

**BEREAN
BAPTIST CHURCH**

**COVENANT
CONFESSION OF FAITH
CONSTITUTION**

COVENANT

Church Covenant

Berean Baptist Church
1216 Ismailov Street
Kodiak, Alaska

Having been led as we believe by the Spirit of God to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior; and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, the angels, and this assembly most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline, and doctrines; and to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and private devotions; to Biblically educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our deportment by seeking to avoid every kind of evil; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior and to secure reconciliation without delay.

We moreover engage when we move from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's Word.

CONFESSION OF FAITH

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Article I **Of the Scriptures**

We believe that the Holy Bible, as originally written, was verbally inspired and the product of Spirit-controlled men, and therefore has truth without admixture of error for its matter. We believe that it is the true center of Christian union and the only infallible rule of human conduct, creeds and opinions.

(II Timothy 3:16-17; II Peter 1:19-21)

Article II **Of the True God**

We believe that there is only one living and true God, infinite in every excellence; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three personal distinctions—the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit—yet one in substance and equal in every divine perfection.

(Exodus 20:2-3; I Corinthians 8:6; Matthew (28:19)

We believe in the absolute Deity of the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ; that He was divine as no other man can be, being very God of very God, existing from all eternity co-equal with the Father and the Spirit; that He never ceased to be God for one instant and that His humiliation did not consist in laying aside His Deity; that as man He was miraculously begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

(John 1:1-2; I John 5:20; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:26-38)

We believe that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, equal with the Father and the Son and of the same substance and nature: that He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment, bears witness to the truth, is the Agent of the new birth, placing the believer into the body of Christ (baptized by the Holy Spirit), that He seals, endures, guides, teaches, witnesses to, sanctifies and helps the believer, indwelling every true child of God.

(II Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16-17; Romans 8:14-27; I Corinthians 12:13)

Article III **Of the Devil, or Satan**

We believe in the distinct personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, author of all powers of darkness and sin, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the lake of fire.

(Matthew 4:1-3; II Corinthians 4:4; Revelation 20:10)

Article IV **Of Creation**

We believe that God created the heavens and the earth, including all life, “each after its own kind”, by direct act, and not by process of evolution.
(Genesis 1, 2; Colossians 1:16-17; John 1:3)

Article V **Of the fall of Man**

We believe that man, in the person of Adam, was created in innocence but by voluntary transgression fell into sin thus plunging the whole race into condemnation and death, so that now all mankind is born in sin and “shaped in iniquity” and become willful sinners with the first expression of personal choice, and so are without excuse before God.
(Genesis 3; Romans 5:10-19; Psalm 51)

Article VI **Of the Redemption From Sin**

We believe that the only escape from the condemnation of sin is through the redemption wrought by Jesus Christ, when He voluntarily took upon Him a human body and nature, yet without sin, and by His suffering, death and resurrection made full satisfaction to the justice of God for the sin of man; that the blessings of this salvation are given on the grounds of grace to all who believe and confess that it is the immediate duty of all to accept these offers of mercy.
(John 1:1-3; John 3:1-7; Hebrews 10:4-14; Acts 16:30-33)

Article VII **Of Salvation by Grace**

We believe that faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ is the only condition of salvation from sin and this salvation is wholly by grace; that no words, however good, make the salvation more secure. (John 3:3-7; Acts 16:31; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; Romans 10:9-13) We believe that all who take Christ as their personal Savior are born again and are eternally secure in Christ. (John 10:28-29; Romans 8:35-39; Philippians 1:6)

Article VIII **Of the Church**

We believe that the Church universal is a New Testament institution; unknown to the Old Testament prophets; established by Jesus Christ, who is its sole head; revealed through the holy Apostles; empowered and perpetuated by the Holy Spirit; His “body” for service and His “bride” for glory. It began with the New Testament saints at Pentecost and will be consummated at the coming of Christ in the Rapture. (Matthew 16:18; Acts 1:8; 2:1-13, 41-47; 15:14; Romans 16:26; I Corinthians 12:12-28; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:21; 5:23-33; I Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We believe that the Church universal is manifested through the local church which is a congregation of immersed believers, associated by covenant of faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in it by His Word; that its officers are bishops (or pastors) and deacons; that it has the absolute right of self-government, discipline and benevolence. The will of the local church is final. (Matthew 18:15-17; I Corinthians 1:2; 6:4-5; 7:17; 11:16; I Timothy 3:1-15)

Article IX **Of the Ordinances**

We believe that there are two church ordinances: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper. Baptism is the immersion of a believer in water and is properly called “Believer’s Baptism”. It sets forth in a beautiful and solemn way our faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with the effect of that faith in our lives as it produces death to sin and resurrection to a new life. Baptism is a prerequisite to the privileges of church membership in Berean Baptist Church. The Lord’s Supper is the commemoration of our Lord’s death until He comes and the partaking of it should always be preceded by careful self-examination. (Acts 8:36-39; I Corinthians 11:23-32)

Article X **Of the Righteous and Wicked**

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that only such as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in God’s esteem; while all who continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and that this distinction holds among men both during and after death in the everlasting conscious joy of the saved and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost. (Malachi 3:18; Romans 3:16-23; Matthew 25:34-41; Luke 6:25; John 8:21)

Article XI
Of the Return of Christ

We believe in the bodily, personal, premillennial return of Jesus Christ that He will come before the seven year tribulation period to catch away His Church, coming only into the air, and that He will come with His Church at the close of the tribulation to judge the living nations and to set up His kingdom on earth.

(I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 19:11-21; Jude 14)

Article XII
Of the Resurrection

We believe in the resurrection of the bodies of the dead; that believers who sleep in Jesus will be raised at the coming of Christ for His Church and caught up with the transformed living saints who meet the Lord in the air, and that the wicked dead will be raised at the close of the Millennial kingdom and stand in their bodies at the Great White Throne of Judgment to receive their final doom.

(John 5:21-30; I Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 7:9-17; 20:11-15)