

# Mount Calvary Baptist Church

## *Constitution*



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*“Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the  
Lord may have free course, and be glorified,  
even as it is with you.”  
II Thessalonians 3:1*

***Revised November 2013***

# **MOUNT CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

An Independent Fundamental Assembly

of

Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

Dispensational in Theology

Premillennial in Eschatology

Evangelistic in Practice

Missionary in Outreach

Congregational in Polity

Biblical in Authority

## **Opposed to:**

liberalism

neo-liberalism

neo-orthodoxy

neo-evangelicalism

ecumenicalism

communism

socialism

lodgism

cultism

Roman Catholicism

Charismatic Pentecostalism

Seventh Day Adventism

Jehovah Witnesses

Armstrongism

Spiritism

Mormonism

## **Committed to:**

purity of the Christian faith

chastity of the Christian life

unity of the Christian brotherhood

# *COVENANT*

## COVENANT

Having been brought, as we believe, by divine grace to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour; and, having been baptized, upon the confession of faith, into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, we do now most joyfully and solemnly enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, as the Holy Spirit shall enable us, to walk together in brotherly love; to exercise Christian care and watchfulness over one another; to participate in one another's joys; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation; to consider one another to provoke unto love and good works; and to forsake not the assembling of ourselves together.

We further engage to strive for the advancement of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in grace, knowledge, and holiness; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and doctrines; and to contribute cheerfully and liberally to the financial support of the ministries of the church, giving special attention to the ministries of world evangelization and care for the needy.

We further engage to maintain family and private devotions; to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; and to avail ourselves of the great privilege of prayer for one another and all men.

And we further engage to walk circumspectly and watchfully in the world, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment; to refrain from gossip, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage and from every appearance of evil; to maintain a clear line of separation from all religious apostasy and all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations; and, ever remembering our relationship to Jesus Christ our Lord, to seek amidst evil report and good report to live to His glory.



# *CONSTITUTION*



# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I -- ORGANIZATION

### Section 1 - Name

This local assembly of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be known as the Mount Calvary Baptist Church of Greenville, South Carolina.

### Section 2 - Affiliations

Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall not hold organized affiliation with any association, convention, conference, or council of churches but shall be an independent, fundamental, local assembly of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ retaining the right and assuming the responsibility to act for itself according to the teaching of the Word of God under the counsel of the Holy Spirit. This church shall, however, welcome the fellowship of the saints everywhere who give evidence of true conversion by the orthodoxy of their doctrine and conduct, and by their separation from apostasy, provided that such fellowship does not jeopardize its autonomy.

### Section 3 - Authority

In all matters of fellowship, discipline, order, and polity, the New Testament shall be the sole authority at Mount Calvary Baptist Church. Realizing that we shall differ among ourselves and with other believers in our present understanding of parts of God's Word, in methods, and in procedures, we shall endeavor "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

## **ARTICLE II -- DOCTRINE**

The appended doctrinal statement shall be designated as the Mount Calvary Baptist Church Confession of Faith and shall constitute the doctrinal basis on which this assembly is founded and by which it shall function.

## **ARTICLE III -- PURPOSE**

The purpose for which Mount Calvary Baptist Church is established shall be to bear a united witness to the faith of its members in the whole Bible as the verbally inspired Word of God; to promulgate the gospel of Jesus Christ; to contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints; to accept as its supreme task the evangelization of the world; to yield unto God so as to be a constant Spirit-filled witness to those around us; and to build up its constituency in the most holy faith. A further purpose of Mount Calvary Baptist Church as a corporation is to be a regular church with the authority and authorization to operate and maintain the Mount Calvary Children's Home and Mount Calvary Christian Schools.

## **ARTICLE IV -- MEMBERSHIP**

### **Section 1 - Qualifications**

Any person professing faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour who gives satisfactory evidence of having been born again may, by the vote of the church, be received into the membership of Mount Calvary Baptist Church after baptism provided that he/she will subscribe to the doctrines and policies of this assembly. Membership in Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall not be open to any person who at the same time holds membership in a secret order or

is affiliated in any way with the ecumenical movement of our day, or with the modern charismatic movement.

