

## **Perth Bible Church Declaration of Faith**

- Section A. THE SCRIPTURES- We believe the Bible to be the verbally inspired, infallible, authoritative Word of God. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, meaning that the Holy Spirit gave the very words of the sacred writing to holy men of old, and that His divine inspiration is not in different degrees, but extends equally and fully to all parts of those writings, historical, poetical, doctrinal, and prophetic, and to the smallest word, and inflection of a word, provided such word is found in the original manuscripts. Ps19:7-11; Tim. 3:16-17; II Pt 1:16-21; I Cor. 2:13; Mark 12:26, 13:11; Acts 1:16, 2:4.
- Section B. THE TRUE GOD – We believe that the Godhead exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and that those three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence and obedience. Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4; Matt. 28:19-20; Acts 5:3, 4; II Cor. 13:14; Heb. 1:1-3; Rev. 1:4-6.
- Section C. JESUS CHRIST – We believe in the unique deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death though His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father. We believe Christ is the only Mediator between God and man and the only Advocate and Intercessor before God in behalf of man. John 1:1, 2; Phil. 2:6; Gen. 3:15; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18-25; Luke 1:35; John 1:14; Eph. 2:8; Acts 15:11; Rom. 3:24; John 3:16; Matt. 18:11; Phil. 2:7-8; Heb. 2:14; Isa. 53:4-7; Rom. 3:25; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:4; I Pet. 2:24; Cor. 15:20; Heb. 9:12-15; I John 2:2.
- Section D. THE HOLY SPIRIT – We believe in the personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit, that He descended to earth at Pentecost to regenerate, to indwell, and to set apart believers to an holy life, and to be the administrator of the Church, and Who is here also to convict of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. I Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:14-27; John 14:16-17; John 16:7-11; Acts 4:31.
- Section E. THE DEVIL OR SATAN – We believe in the personality of Satan, that he is the unholy god of this age, the author of all powers of darkness, and is destined to the judgment of an eternal justice in the Lake of Fire. Matt. 4:1-3; Mark 1:13; II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; Rev 20:10.
- Section F. THE CREATION – We believe and accept the Genesis account of creation and believe that man came into being by the direct creation of God and not by evolution; that man was “created in God’s own image.” Gen. 1:2; Col. 1:16-17; John 1:3; Gen. 1:27, 3:7.
- Section G. THE FALL OF MAN – We believe that man was created in innocence, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from his sinless and happy state in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not only by constraint, but of choice, and therefore under just condemnation without defense or excuse. Gen 3:16; Rom. 5:19, 3:10-19; Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18, 1:20, 1:32; Gal. 3:22.

Section H. THE NEW BIRTH – We believe that in order to be saved, sinners “must be born again,” that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby become the children of God, that by the new birth, the one dead in trespasses and in sins is made a partaker of the divine nature and receives eternal life, the free gift of God, that the new birth is brought about in a manner above our comprehension, not by culture, not by character, not by the will of man, but wholly and solely by the power of the Holy Spirit in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, faith and newness of life. John 3:3; Gal. 2:26; Acts 16:31; II Cor. 5:17; I John 5:1; John 3: 6-7; Acts 16:30-33; II Pet. 1:4; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:1; II Cor. 5:19; Col. 2:13; John 3:8; John 1:12-13; Gal. 5:22; Eph. 5:9.

Section I. JUSTIFICATION – We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification: (a) that justification includes pardon of sin, and the gift of eternal life on principles of His righteousness; (b) that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer’s blood, His righteousness is imputed unto us. Acts 13:39; Isa. 53:11 Zech. 13:1; Rom. 8:1, 5:1, 5:9; Titus 3:5-7; Rom. 1:17; Hab. 2:4; Gal. 3:11; Rom. 4:1-8; Heb. 10:38.

Section J. SANCTIFICATION – We believe that sanctification (to be “set apart”) is the process by which God makes us partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work that is begun in regeneration and continued in our hearts by the work of the Holy Spirit, in connection with self-denial, watchfulness and prayer and completed at the return of Christ for His own. I Cor. 6:11; II Pet 3:18; I Thess. 3:13; I John 3:2.

