Return

We believe that Jesus Christ will return to the earth and that there are two distinct phases of His coming revealed in Scripture: the Rapture of the saints and the revelation of Christ. These two phases are seven years apart. We believe the return of Christ for the saints is imminent, literal, bodily, personal, pretribulational and premillennial. (John 14:2-3; Acts 1:11; I Corinthians 15:51-52; Philippians 3:20; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; James 5:8)

SECTION 5 - THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. His Deity

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the God-head, is co-identical in substance or essence, co-equal in power and glory, and having the same attributes and perfections as God the Father and God the Son. (Matthew 28:19; John 15:26, 16:13-14; Acts 5:3-4; I Corinthians 2:11; II Corinthians 13:14)

B. His Personality

We believe that the Holy Spirit is not just an influence, power, or force, but an eternal person having intellect, emotion and will. (I Corinthians 2:10-11; Ephesians 4:30)

C. His Work

1. In Convicting:

We believe the present ministry of the Holy Spirit is restraining sin in the world, convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. (John 16:8-11; II Thessalonians 2:7)

2. In Regenerating:

We believe He is the supernatural agent in the new birth through His work of regeneration. (John 3:5; II Corinthians 3:6; Titus 3:5)

3. In Indwelling:

We believe in the indwelling of the Spirit in the believer. This indwelling takes place at the time of salvation; it is God's pledge of the believer's complete redemption, and is permanent in nature. (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13, 4:30)

4. In Baptizing:

We Believe the baptism of the Spirit to be the work of the Holy Spirit placing each and every believer, in this present dispensation, into the body of Christ. (I Corinthians 12:13)

5. In Filling:

We believe in the filling of the Spirit in the believer. The filling is not a second work of grace, a completion of salvation, or a second blessing. It is the believer being controlled by the Spirit through a continual dedicated and dependent life producing a Christ likeness in character. (Galatians 5:16; 22-25; Ephesians 5:18)

6. In Teaching:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the divine teacher who guided his apostles into all truth and who teaches all believers and reveals to them the deep things of God. (John 14:26; 16:12-15; I Corinthians 2:9-15; I John 2:20, 27)

7. In Equipping:

We believe that the Holy Spirit is sovereign in the bestowment of gifts and that spiritual gifts are dispensed to the church for the building up and good of the body. We believe the apostolic sign gifts such as speaking in tongues and the working of miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament scriptures were completed and their authority established. (I Corinthians 12:4-11, 14:22; II Corinthians 12:12; Ephesians 4:1-12; Hebrews 2:3-4; Jude 3)

SECTION 6 - SIN

A. Defined

We believe sin to be anything contrary to the nature of God. The standard of God's nature is His Holiness and His revealed will, the Word of God. To fall short of His Holy standard is to sin. (Romans 3:23; I Peter 1:14-15; I John 3:4)

B. Man's Fall

We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God, but that in Adam's sin the race fell, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Therefore, in Adam all sin, and are born sinners, in both nature and practice. Because of sin man is condemned, under judgment, without hope, and utterly helpless to remedy his lost condition. He is totally depraved, which does not mean that man is as bad as he can be, but rather that man is as bad off as he can be. He possesses no spark of divinity that simply needs to be fanned; he is spiritually dead and needs to be made alive by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit that comes solely by grace through faith in the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ. (Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:10-12; Ephesians 2:1-10)

C. Satan

We believe that Satan is the author of sin and the deceiver of Eve in the fall. That he is the open and declared enemy of God and man, and that he shall be eternally punished in the Lake of Fire. (Job 1:6-7; Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:2-11; Revelation 20:10)

SECTION 7 - SALVATION

A. By Grace Through Faith

We believe that salvation is the gift of God, brought to many by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is by grace in that salvation is totally a work of God for man and therefore it is apart from any sacraments, good works, or human merit. (John 1:12; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5)