## Section 2 - Admission

Any person seeking membership in Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be recommended by the Pastor and/or Elders after he/she has satisfied them as to the genuineness of his/her profession and purpose. Each candidate for membership shall give his/her testimony of salvation to the church in assembly and shall be received into the fellowship by the vote of the congregation in one of the following ways:

1. Profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ followed by baptism; or
2. Statement of experience of regeneration, if already baptized as a believer; or
3. On the promise of a letter of recommendation from another Baptist Church which is fundamental in its defense of the once delivered faith; or
4. Restoration, if having been excluded from the membership of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, and upon confession of his/her errors, giving satisfactory evidence of repentance.

## Section 3 - Dismission

Membership in Mount Calvary Baptist Church may be dissolved in one of the following ways:

1. By death.
2. By letter of recommendation. Such a letter shall be granted by vote of the church in one of its regular business meetings for any member in

- good standing to any church of like faith and practice which requests it.
3. By erasure in the case of a member who unites with another church to which Mount Calvary Baptist Church cannot grant a letter of recommendation, or in the case of a member's continuous absence from the services of Mount Calvary Baptist Church for six months without satisfactory reasons.
  4. By the request of any member who wishes to withdraw from the fellowship of Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

Membership in Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be subject to revocation upon the recommendation of the Pastor and/or Elders after Scriptural discipline has failed to correct unscriptural and hurtful conduct and doctrine. In case of persistent repetition of conduct unbecoming to professing Christians and in every case involving gross immorality, a member shall be excommunicated from the fellowship of Mount Calvary Baptist Church and his name removed from the roll.

## **ARTICLE V -- GOVERNMENT**

### **Section 1 - Form**

The government of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be congregational. The business of the church shall be transacted by the congregation in its quarterly business meetings as defined in Article VI, Section 2. All interim business shall be transacted by the Elders, except in such cases as should require special sessions of the congregation. The action of the Elders shall be subject to the entire body.

## Section 2 - Officers

- (1) Classification: The officers of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be composed of the following and shall be elected by the congregation from its membership as the need may arise and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit:
  - a. Administration--Pastor(s) and Elders.
  - b. Service--Deacons, Secretary(s), Treasurer, Clerk, Sunday School Superintendent, Teachers, Musicians, Ushers, and other Ministers as the need may arise.
- (2) Qualifications: The officers of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be elected from among the members who give evidence of the qualifications laid down in the Word of God.
  - a. Personal endowments (Romans 12:1-8; I Corinthians 12:1-14:40; Ephesians 4:1-16).
  - b. Moral and spiritual standards (I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).
- (3) Responsibilities: The responsibilities of the officers of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be commensurate with their titles and/or according to the teaching of the Word of God.
- (4) Selection: The officers of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be elected by the vote of the congregation in such a manner as the Lord may direct and the Pastor and/or Elders and people agree.

### Section 3 - Committees

- (1) Pulpit Committee: The Elders of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall serve as its Pulpit Committee, the responsibility of which is to supervise the church in the call of its Pastor(s) and secure pulpit supplies when the church is without a pastor or when the Pastor is on leave. The Pulpit Committee is functional only when the above stated situation requires it.
- (2) Nominating Committee: The Elders of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall serve as its Nominating Committee, the responsibility of which is to present annually to the church a slate of nominees for its various departments (Secretary(s), Clerk, Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent, Teachers, Ushers, and other Ministers as the need may arise).
- (3) Other committees: Committees may be appointed by the Pastor and/or Elders for whatever purpose and duration necessary.

