

# **Immanuel Bible Church**

## **Articles of Faith**

The basic doctrine which the members of Immanuel Bible Church confess is found below. A more detailed treatment of these areas of doctrine with Scripture references can be found in our Doctrinal Statement.

### **Scripture**

We believe that the 66 books of the Bible are the written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and without error in the original manuscripts. The Bible is the highest authority in the Christian life and is infallible, inerrant, sufficient, and authoritative for all matters of faith and practice. (John 12:48, 17:17; 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:19-21; Rev 22:18-19).

### **God**

We believe in the Holy Trinity: there is one God, an infinite and unchanging Being, who eternally subsists in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The persons are equal in glory, power, and authority as the one God. (Deut. 6:4; Is. 45:5-7; Mal. 3:6; James 1:17; Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

We believe that God the Father is the first person of the Trinity: the eternal Father of the eternal Son (Mt. 28:19; Jn. 1:1; 1:14, 1:18).

We believe that God the Son is the second person of the Trinity: the eternal Son of the eternal Father (Mt. 28:19; Jn. 1:1,14, 18).

We believe that God the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity: the eternal Spirit of the Father and the Son (Mt. 28:19; Heb. 9:14; Mt. 10:20; Gal. 4:6).

We believe this Triune God is the Lord of Heaven and earth and does all that He does for His glory. (Mt. 11:25; Acts 10:36; 2 Cor. 3:17; Is. 48:9-11)

### **Creation**

We believe that the triune God created the universe out of nothing in six 24-hour days by His Word. (Gen. 1:1-2, Eph. 3:9, Col. 1:16, Ps. 33:6)

### **Providence**

We believe that the triune God governs and sustains all things with comprehensive control. (Ps. 75:3, Ps. 115:3, Col. 1:17, Heb. 1:3; Ps. 135:6, Prov. 16:33, Eph. 1:11)

## **Man**

We believe man was directly created in the image and likeness of God, without sin, as male and female to glorify Him and enjoy communion with Him forever, by dependently living in joyful obedience to Him. (Gen. 1:28, 2:7,15-25; Is 43:7; Col 1:16; Rev 4:11)

## **Sin**

We believe that in Adam all men sinned. Therefore, all men are born in a state of guilt with a corrupted nature from which they commit their own actual sins (in thought, inclination, desire, and deed) and are under God's just condemnation. All human beings are neither willing nor able to achieve reconciliation with God, apart from God's sovereign grace. (Rom. 5:12-21; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; Rom. 3:23)

## **Salvation**

We believe that salvation is the work of the Triune God. The Father freely chose to redeem a particular people through His Son's death to accomplish their redemption and by the Holy Spirit's work to apply redemption to them. (Eph. 1:3-14)

We believe that all the benefits of salvation come in union with Jesus Christ. (Rom. 6:3-7).

We believe that God the Son assumed a complete human nature without any change to His deity or the exercise of His divine prerogatives. Jesus Christ is the one Mediator between God and man as the One who is God and man. (Jn. 1:1, 1:14; Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 2:9; Lk. 2:52; 1 Tim. 2:5)

We believe that Jesus Christ is our great substitute: in living a life of perfect righteousness; in dying a sacrificial death; and in rising again from death to life. (Mt. 3:15, 5:20; Rom. 5:19; James 2:10; 1 Pt. 3:18 Rom. 4:25).

We believe that after his resurrection, Jesus ascended to heaven to be exalted as everlasting Mediator. (Lk. 24:51; Acts 1:11; Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 7:25)

We believe that through saving faith God imputes the believing sinner with the righteousness of Christ and grants forgiveness of sin, bringing freedom from the bondage of sin and the promise of glorification. (Ephesians 1:4-5; 2:1-10; Mark 10:45; Genesis 15:6; Acts 3:19; Colossians 1:14; Romans 3:21-4:5, 5:8, 6:1-11, 8:29-30)

