



ARMITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
Membership Information Session #2
What We Believe

I. SCRIPTURE

We declare our affirmation of the verbal, plenary inspiration of the entire Bible in its original manuscripts. Any legitimate copy of the Holy Scriptures, then, is the supreme and final authority regarding all matters of belief and practice.

- A. The Bible is made up of *many books having human authors*, but is *one whole whose author is God*.
 - 1. It is the *foundation* for what we know about God, sin, salvation, and right living.—Psalm 119:105
 - 2. Both the *New and Old Testament* are the fully inspired Word of God.—2 Timothy 3:16
 - 3. The entire Bible is *divine revelation* from God Himself.—2 Peter 1:20-21

- B. The Bible has proven itself to be *historically* and *scientifically* accurate.
 - 1. It testifies of its own *veracity* and *integrity*.—Psalm 19:7-9
 - 2. Science, and our own human experience, confirm its *eternal truths*.
 - 3. The Bible *supersedes* all other so-called sources of authority and truth.—Acts 17:11

II. THE NATURE OF GOD

We declare our affirmation that there is one God Who eternally exist as three distinct Persons: *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*.

- A. The Christian faith is both *monotheistic* and *Trinitarian*, without contradiction—1 Corinthians 8:6
- B. The *Father* is God—Romans 1:7
- C. Jesus is fully *God*, just as the Father is fully God—2 Peter 1:1, Titus 2:11-13
- D. The Holy Spirit is also fully *God*—2 Corinthians 3:17-18

III. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

We declare our affirmation that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man; *God wrapped in flesh; His conception, by the Holy Spirit, and Virgin Birth, His physical death, burial, and resurrection; His personal, physical, visible return with power and great glory*.

- A. The *Hypostatic Union*—God the Son took on a human nature, in addition to His divine one—Phil. 2:5-8
- B. The *Incarnation*—God the Son took on a body, underwent a biological birth, and was born Jesus of Nazareth
1 Tim. 3:16, John 1:1-14
- C. The *Virgin Birth*—God the Son was born *supernaturally* and *miraculously* of a virgin by a direct act of God the Holy Spirit.—Matthew 1:22-23, Luke 1:35

- D. The *Atonement*—Jesus died, was buried, and rose again after three days, to atone for the sins of the world and to fulfill the prophecies made concerning that atonement—1 Corinthians 15:1-4, 1 John 2:1-2
- E. The *Second Advent*—Jesus will return to the earth on the clouds of heaven with the mighty angels—Matthew 24:30, 25:31

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We declare our affirmation that the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ) is fully God, a divine Person with intellect, emotion, and will. He convicts the lost of sin, regenerates those who repent and believe, and indwells such believers always. He gives gifts to believers for the work of ministry, and leads them into all truth.

- A. The *scriptures*, and *He Himself*, identify the Holy Spirit as God.—2 Samuel 23:2-3, Isaiah 40:13, Ezekiel 11:5, Mark 3:29, Acts 5:9, 10:13-20, 1 Corinthians 2:11, Hebrews 9:14, 10:15-18,
- B. He *Convicts* lost people of their need of salvation.—John 16:8
- C. He *Regenerates* lost people, *indwells* them at salvation, and *places* them into Christ's body—John 3:5-8, Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 Corinthians 12:13
- D. He *Gives spiritual gifts* to believers to build up the body and perform the ministry—1 Corinthians 12:8-11, Ephesians 4:12

V. MAN

We declare our affirmation that mankind was created perfect and complete by God, that they were innocent, free beings, that they sinned and consequently incurred the penalty of physical and spiritual death. As a direct result, all of humanity is conceived in a state of alienation from God, and in need of redemption.

- A. Man is created in *God's image*—Genesis 1:26-27
- B. Man is a sinner by *nature*—Psalm 51:5, 58:3, Mark 7:21
- C. Man is a sinner by *choice*—Romans 3:9-12
- D. Mankind is *utterly powerless* to effect salvation for themselves.—Romans 5:6

VI. SALVATION

We declare our affirmation that mankind, due to Adam's fall, are all under condemnation and wrath. Yet God graciously and mercifully provided His only Son (Jesus), to live a sinless life, shed His blood and die as a substitution for humankind; that anyone and everyone who receives Jesus by faith is given eternal life at that moment; that the grace of God through faith in Jesus is the only way to be saved, and that those who are thus saved are secure in that salvation.

- A. Must be preceded by *repentance, confession, and humility*—Acts 2:38, 3:1, Romans 10:9, Jeremiah 3:12-13
- B. Only Jesus *qualified* to provide it—John 14:6, Hebrews 7:26
- C. By *grace through faith*, apart from works—Ephesians 2:8-9
- D. Is *eternally secure*—Romans 8:35-39

VII. THE CHURCH

We declare our affirmation that the universal, invisible church is composed of all true believers of all times; that the local, visible church is a group of baptized believers in a particular locality, who meet together for worship, fellowship, and observance of the ordinances; that the local church is interdependent, having only Christ and the Word of God as its governing authority.

- A. Membership was the *automatic, natural* association that believers had in the First Century—Acts 2:42.
- B. Members are members *one to another*; all are vital and necessary—Ephesians 4:25, 1 Corinthians 12:12
- C. It is God's *ordained servant* to bring about *real change* in a sinful world. —Matthew 28:19-20

VIII. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

We declare our affirmation that every Christian should be baptized (immersed) in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit after regeneration; that baptism is a public act of obedience that symbolizes identification with Christ's death, burial and resurrection; that participation in the Lord's Supper symbolizes continual spiritual fellowship with Christ, and is for believers only.

- A. Baptism is a *command*, but not necessary for *salvation*. —Mark 16:15-16, 1 Corinthians 1:17
- B. Baptism is the *rite of passage* into church membership—Acts 2:41
- C. The Lord's Supper must be taken *worthily*—1 Corinthians 11:26-30
- D. The Lord's Supper *reminds* us of Christ's sacrifice until He comes—Luke 22:19-20, 1 Corinthians 11:24-26

IX. THE APOCALYPSE

We declare our affirmation of the ultimate triumph of Jesus Christ, His church, and the consummation of all things at His glorious appearing; that the dead will be raised to life, the saved to eternal blessedness; the unsaved to eternal conscious suffering.

- A. God's kingdom will *ultimately* and *finally* rule over all forever—Isaiah 9:6-7
- B. Those who are unsaved will suffer *conscious punishment forever*, separated from God—Matthew 25:46, 2 Thessalonians 1:9
- C. Those who are saved will *live with God* forever—Revelation 21:2-4.