### Section 4 - Discipline

Should any member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church become an offense to the church, its name, and our Lord by reason of immoral or unchristian conduct, or by persistent breach of his/her covenant vows, or by gross impropriety, or misdemeanor in office, or by willfully promoting schism or discord in the church, the church may censure, reprimand, and/or excommunicate him/her from membership. Such action shall be taken only after every reasonable Christian means of reconciliation has been exhausted, and after due notice has been given of the charge made, and full opportunity provided for the person charged to speak in his/her own defense. Before taking action, the church shall hear all evidence that may be produced on both sides and a

two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting shall be required for a decision, which decision shall be final provided, however, that any person thus excommunicated may afterwards be restored to fellowship on confession of his/her fault and after having given evidence of true repentance, or upon the discovery that the person thus excommunicated was not guilty. If the person thus charged cannot be present when disciplinary action must be taken, the church shall act according to Scriptural principles and in the spirit of the above stated procedure.

### Section 5 - Departments

The organized departments of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be kept as simple as possible and at a minimum, developing only as the need arises, and in keeping with the New Testament provision for teaching and training the saved and the proclamation of the gospel throughout the world.

### Section 6 - Church Year

Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall observe the calendar year, January 1 through December 31, as its church year.

## **ARTICLE VI -- MEETINGS**

### Section 1 - Worship

Meetings for spiritual worship at Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be maintained on the Lord's Day and at such other times as the church, under the Holy Spirit's direction, deems best.

## Section 2 - Prayer

Mid-week Prayer Meeting at Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be maintained every Wednesday evening. Special seasons for prayer may be called by the Pastor and/or Elders as the Holy Spirit directs.

## Section 3 - Special

Special meetings at Mount Calvary Baptist Church, such as Missionary Conferences, Bible Conferences, Prophetic Conferences, Evangelistic Conferences and Meetings, Revival Services, etc., may be arranged as the Holy Spirit may direct the Pastor and/or Elders.

## Section 4 - Business

Regular congregational meetings for the transaction of church business at Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be held quarterly on the Wednesday following the third Sunday in January, April, July, and October. When the need arises adjustment of schedule for any such business meeting may be made at the recommendation of the Pastor and/or Elders with the consent of the church.

Special congregational meetings for the transaction of church business at Mount Calvary Baptist Church may be called by the Pastor, President of the Elders, Elders, or at the written request signed by five voting members of the church. Announcement of any special congregational meeting, stating the time and purpose, shall be made at any regular weekly worship service at least once each week for two weeks immediately preceding such special meetings. Business may be transacted only on the item(s) for which the special congregational meeting is called.

Reports from all departments of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be made at every regular congregational business meeting. The final, complete, and official reports covering all operations for the entire church year up to and including December 31 shall be made and presented for approval at the January business meeting.

#### Section 5 - Elders

The Elders of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall meet as often as it is necessary to discharge their responsibility as “overseers” of the flock and may be called by the Pastor or the President of the Elders.

The Elders of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall reorganize annually by selecting a President, Vice President, and Clerk. The President shall serve as Moderator of all Elder’s meetings. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall serve as Moderator. The Clerk shall serve as Clerk of Mount Calvary Baptist Church as well as that of the Elders.

#### Section 6 - Moderator

The Pastor of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall serve as Moderator at all congregational business meetings. In his absence, or at his request, the President of the Elders shall serve as Moderator, or a Moderator pro tem may be appointed by the Pastor, President of the Elders, or the Elders.

#### Section 7 - Clerk

The Clerk of the Elders (see Section 5) shall serve as Clerk of Mount Calvary Baptist Church. He shall faithfully keep the official minutes of the actions of the congregational business meetings and those of the Elders.

## Section 8 - Quorum

At the congregational business meetings (regular and special) of Mount Calvary Baptist Church twenty percent of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Members of Mount Calvary Baptist Church in good standing who are sixteen years of age and over shall constitute the “voting members” for all non-legal business. On all legal matters (any act which under the laws of the State of South Carolina can only be done by a person at least eighteen years of age) only members in good standing of eighteen years of age and over may vote.

At all Elders’ meetings fifty percent of the Elders shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business for Mount Calvary Baptist Church.

Should a quorum not be present at any meeting for the transaction of business at Mount Calvary Baptist Church (both congregational and Elders), the meeting may be recessed from time to time until a quorum is present.

