

# **Gribble Springs Baptist Church**

## **Articles of Faith**

**Adopted December 15, 1971  
As part of Constitution and Bylaws**

- 1. THE SCRIPTURES: The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by Inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.**
- 2. GOD: There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver, and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself all perfections, and being infinite in them all; and to him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.**
- 3. THE TRINITY: God is revealed to us as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being.**
- 4. PROVIDENCE: God from eternity decrees or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not in any wise to be the author or approver of sin nor to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.**
- 5. ELECTION: Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life – not because of foreseen merit in them, but of his mere-mercy in Christ – in consequence of which choice they are called, justified, and glorified.**
- 6. THE FALL OF MAN: God originally created man in his own image, and free from sin; but, through the temptation of Satan, He transgressed the command of God, and fell from his original holiness and righteousness; whereby his posterity inherit nature corrupt and wholly opposed to God and his Law, are under condemnation, and as soon as they are capable of moral action, become actual transgressors.**
- 7. THE MEDIATOR: Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, born of the virgin Mary, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and Man. Having taken upon himself human nature, yet without sin, he perfectly fulfilled the Law, suffered and died upon the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand he ever lives to make intercession for his people. He is the only mediator, the Prophet, Priest, and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe.**
- 8. REGENERATION: Regeneration is a change of heart, wrought by the Holy Spirit, Who quickens the dead in trespasses and sins, enlightening their minds spiritually to understand the word of God unto Salvation, and renewing their whole nature, so that they love and practice holiness. It is the work of God's free and special grace alone.**

9. **REPENTANCE:** Repentance is a person's willful act in turning from sin and Satan to Righteousness and God, brought about by conviction of the Holy Spirit.
10. **FAITH:** Saving faith is the belief, on God's Authority, of that which is revealed in His Word concerning Christ; Accepting and Resting upon Him alone for Justification, Sanctification, and Eternal Life. It is wrought in the heart by the Holy Spirit and Leads to a life of Holiness.
11. **JUSTIFICATION:** Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made; not for anything done by man, but on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, they receiving and resting on Him and His Righteousness by faith.
12. **SANCTIFICATION:** Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's Word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine Strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a Heavenly life in cordial obedience to all of Christ's Commands.
13. **PERSERVERANCE OF THE SAINTS:** Those whom God has accepted in Christ and Sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of Grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall, through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Holy Spirit, Impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.
14. **THE CHURCH:** The Lord Jesus Is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power of its government. According to His Commandment, Christians are to associate themselves into particular societies of churches; and to each of these churches he hath given needful authority for administrating that order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a church are Pastors and Deacons.
15. **BAPTISM:** Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, obligatory upon every believer, wherein he/she is immersed in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, as a sign of his/her fellowship with the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of his/her giving himself/herself up to God, to live and walk in newness of life. It is prerequisite to church membership.
16. **THE LORD'S SUPPER:** The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and fruit of the vine and to be observed by His Churches until the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrament, but is designed to commemorate His Death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him and of their church fellowship.

- 17. THE LORD'S DAY: The Lord's Day (Sunday) is a Christian institution for regular observance, and should be employed in exercise of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private.**
- 18. LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE: God alone is Lord of the conscience: And He hath left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are in anything contrary to His Word, or not contained in it. Civil Magistrates being ordained of God, subjection in all lawful things commanded by them ought to be yielded by us, in the Lord, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.**
- 19. THE RESURRECTION: The bodies of men after death, return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God – the righteous to rest with Him, the wicked, to be reserved under punishment to the judgment. In the last days, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised.**
- 20. THE JUDGMENT: God hath appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when everyone shall receive according to his/her deeds; The wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment; the righteous into everlasting life.**