We believe sanctification is the process of becoming like Christ. This sanctification begins at conversion and is completed in glorification. The believer's pursuit of holiness is by faith and is dependent on grace, grounded in the merits of Christ's righteousness, enabled by the indwelling Spirit who glorifies Christ to us, compelling us to put off sin and put on the righteousness that is necessary for spiritual growth. (2 Cor. 3:17-18; Titus 2:11-14; I Jn. 3:1-3)

We believe that glorification is the final step in the application of redemption, wherein Christ returns and raises the bodies of dead believers unto a new perfected condition of righteousness without sin, fitting these believers to dwell in the presence and glory of God forever. (1 Cor. 15:50-56)

### **Security in Salvation**

We believe that God will keep forever those whom He saves. We believe the eternal security of the believer is an *objective* reality based on the work and promise of God, who grants eternal life. (Jn. 5:24, 6:35-40, 10:27-29; Rom 8:1,16; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

### **Assurance of Salvation**

We believe that every Christian can have personal, *subjective* confidence that he/she has come to possess eternal life. The Holy Spirit supernaturally bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God. He does this with the objective testimony of Scripture and the increasing fruit of righteousness observed in one's own life (1 Jn. 5:9-13; Rom. 8:9-17)

### **Resurrection**

We believe God will finally culminate His work of salvation on the last day as the physical body of each believer (dead and alive) will be raised and transformed into an incorruptible body fit for heaven, and all believers will live forever in the presence and glory of God Almighty. (Rom 8:17; 1 Cor 15:50-52; Phil 3:20-21; 1 John 3:2-3).

### **Church – Universal & Local**

We believe the Church consists of all who place their faith in Jesus Christ, being immediately baptized by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body of which Christ is the head. We believe the Church is God's primary means of managing His affairs with mankind in this present age. (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 12:4-5)

We believe this universal Church is established and propagated through the agency of local churches, and all the members of this one spiritual Body are directed to associate themselves together in various local assemblies that

conform to Scripture. (Acts 14:21-27; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Phil 1:1; Colossians 1:18; Heb 10:23-25).

### **Church—Leadership**

We believe that Christ is the Head of the church and Christ, by the Holy Spirit leads the church objectively through the Scriptures, humanly through qualified elders and deacons, and supernaturally by the personal indwelling and granting of unique spiritual gifts to each believer (Col. 1:18; John 16:12-15; 1 Tim 3:1-15; 1 Cor 12:4-7)

### **Ordinances**

We believe that water baptism and the Lord's Supper were given to the church by the Lord Jesus in order to identify believers with the person and work of Christ. (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 14:22-25; Rom. 6:1-4)

We believe baptism is only to be administered by immersion to any who have trusted in Christ for salvation. (Acts 2:41, 16:30-33)

We believe that the Lord's Supper is the symbolic proclamation of the Lord's saving work to be remembered regularly. ( 1 Corinthians 11:17-34)

### **Church – Purpose**

We believe the primary purpose of the church is to glorify God by gathering corporately to worship God, by singing His praise, by building itself up in the faith, by making disciples through the proclamation of the gospel and the Word, by fellowship with one another, and by keeping the ordinances (Eph 3:21, 4:13-16; Matt 28:19; 2 Tim 3:16-4:2; Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3; Acts 2:38-42; 1 Cor 11:23-26).

### **Return of Christ**

We believe that the personal, bodily return of the Lord Jesus to earth is imminent. Jesus will return at the last day to receive his people, judge his enemies, and establish his kingdom. (1 Thess. 4:13-18; Rev 6-9, 16, 19, 20:1-6)

### **Final Judgment**

We believe that Jesus Christ will resurrect and judge the unsaved dead, and they will be sent to eternal, conscious punishment in the lake of fire (Mat 25:41; Rom 14:10-12; Rev 20:11-15).

### **Eternal Sate**

We believe that ultimately, God will destroy the present heavens and earth and will make a new heaven and a new earth in which all the people of God will dwell joyfully in His glorious presence for eternity (2 Pet 3:10; Rev 21-22).