## **ARTICLE VII -- FINANCES**

### Section 1 - Offerings

Regular offerings shall be received for the Lord’s work at Mount Calvary Baptist Church at the worship services, each Lord’s Day. Special offerings may be taken at any meeting for whatever cause the Pastor and/or Elders under the direction of the Holy Spirit shall deem worthy. No one will be solicited by Mount Calvary Baptist Church for funds. However, we shall preach, teach, and practice the Scriptural principle of voluntary tithes and offerings, stressing the

motive of love, the aim as the glory of God, the purpose as world evangelization, and the attitude of cheerfulness.

## Section 2 - Allocations

Moneys received by Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be allocated according to a budget prepared annually by the Elders and adopted by the church in its January congregational business meeting. The allocations of the budget shall be retroactive to January 1 of the year of its adoption and continue in force through December 31 of the same year. The annual budget may be adjusted at any time during the year as the Lord supplies and the need arises when recommended to the church by the Elders and adopted by the church. All undesignated gifts to Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be used to fulfill its budget commitments. All designated gifts and special offerings shall be used as designated and/or for the purpose given.

## Section 3 - Remuneration

The remuneration of the Pastor and other of God's servants who are supported by Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be according to the provisions stated in the budget. Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall abide by the New Testament teaching that the laborer is worthy of his hire and that they that preach the gospel shall live of the gospel, remembering that we as possessors of a common salvation and as members of one body are to have all things common. Hence, the budget shall stipulate its remunerative allowances according to the need and as the Lord provides.

## **ARTICLE VIII -- LICENSING AND ORDINATION**

Any male person giving evidence of a divine call to the Gospel ministry by the possession of gifts and graces belonging to the ministry and accepting without reservation the Confession of Faith of Mount Calvary Baptist Church may be licensed or ordained to preach by the congregation at any regular or called meeting of the church upon a majority vote of the voting members present at such meeting, provided such person has first been recommended by the Pastor and/or Elders of this church. In case of ordination, an ordination council composed of the Elders of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, ordained ministers who are members of Mount Calvary Baptist Church, and any other ordained ministers whom the Elders under the direction of the Holy Spirit consider wise to invite, shall thoroughly examine the candidate for ordination with regard to his doctrinal soundness, moral and spiritual qualifications, personal fitness, and charismatic endowments. It is preferable that this be done in an open meeting of the entire assembly.

## **ARTICLE IX -- INSTITUTIONS**

Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall have authority to operate schools, publish Christian literature, operate and carry on orphanages and other eleemosynary institutions, and the like; and all of such activities shall be done in the manner approved and accepted by the congregation at any regular or specially called congregational business meeting, on majority vote of the voting members present at such meeting,

provided notice is given as herein above stated, and provided further the Pastor and/or Elders have first recommended such action.

## **ARTICLE X -- PROPERTY**

Decisions relative to the acquisition or sale of real property shall require a majority vote of the eligible voters present at a properly called congregational business meeting. The Elders of Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall act as Trustees of all properties owned by the church and shall be authorized to execute the decisions of the church regarding such properties.

## **ARTICLE XI -- AMENDMENTS**

This document may be amended so long as the proposed amendments are consistent with the teaching of the Word of God, do not violate the purpose for which Mount Calvary Baptist Church was established and the doctrinal basis on which it was founded and is to be perpetuated, and meet the needs of Mount Calvary Baptist Church. Any proposed alteration or amendment to this document must be presented in writing to the Elders at least one month before the regular congregational business meeting at which it is to be presented. In order for the proposed amendment to be voted upon it must be recommended to the church by the Pastor and/or Elders, and announced at any regular weekly worship service at least once each week for two weeks immediately preceding the meeting at which it is to be presented. A two-thirds majority of eligible voters present shall be necessary for its adoption.

## **ARTICLE XII -- CORPORATE SEAL**

Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall have an official seal to be adopted by the congregation at the recommendation of the Elders and shall be used on such occasion as the law may require or the Pastor and/or Elders may desire.