Section K. THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER – We believe that all believers are sealed by the Holy Spirit and are kept by the power of God through faith unto the redemption of the body. Eph. 4:30; John 6:37-40; 10:27-30; I Cor. 1:4-8; I Pet. 1:5; Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:35-39.

We believe that it is the privilege of the believer 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. Rom. 3:13-14; Gal. 5:13; Titus 2:11-15.

Section L. THE TWO NATURES – We believe that every born again believer possesses two natures—spiritual and carnal, with provision made for victory of the new nature over the old 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. Rom. 6:13, 8:12-13; Gal. 5:16-25, Ephesians 4:22-24; Col. 3:10; I Pet. 1:1-16; 1 John 3:5-9.

Section M THE LOCAL CHURCH – We believe that a local church is a voluntary association of members of the Body of Christ, of baptized believers, equal in rank and privilege, subject to the Word of God and independent of any external ecclesiastical control whatsoever; associated by a declaration of faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws, and exercising the rights and privileges

invested in them by His words that the true mission of the Church is the faithful witnessing of Christ to all men as we have opportunity. We hold that the local church has absolute right over any hierarchy of individuals or organizations, and that the one and only superintendent is Christ, through the Holy Spirit. On all matters of membership, of policy, of government, of discipline, of benevolence, the will of the local church is final. Acts 2:41-42; I Cor. 11:2; Eph. 1:22-23, 4:11; Acts 10:17-18; I Tim. 3:1-7; Col. 1:18; Eph. 5:23-24; Acts 15:13-18.

Section N. THE ORDINANCES – We believe there are two ordinances of the church: Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

We believe that water baptism, although not essential for salvation, is public testimony of the believer’s identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and is by immersion in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that Christ instituted the Lord’s Supper to commemorate His death until He come, that it should never be engaged in without examination and that all are invited to the Lord’s Supper who have confessed their faith in Christ and are leading a Christian life. John 3:23; Rom. 6:3-5; I Cor. 11:23-32; Luke 22:19; Matt. 26:27.

Section O. EVANGELISM – We believe it is the solemn obligation of every believer to be a personal soul-winner and to do his utmost to carry out the Savior’s command to give the Gospel to the whole world. Eph. 4:12; Mark 16:51; Acts 1:8.

Section P. THE RESURRECTION OF THE JUST AND UNJUST – We believe that through the power of Almighty God there will be a resurrection of all the dead: of the just, a resurrection unto life; and of the unjust, a resurrection unto condemnation and eternal punishment. I Thess. 4:13-18; John 5:28-29.

Section Q. FUTURE EVENTS – We believe in the blessed hope, the imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ for those who are fallen asleep in Him, and for His living saints, which is to be followed in order by: the Tribulation – the Second Coming of Christ on the earth for one thousand years (Millennium), the eternal state of punishment for the unsaved, and the eternal state of blessing for the saved. I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:50-55; Acts 1:11; Titus 2:1-3; I Thess. 5: 4-10; Rev. 3:10, 20:1-6, 20:11-15; Matt. 24:21-29, 30: 25-46.

We believe in the sovereign selection of Israel as God’s covenant people, that she is now being disciplined because of her rejection of Christ and that she will be re-gathered in the Holy Land and saved as a nation at the second coming of Christ. Romans chapters 9, 10 and 11.

Section R. THE LORD’S DAY – We believe that the first day of the week, the Lord’s Day, should be hallowed by refraining from worldly amusements and recreations and aside from the duties of necessity and mercy, be devoted to public and private worship, spiritual culture and Christian activity. Acts 20:7; Col. 3:1-3.

Section S. DIVERGENT DOCTRINE – We believe that the foregoing statements in these Articles of Faith include only items in keeping with the Scriptural admonition to teach those things which become sound doctrine. We are unalterably opposed to the inclusion of any items such as speaking in tongues or any other extra-Biblical “second blessing,” adding to or taking away from the Word of God, etc. The criterion of judgment must be the Word of God and not the experience or experiences of men either today or in past days. II Tim. 3:16, 4:2; Titus 2:1.