

(Statement of Faith)

Bethesda Independent Apostolic Bishop Council

Bethesda Independent Apostolic Bishop Council is founded on apostolic faith. Bethesda Independent Apostolic Bishop Council is also Interdenominational & Multi-Denominational, Evangelical, Episcopal, Apostolic Bishop Council. The following Biblical Standard of Faith was adopted by Bethesda Independent Apostolic Bishop Council. The Holy Bible is faith & Practice of our Christian life.

1. The Holy Bible: - (Word of God):-

We believe that the entire Bible is the inspired Word of God and that men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the every words of Scripture. The Bible is therefore without error (inerrant) in its original manuscripts. God has supernaturally preserved the Bible, and it is the sole and final authority for faith and life, providing encouragement, guidance, comfort and instruction for training in righteousness (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:20-21) (Eph. 4:6)

2. The Trinity :-(God Head Trinity):-

We believe in one true God eternally existing in three distinct persons (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) each of Whom is fully and equally God; possesses all of the divine nature and attributes, and is totally worthy of our worship and service (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 1:14, John 10:30; 2 Cor. 13:14)

A. The Father (God the Father):-

We believe that God the Father is the first person of the Trinity and is the eternal, unchanging all- powerful, all-knowing, all-wise, all-loving, completely just and perfectly holy, sovereign Ruler and Sustainer of the universe. He is the Father of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Father of all true believers (Gen. 1:1; Eph. 4:6; John 1:12-13, John 5:19-21, John 17:1-5; Isa. 40:21-28, Isa. 43:10-13, Isa. 46:8-11; Rom. 8:14-16).

B. The Son :-(God the Son):-

We believe that Jesus Christ is the second person of the Trinity and is the only begotten eternal Son of God Who became flesh to reveal God to man, to fulfill prophecy, and to become the Savior of the lost world. In becoming man Jesus did not cease in any way to be God so that He is fully God and fully man inseparably united in one person forever. Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit; born of the Virgin Mary; lived a sinless life; died on the cross as

the Substitutionary, all-sufficient atoning sacrifice for all of the sins of all men of all time; was buried; bodily rose from the dead; physically ascended into heaven in His glorified, resurrected body; is seated at the right hand of the Father performing His ministry of intercession; will return in the air to claim His bride the church; and will come again to earth in bodily form, personally and visibly, to conclude human history and consummate God's eternal plan by executing judgment and ushering in His Millennial Kingdom reign to be followed by the eternal state(John 1:1,14,18; John 3:16; Luke 1:30-35; Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 2:3,9; Mark 10:45; Acts 2:22-24; John 1:29; Rom. 3:25-26; Heb. 10:5-14; 1 Pet. 2:24, 1 Pet. 3:18; John 20:20; Phil. 3:20-21; Heb. 1:3; Rom. 8:34; 1 John 2:1; Acts 1:11; Heb. 9:28; 1 These. 4:13-18; 2 These. 2:7; Matt. 24:44; Rev. 20:1-6, Rev. 21-22)

C. The Holy Spirit (God the Holy Spirit):-

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity Who specially came into the world on the day of Pentecost to glorify Christ and to enable men to appropriate the salvation brought by Christ. He is the primary agent for the conviction of sin and for regeneration. Simultaneously with salvation, the Holy Spirit imparts new life, baptizes the believer into the body of Christ (His church), permanently indwells the believer, and securely seals the believer unto the day of redemption. The Holy Spirit fills (directs and controls) those believers who are yielded to Him, enables believers to bear fruit, and empowers believers to live a life free from sin's dominion. We also believe that the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers for the purpose of edifying the church in accordance with the teachings of scripture (1 Cor. 12:1-11, 1Cor. 12:28-31) John 16:7-8; 1 Cor. 6:19, Eph. 4:11, Eph. 1:13-14, Eph. 4:30; Gal. 5:16-17, Gal. 5:22-23; Rom. 8:5-13; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Rom. 12:6-8).

3. The Creation of Man:-

We believe that man was created in the image of God by direct act of God and did not come into being as the result of evolution. Man was created to glorify God, worship and serve Him, and have fellowship with Him. Man fell through sin by disobeying God, thus incurring both physical and spiritual death, which alienated him from God. Man's nature was thus corrupted and he is utterly lost, "dead in trespasses and sins," and totally incapable of saving himself and coming back into right relationship with God by his own merit or effort (Gen. 1:26, Gen. 2:7, Gen. 2:15-17, Gen. 3:17-24; Isa. 59:1-2; Rom. 3:9-19,23, Rom. 5:8; Luke 18:26-27; Eph. 2:13).