## **ARTICLE XIII -- DISSOLUTION OF THE CHURCH**

In the event of dissolution, the assets of the Mount Calvary Baptist Church shall be distributed, in accordance with a plan of distribution adopted by the Elders, exclusively to one or more religious, charitable, or educational organizations which are not for profit and which are engaged in affairs substantially similar to those of Mount Calvary Baptist Church and which would qualify under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and its Regulations.

***CONFESSION  
OF  
FAITH***



# **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

Mount Calvary Baptist Church is dispensational in theology, premillennial in eschatology, fundamental in position, and has been founded and shall be perpetuated on the following doctrinal basis:

## **ARTICLE I -- THE BIBLE**

We believe that the Bible, consisting of the sixty-six canonical books of the Old and New Testaments, was, as originally given, written by holy men of God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit; that it is verbally inspired of God; that it is inerrant, sufficient, and eternal, and therefore of supreme and final authority in faith and life (Psalm 19:7-11; 119:89; II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:16-21).

## **ARTICLE II -- GOD**

### **Section 1 - The Trinity**

We believe in the Triune nature of God: that there is but one God existing in three Persons--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--Who are co-eternal, co-eval, and co-equal (John 16:7-15; I John 5:1-8).

### **Section 2 - The Father**

We believe that God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, is the Heavenly Father of all who have come to a saving knowledge of His only begotten Son (John 1:14; 20:17; Romans 4:11; I Peter 1:3-5).

### **Section 3 - The Son, Jesus Christ**

We believe in the absolute Deity of Jesus Christ, His incarnation by means of Holy Spirit begettal and virgin birth, His sinless life and miraculous ministry on earth, His death on the cross as a substitutionary atonement for the sins of all men, His bodily resurrection from among the dead, His

exaltation to the right hand of the Majesty on high as Lord, Mediator, Priest, and Advocate, and His personal, pre-millennial, and imminent return to bring into consummation His work of redemption by ultimate triumph over Satan and his hosts (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-20; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; John 3:1-2; 20:30-31; I Corinthians 15:1-28; Hebrews 4:14; 7:25; 9:24).

#### Section 4 - The Holy Spirit

We believe in the personality and deity of the Holy Spirit, that it is by His energy that sinners are brought under conviction of sin and are drawn to Christ for salvation, that through Him men are regenerated and sanctified, that by Him the saints are indwelt with the Divine Presence, and that by His endowment and enduement God's people are enabled to serve the Lord acceptably. We believe that He is the Divine Witness, Seal, Earnest, Anointing, Guide, Teacher, and Administrator (John 14:26; 16:7-13; Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4; Romans 8:14-27; 15:16; I Corinthians 12:1-14; 14:40; II Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; I John 2:20, 27).

#### Section 5 - The Second Advent of Christ

We believe in the pre-tribulational, pre-millennial, personal, imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air for all the dead and alive in Christ, our "Blessed Hope"; and the post-tribulational visible appearance of the Lord with His saints on the earth to set up His millennial kingdom (Matthew 24:29-30; Luke 1:31-33; with Acts 1:6-7, with Isaiah 11; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; 5:9-10; Jude verse 14; Revelation 19:11-16).

### **ARTICLE III -- CREATION**

We believe that the entire universe was brought into existence by the creating act of the great Triune God (Genesis 1:1--2:3; John 1:1-3).

## **ARTICLE IV -- SATAN**

We believe in the personality of Satan, “the old serpent, the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world,” that he is the arch-enemy of God and man, and that in God’s own appointed time he will suffer ultimate defeat at the hands of the Lord Jesus and will be tormented throughout eternity in the fires of Hell (Isaiah 14:12-17; Matthew 4:1-11; John 8:44; Revelation 12:9-10; 20:1-2, 7-10).