B. Available to All

We believe that this salvation is available to all men, but effective for only those who repent from their sin and turn to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. (Acts 17:30; Romans 6:23; I Timothy 2:3-6)

C. Immediate Justification

We believe man is immediately justified by God and receives eternal life at the moment of his conversion. This conversion is what Jesus Christ demanded when He said "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." (John 3:3)

D. Eternally Secure

We believe that all, once born again by the Spirit of God, are kept by God's power alone, and are therefore secure in Christ forever, sealed by the Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance. This eternal salvation rests in the faithfulness of God, not in the faithfulness of man. Therefore, it is the privilege of the believer to rejoice in the assurance of his salvation through the testimony of God's Word, which; however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as a license to carry out the desires of the flesh. (John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Galatians 5:13; Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:1; Philippians 1:6; I Peter 1:3-5; I John 2:1-2)

SECTION 8 - THE CHURCH

A. Defined

We believe that the church, the body and bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism and New Testament institution composed of all born again believers of this present age. We believe the local church is the visible expression of the "Body of Christ" and that God's program for this age is to be carried out through the local church, the pillar and foundation of the truth. (I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23, 5:25-27)

B. Ordinances

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ has left the ordinances of Baptism, the mode of which shall be by immersion, and the Lord's Supper to be observed by the church in commemoration of His person and work. We believe these ordinances, having been given to the church, should be administered under the authority of the local church. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; I Corinthians 11:2, 23-26)

C. Separation

1. We believe in the separation of the local church from all affiliations and fellowships who deny the fundamentals of the Christian faith. (Romans 16:17)
2. We believe in the separation of the local church from those activities of the world that dishonor the Savior. (Romans 12:1-2; I John 2:15-17)
3. We believe that, though Christians are commanded to be good citizens and obey those placed in authority over us, the church as an institution should be separate from the state. (Matthew 22:21)

D. Government

1. We believe the local New Testament church is autonomous, self-governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating. (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 13:1-3)
2. We believe that it is the responsibility of all members to seek to have a spirit of eager cooperation and submission to their leaders. (Romans 15:2; Hebrews 13:17)

E. Responsibility

We believe it is the church's task to glorify God through:

1. Regular corporate worship. (I Corinthians 16:2; Hebrews 10:25)
2. Evangelism of the lost. (II Corinthians 5:18-19)
3. Edification of the saints. (Ephesians 4:11-16)
4. Caring for its own. (I Timothy 5)
5. Doing good in the world. (Galatians 6:10)

SECTION 9 - FUTURE EVENTS

A. The Second Advent (Coming) of Christ

We believe the second advent of Christ is premillennial and will take place in two distinct phases. (Revelation 3:10, 19:7-14)

1. The first phase involves the personal (Acts 1:11; I Thessalonians 4:13-18), imminent (Titus 2:13; Revelation 22:20), and pretribulational (I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9), coming of the Lord Jesus for His church. The Rapture of the Church is therefore the believers comforting (I Thessalonians 4:18), blessed (Titus 2:13), and purifying (I John 3:2-3) hope and expectancy.
2. The second phase of the second advent of Christ will take place immediately after the tribulation when Christ will return to earth with His saints, in order to establish His millennial kingdom. (Zechariah 14:4-11; II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:1-6)

B. The Eternal State

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men. The saved shall be raised to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; Revelation 20:4-15)

2. We believe that at death the believer is absent from the body, but present with the Lord where in conscious bliss he awaits the first resurrection when he will be reunited with his resurrected body to be glorified forever with the Lord. (I Corinthians 15:51-57; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:21; I Thessalonians 4:17)

3. We believe that at death unbelievers go to be in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when they shall be reunited with their resurrected bodies to appear before Christ at the Great White Throne Judgment. Not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting, conscious punishment under the wrath of a Holy God. (Matthew 25:41-46; Mark 9:43-48; Luke 16:19-26; Revelation 20:15)