4. The Devil- Satan:-

We believe that Satan is the instigator of evil and a real spirit being, not simply the personification of evil. He is a fallen angel who, under the sovereign permission of God, has been given temporary ruler ship of the earth. He was utterly defeated at the cross, but the execution of his judgment has been postponed by God until after the Millennial Kingdom when

he will be cast into the eternal lake of fire. In the meantime, he deceives the world and seeks to establish his counterfeit kingdom on earth to discredit and blaspheme God and to tempt, accuse, attack and destroy believers. He can be resisted by the believer through faith and reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit (Gen. 3:1-5; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:11-19; Job 1-2; 1 John 5:19; 2 Cor. 11:14; 1 Tim. 3:6; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; James 4:7; Rev. 12:9, Rev. 20:1-3, Rev. 20:7-10).

5. The Salvation:-

We believe that the shed blood of Jesus Christ on the cross provides the sole basis for forgiveness of sin's and salvation, which is the free gift of God's grace. Salvation is affected by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit and cannot be secured by man's works or personal merit. Salvation is only appropriated by a person placing his faith in the finished work of Christ. Repentance is a turning toward God and away from sin and is a part of faith in Christ but not separate from believing faith. "The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes" and those who receive Jesus Christ by faith are born again, have their sins forgiven, become children of God, are a new creation in Christ, and "are sealed by the Holy spirit unto the day of redemption" being kept by the power of God (Eph. 1:13-14; Eph 1:13-14 John 1:12-13, John 14:16-17, 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 1:16, Rom. 10:9-10; Eph. 2:8-10; Rom. 31-39; John 10:27-29).

6. The Baptism:-

- 1.**Baptism is an ordinance of the New Testament, ordained by Jesus Christ, to be unto the party baptized, a sign of his fellowship with him, in his death and resurrection; of his being engrafted into him; of remission of sins; and of giving up into God, through Jesus Christ, to live and walk in newness of life.(Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:27; Mark 1:4; Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:4)
- 2.**Those who do actually profess repentance towards God, faith in, and obedience to, our Lord Jesus Christ, are the only proper subjects of this ordinance.(Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-37, Acts 2:41, 8:12-13, 18:8)
- 3.**The outward element to be used in this ordinance is water, wherein the party is to be baptized, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 8:38)
- 4.** Immersion, or dipping of the person in water, is necessary to the due administration of this ordinance.(Matt. 3:16; John 3:23)

7. The Lord's Supper:-

The supper of the Lord Jesus was instituted by him the same night wherein he was betrayed, to be observed in his churches, unto the end of the world, for the perpetual remembrance, and sewing forth the sacrifice of himself in his death, confirmation of the faith of believers in all the benefits thereof, their spiritual nourishment, and growth in him, their further engagement in, and to all duties which they owe to him; and to be a bond and pledge of their communion with him, and with each other.(1 Cor. 11:23-26; 1 Cor. 10:16, 17,21) (Mathew 26:26-29, Mark 14:22-25) The Lord Jesus hath, in this ordinance, appointed his ministers to pray, and bless the elements of bread and wine, and thereby to set them apart from a common to a holy use, and to take and

break the bread; to take the cup, and, they communicating also themselves, to give both to the communicants.(1 Cor. 11:23-26, etc.)

8. The Church:-

We believe that the church is the body of Christ of which Jesus is the Head and whose members are those who have truly received Christ by faith. The local church is a tangible expression of the body of Christ in a particular location. Since all members of the body of Christ are united in Christ by the same Spirit, they should live in love, harmony and unity, being intent on the same purpose and accepting those sectarian or denominational practices which are based on a sincere interpretation of the Bible, which do not relate to substantive doctrinal matters, and which do not in practice cause disunity or hinder the ministry. The purpose of the church is to make Christ known to lost men and to make disciples, and glorify God on earth (Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 4:1-6, Eph. 4:12-16; Matt. 28:18-20).