## **ARTICLE V -- MAN**

We believe that man was originally created by God in His image, but that by disobedience to his Creator he incurred both physical and spiritual death, and that the entire human race was plunged into sin and death; that all men inherit an evil nature and are totally depraved, and if not saved after the day of accountability will endure eternal punishment in the lake of fire (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7--3:24; Matthew 18:10-14; Romans 5:12; 6:23; 8:5-8; I Corinthians 15:45; Galatians 5:17; II Samuel 12:23; Revelation 20:14-15).

## **ARTICLE VI -- SIN**

We believe in the universality and exceeding sinfulness of sin and that there is no remission of sins apart from the shedding of the blood of the Son of God and man’s repentance (Ezekiel 18:4; Luke 24:46-47; Romans 3:10-26; 6:23; 7:13-14; Hebrews 9:22).

## **ARTICLE VII -- SALVATION**

### **Section 1 - The Atonement**

We believe in the single substitutionary sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ for sinners, One for all, and once for all; that salvation is wholly of divine grace apart from any works of merit of the sinner; that it is provided in the atonement of Jesus Christ, wrought by God, and is received by a sinner when he repents towards God and puts his trust

in the Lord Jesus Christ as his own personal Saviour; that all who receive the Lord Jesus Christ by personal faith as Saviour, are thereby born again, and have eternal life through the indwelling Christ; that unbelievers will suffer eternally for their sins (Psalm 49:7; Jonah 2:9; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 13:3; 24:46-47; John 1:11-13; 3:16, 18, 36; 5:24; 8:24; Acts 16:31; 17:30-31; 20:20-21; Romans 4:2-5; 5:8; 10:9-10; II Corinthians 5:14; Galatians 6:15; Ephesians 2:8-10; I Timothy 4:10; Titus 3:4-7; Hebrews 10:10; I John 5:11-12; Revelation 21:8).

## Section 2 - The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers

We believe that all the redeemed, once saved, are kept by God's power and are thus secure in Christ forever (John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; Romans 8:1; 8:38-39; I Corinthians 1:4-8; I Peter 1:5).

We believe that it is the privilege of believers to rejoice in the assurance of their salvation through the testimony of God's Word; which, however, clearly forbids the use of Christian liberty as an occasion to the flesh (Romans 13:13-14; Galatians 5:13; Titus 2:11-15).

## Section 3 - The Two Natures of the Believer

We believe that every saved person possesses two natures, with provisions made for victory of the spiritual nature over the carnal, fleshly, soulish nature through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit, and, that all claims to the eradication of the old nature *in this life* are unscriptural (Romans 6:13; 8:12-13; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; Colossians 3:10; I Peter 1:14-16; I John 3:5-9).

## Section 4 - Sanctification

We believe in the positional sanctification of each believer in Christ at the time of salvation, and a practical sanctification which is progressive, depending upon the believer's appropriation of divine means; and all without a second work of grace (John 17:17; I Corinthians 1:2, 30).

## **ARTICLE VIII -- THE CHURCH**

### **Section 1 - The Body of Christ**

We believe that the Church, the body of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again believers of this present age; that it was constituted and empowered by the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost; that it was purchased with the blood of Christ; that it was founded upon Christ; that its mission is to bear to the ends of the earth a Spirit-filled testimony to the judgment of God against sin and the salvation of sinners who repent towards God and exercise faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:17-18; 28:18-20; Acts 2; I Corinthians 3:11; 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 5:25-27; Colossians 1:18).

### **Section 2 - The Local Church**

We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures; that a local New Testament church is a body of believers in Christ that have followed the Lord through the waters of baptism, associated together under the direction and government of the Holy Spirit for worship, instruction, fellowship, service, and the spread of the gospel to the uttermost part of the earth; that it is absolutely sovereign, under the administration of the Holy Spirit, in the handling of its own affairs and in determining its own relationship; that its relationship with other ecclesiastical bodies is one of fellowship only (Matthew 16:17-18; 28:18-20; Acts 14:27; 20:17, 28-37; I Corinthians 3:9-17; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 5:25, 27; Colossians 1:18; I Timothy 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11).

### **Section 3 - Spiritual Gifts**

We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all His gifts; and, that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the edification and perfecting of the saints today. Prophesying and the giving of knowledge beyond that revealed in Scripture ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became

established; therefore we will not allow the exercising of any so-called gift of speaking in tongues, extra-Biblical prophesying, or healing (Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:7-12; Hebrews 2:2-4).

We believe that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith, in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted, but that healing is not in the atonement (reconciliation) (John 15:7; I John 5:14-15; James 5:13-18).

#### Section 4 - The Blessed Hope

We believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of living church saints and resurrection of dead church saints--at which time both companies will meet the Lord in the air to forever be with Him (I Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:9; Revelation 3:10).

We believe that all the Old Testament saints and the martyred Tribulation saints will be resurrected at the end of the Tribulation at the Second Advent (Daniel 12).

#### Section 5 - Dispensationalism

We accept the dispensational view of Bible interpretation but reject the extreme teaching known as "Hyper Dispensationalism" such as that teaching which opposes either the Lord's Table or water baptism as a Scriptural means of testimony for the Church in this age (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:41-42; 18:8; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

### **ARTICLE IX -- THE ORDINANCES**

We believe that there are two Christian ordinances and that they are symbolical, not sacramental: Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

#### Section 1 - Baptism

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water into the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit; that it sets forth in picture the essential facts in redemption--the death and resurrection of Christ, the essential facts in the experience of the believer--

death to sin and resurrection to walk in newness of life, and the essential facts in the hope of the believer--that should he experience physical death he will be raised from the dead to participate in the eternal glory of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:4).

## Section 2 - The Lord's Supper

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a commemoration of the Lord's death to be observed till He comes; that the elements--the bread and the fruit of the vine--are only symbols of His broken body and shed blood, and that our observance of it is a pictorial testimony of the believer's fellowship with the Crucified Saviour and should be preceded by solemn heart-searching and self-judgment (Matthew 26:26-30; I Corinthians 10:16-21; 11:17-34).

## **ARTICLE X -- CIVIL GOVERNMENT**

We believe that all governmental authority is ordained of God for the good of the citizens under its jurisdiction, that believers in Christ are to be the most ardent to obey its every ordinance for the Lord's sake, and that we are to faithfully pray for those who occupy positions of civil authority. We believe, however, in the absolute separation of church and state, that each has been ordained of God to render service in entirely different spheres and for different purposes, and therefore neither is to dictate to the other nor are they to form any organic union whatsoever (Matthew 22:21; Romans 13:1-7; I Timothy 2:1-6).

## **ARTICLE XI -- WORLD EVANGELIZATION**

We believe that it is the heart's desire of Almighty God to save sinners, that He has committed Himself to the faithful witness of His redeemed children to reach them with the gospel, and that He has commissioned His people to be diligent and zealous in publishing the saving message of Jesus Christ throughout all the world so that sinners may be persuaded to repent of their sins, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and be saved (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8; I Timothy 2:3-6; II Peter 3:9).

## ARTICLE XII -- THE SEPARATED LIFE

We believe in the separation of believers unto Christ and from the world so as to maintain good works and to have no fellowship with the evil works of darkness but rather reprove them; that all the saved should live in such a manner as not to bring reproach upon our Saviour and Lord; and, that separation from all religious apostasy, all worldly and sinful pleasures, practices, and associations is commanded by God.

We therefore urge upon every member of Mount Calvary Baptist Church to abstain from every questionable thing, keeping himself/herself from “every appearance of evil” in religion, dress, conversation, amusement, business, habit, etc., according to the teachings of God’s Holy Word (Romans 12:1-2; 14:13; II Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:6; 17-23; Ephesians 2:8-10; 4:1-32; Philippians 2:12-16; II Thessalonians 3:11-12; II Timothy 3:1-5; Titus 3:1-11; James 4:4; I Peter 4:12-19; I John 2:15-16; II John 9-11).

We believe that marriage is an inseparable union until death parts, in spite of divorces allowed by society; our Lord Himself teaches that at the beginning, God made them male and female for which cause a man shall leave his father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife, and they twain shall become one flesh.