9. The Church Ministry:-

We believe that God has appointed in the Church Ministry as to be Apostles, Prophets, Evangelist, Pastors and Teachers (Eph 4:11,1Cor 12:28) God has also appointed as to be Deacons and Bishop's as Overseer in the Church to look after his Church Ministry.(1Timothy 3:1-13)God has also filled some people with the gifts of Holy Spirit for his Church Ministry.(1Cor 12:28)

10. The Christian Life:-

We believe that every Christian should live for Christ and not for himself and should, by the power of the indwelling Spirit, allow Christ to manifest His life through him to God's glory. By ever increasing obedience to the Word of God, each believer should mature and progressively become more like Jesus. In the power of the Spirit, each believer should live a holy life; not fulfill the lusts of the flesh; exercise his spiritual gifts to build up the body of Christ; witness for Christ; be personally involved in making disciples to fulfill the great commission; perform good works and bear fruit to the glory of God (Gal. 2:20; 1 Pet. 1:15-16, 1 Pet. 2:11; 2 Cor : 5:17, Rom 12:1-2, Rom. 6:11-13; Eph. 2:10, Eph. 4:11-12, Eph. 4:22-24; 1 Pet. 4:10-11; Acts 1:8; Matt. 28:18-20; Col. 1:10; John 15:8, 16).

11. The Millennial Region of Christ:-

The second coming of Christ including the rapture of saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with saints to reign of earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5,Matthew 24:27,Matthew 24:30,Rev.1:7,Rev.20:1-6,)The Millennial Region will be bring the salvation of National Israel and Establishment of universal Peace (Ezekiel 37:21-22,Zephaniah 3:19-20,Romans 11:26-27,Isaiah 11:6-9,Micah 4:3-4,Palms 72:3-8)

12. The Resurrection of the Dead:-

The bodies of men after death return to dust, and see corruption; but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous being then made perfect in holiness, are received into paradise, where they are with Christ, and behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell; where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day; besides these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledged none.(Gen. 3:19; Acts 13:36; Eccles. 12:7; Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:1,; Phil. 1:23; 1 Peter 3:19; Luke 16:23, 24; Jude 1:6-7; 2 Cor 5:6-7)

1 .At the last day, such of the saints as are found alive, shall not sleep, but be changed; and all the dead shall be raised up with the selfsame bodies, and none other; although with different qualities, which shall be again to their souls forever.(1 Cor. 15:51, 52; 1 Thess. 4:17; Job 19:26, 27; 1 Cor. 15:42, 43)

2 .The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonor; the bodies of the just, by his Spirit, unto honor, and be made conformable to his own glorious body.(Acts 24:15; John 5:28, 29; Phil. 3:21)

13. The Day of Judgment:-

1 .God hath appointed a day wherein he will judge the world in righteousness, by Jesus Christ; to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father; in which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon the earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds, and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.(Acts 17:31; John 5:22, 27; 1 Cor. 6:3; Jude 1:6; 2 Cor. 5:10; Eccles. 12:14; Matt. 12:36; Rom. 14:10, 12; Matt. 25:32-46)

2 .The end of God's appointing this day, is for the manifestation of the glory of his mercy, in the eternal salvation of the elect; and of his justice, in the eternal damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient; for then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and glory with everlasting rewards, in the presence of the Lord; but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast aside into everlasting torments, and punished with everlasting destruction, from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power.(Rom. 9:22, 23; Matt. 25:21, Mathew 25:34; 2 Tim. 4:8; Matt. 25:46; Mark 9:48; 2 Thess. 1:7-10)

14. Apostolic Succession Authority:-

We believe that Lord Jesus Christ appointed his 12 Twelve Disciples as Apostle for his Ministry. Jesus Said:-"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.(Matthew 28:18)He exercised his Authority and delegated his Powers & His Authority to His Apostles, and He made it clear that obedience to them was the same as obedience to him.(Luke 10:16,John 15:20).The Apostles exercised the Authority the Lord Jesus Christ gave them as they evangelized in this world to build the Church (2Cor,10:8,13:10,1Thess 4:2,2Thess 3:14)The doctrine of Apostolic Succession teaches that the Apostles delegated their authority to their Successors, who delegate it to their Successors, and So on, down through the age. Thus in every age the Church Continues to wield the same Authority as the Apostles did. The Council of Bethesda Christian Church follow on in the same unbroken chain of apostolic Succession right and Episcopal Authority to Ordain and Licenses the Minister's of God to fulfill the great Commission of Lord Jesus Christ.(Matthew 28:19-20)