We believe, further, that whosoever shall put away his wife, saving for the cause of fornication, causeth her to commit adultery; and whosoever shall marry her that is divorced commits adultery. Believers should not marry unbelievers, which creates an unequal yoke (Matthew 5:32; 19:9; Mark 10:2-12; Romans 7:2-3; I Corinthians 7:15, 39; II Corinthians 6:14-15).

### Sexual Morality

1. We believe that God created man and woman in His own image as two distinct but equal genders, and that He defined separate, interdependent roles for each

(Genesis 1:26-27; Ephesians 5:22-24). We believe that any form of transgenderism contradicts God's created order.

2. We believe that the only scriptural marriage is the joining of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24) in a single, exclusive union by a voluntary covenant (Malachi 2:14) until death parts them (Romans 7:2; I Corinthians 7:10-11).
2. We believe that God has commanded that no sexual intimacy be engaged in outside of a scriptural marriage between one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24). We believe that any form or expression of . . .
  - homosexuality (whether lesbian, gay, or bisexual) (Genesis 19:5, 13; Leviticus 18:22; Romans 1:26-27, I Timothy 1:10-11);
  - polygamy (Deuteronomy 17:17; Matthew 19:4-6; Mark 10:11-12; I Corinthians 7:11);
  - bestiality (Exodus 22:19; Leviticus 18:23; 20:15-16; Deuteronomy 27:21);
  - incest (Leviticus 18:6-18; I Corinthians 5:1);
  - fornication (I Corinthians 6:9-10; I Thessalonians 4:3-8) and adultery (Leviticus 18:20; I Corinthians 6:9-10)

. . . is a sinful perversion of God's created order (Genesis 1:26-28; Hebrews 13:4).

### **ARTICLE XIII -- APOSTASY**

We believe that men and conditions will become worse and worse until this age ends in a widespread apostasy from the "faith once delivered to the saints"; that when man's rebellion against God reaches its awful climax in the worship of Satan, the Lord Jesus Christ shall come to earth, bring to naught every wicked device of man, chain Satan, and take

His Messianic throne to reign in righteousness over the earth for one thousand years (Matthew 24:37-38; II Timothy 3:1-7; 4:3-4; Revelation 19:11-20:6).

#### **ARTICLE XIV -- THE RESURRECTION**

We believe that there will be two resurrections and that all the dead will be raised: that the righteous dead will have part in the first resurrection which will issue in eternal life, and that the wicked dead will have part in the second resurrection which will issue in eternal damnation (Luke 14:14; John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15:20-26; Revelation 22:4-6, 11-15).

#### **ARTICLE XV -- ETERNITY**

We believe that eternity will be composed of Heaven and Hell: that Heaven is a place of eternal blessedness and that Hell is a place of eternal suffering; that all true believers in Jesus Christ will be fully redeemed from sin's penalty, power, and presence, will be glorified with the Lord when He comes, and will enjoy the blessing of unbroken fellowship with God in Heaven forever; that all unrepentant sinners and rebels against God will be judged by the Lord Jesus Christ according to their deeds, without respect of persons, by the glorious Gospel of God, and will be cast out from God's presence to suffer the torments of the lake of fire in Hell forever (Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:19-31; Romans 2:1-16; II Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 3:20; Revelation 20:1-15; 21:22).

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men, the saved to eternal life, and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Revelation 20:5, 6, 12, 13).

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord, where in conscious bliss they await the first resurrection, when spirit, soul, and body are reunited to be glorified forever with the

Lord (Luke 23:43; Revelation 20:4-6; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23; 3:21; I Thessalonians 4:16-17).

We believe that the souls of unbelievers remain, after death, in conscious misery until the second resurrection, when with soul and body reunited they shall appear at the Great White Throne of Judgment, and shall be cast into the lake of fire, not to be annihilated, but to suffer everlasting conscious punishment (Luke 16:19-26; Matthew 25:41-46; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Jude 6, 7; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 20:11-15).

