

CHURCH COVENANT 1

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God,² to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour,³ and on the profession of our faith,⁴ having been baptised in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,⁵ we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.⁶

We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Ghost,⁷ to walk together in Christian love;⁸ to strive for the advancement of this church ⁹ in knowledge,¹⁰ holiness,¹¹ and comfort;¹² to promote its spirituality;¹³ to sustain its worship,¹⁴ ordinances,¹⁵ discipline,¹⁶ and doctrines;¹⁷ to contribute cheerfully and regularly ¹⁸ to the support of the ministry,¹⁹ the expenses of the church,²⁰ the relief of the poor,²¹ and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.²²

We also engage to maintain family ²³ and secret ²⁴ devotions; to religiously educate our children; ²⁵ to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances;²⁶ to walk circumspectly in the world;²⁷ to be just in our dealings,²⁸ faithful in our engagements,²⁹ and exemplary in our deportment;³⁰ to avoid all tattling,³¹ back biting,³² and excessive anger;³³ to abstain from all drug abuse and drunkenness, and to allow ourselves to be controlled by the Spirit of God only;³⁴ and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Saviour.³⁵

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love;³⁶ to remember one another in prayer;³⁷ to aid one another in sickness and distress;³⁸ to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling ³⁹ and Christian courtesy in speech;⁴⁰ to be slow to take offence,⁴¹ but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Saviour to secure it without delay.⁴²

We moreover engage that when we remove 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.⁴³

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| 1. | I I Chronicles 15:12; Numbers 30:2 | 22. | Luke 24:46-48 Acts 1:8 |
| 2. | John 6:63; John 16:7-11, 14 | 23. | Deuteronomy 11:18-20 24.
Matthew 6:6 |
| 3. | John 1:12; I Thessalonians 2:13 | 25. | Ephesians 6:4 |
| 4. | Acts 2:41 Acts 8:36-37 | 26. | Mark 5:19 |
| 5. | Matthew 28:19 | 27. | Matthew 5:16; Ephesians 5:15 |
| 6. | I Corinthians 12: 12-13; Acts 2:42 | 28. | Romans 12:17 29. Ephesians 4:25 30.
Ephesians 5:8 31. Ephesians 4:31;
I Timothy 5:13 |
| 7. | John 14:26; John 16:13 | 32. | II Corinthians 12:20 |
| 8. | Ephesians 5:1-2; I Thessalonians 4:9 | 33. | Ephesians 4:26 34. I Corinthians 6:12;
Ephesians 5:18-35. Acts 8:4 |
| 9. | Ephesians 2:21 | 36. | Romans 12:10;
I Thessalonians 5:14-15 |
| 10. | 2 Peter 3:18 | 37. | Ephesians 6:18; I Thessalonians 5:25 |
| 11. | 2 Corinthians 7:1 | 38. | Galatians 6:10 |
| 12. | I Thessalonians 5:14 | 39. | I Corinthians 12:25-26 40. Titus 3:2 |
| 13. | Jude 20 | 41. | Romans 12:19 |
| 14. | Hebrews 10:25 | 42. | Matthew 5:23-24; Matthew 18:15-18 |
| 15. | Matthew 28:19-20;
I Corinthians 11:24-25 | 43. | Acts 18:27-28; Romans 16:1-2;
I Corinthians 15:58 |
| 16. | Romans 16:17; II Thessalonians 3:6 | | |
| 17. | Acts 2:42; II John 9-11 | | |
| 18. | I Corinthians 16:2 | | |
| 19. | Matthew 10:10 Galatians 6:6 | | |
| 20. | Malachi 3:9-10 | | |
| 21. | Acts 11:29; II Corinthians 8:1-5 | | |

STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Bible

We believe the Bible (all 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament) was written by holy men inspired of God resulting in a book of 1 infallible truth without any admixture or error (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:20-21); that the Bible is the supreme standard by which conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried and is the only authority in matters relating to the faith and life of believers (Isaiah 8:19-20; I Timothy 3:14-15, II Timothy 3:14-15); further, we believe that we must declare our complete trust in the King James Version (1611) as the Divinely preserved Word of God for English speaking people. (Psalms 12:6,7; 138:2; Jeremiah 36)

God

We believe in a Triune God revealed by the Bible to be ruler of all the universe; that He is Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, each Person having His Own attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being. (Genesis 1:1, 26)

The Father is God. (John 6:27; Galatians 1:1).

He is spiritual (John 4:24), eternal (Isaiah 57: 15), 2 omnipotent (Revelation 19:6), 3 immutable (James 1: 17), holy (Leviticus 11:44-45), love (I John 4:8), and truth (John 17:3).

The Son, Jesus Christ, is God, (Titus 2: 13; Hebrews 1:8; I John 5:20)

He was begotten of the Holy Ghost without a human father, (Luke 1:34-35), born of a virgin (Matthew 1: 18-25), truly God and truly man (John 10:30), lived a perfectly sinless life (John 8:46; I Peter 2:22), died a substitutionary, atoning death (Romans 3:25; 5:8; II Corinthians 5:21; I Peter 2:24; 3:18), resurrected the crucified body which consisted of flesh and bones (Luke 24:39-43; I Corinthians 15: 1-4), ascended into Heaven and is seated on the right hand of the Father as the believer's High Priest and Advocate, the only Mediator between God and man. (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:15; 7:25-26; 8:1; I John 2: 1)

The Holy Spirit is God. (Matthew 28:19-20; II Corinthians 13:14)

He, not it, interprets the 4 infallible Word (I Corinthians 2: 12-14; I John 2:20, 27), convinces of sin (John 16:7-11), regenerates (John 3:3-8; Titus 3:5), indwells (Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 6:19), baptises (I Corinthians 12:13), seal (Ephesians 1:13; 4:30), guides (Galatians 5:16-25), teaches (John 14:26; 16:13), fills (Ephesians 5:18), empowers (Acts 1:8), and 5 intercedes for (Romans 8:26) each true believer. Truly our God is incomprehensible.

Man

We believe God made man (male and female) a sinless moral being in His Own image after His likeness (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:7, 25; Ecclesiastes 7:29); that man by voluntary transgression fell from his original sinless state (Genesis 3:1-7; I Timothy 2:14); that consequently, the whole human race was involved making all mankind sinners (Romans 3:23; 5:12-19), depraved in nature, without question inclined to wickedness, void of holiness (Romans 3:9-18; 7:18), subject to the powers of evil (John 8:44; I John 5:19), and totally hopeless; that all mankind without Christ is dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-7), sinners by birth and by choice. (Psalm 51:5; Ecclesiastes 7:20)

1 having no errors, 2 having unlimited power, 3 unchanging, 4 having no errors, 5 intervenes between

Salvation

We believe salvation is wholly by the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-9); that the conditions to salvation are repentance and faith (Acts 20:21); that salvation of the ill-deserving sinner is based upon the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, who became the sinner's substitute before God and the 1 propitiatory sacrifice for the sins of the whole world (I Timothy 1:15; Galatians 2:20; I John 2:2), that since the natural man is dead in trespasses and sins, at 2 enmity against God and blinded by sin and Satan to his true condition, it is only through the operation of the Holy Ghost using the Word of God that man is brought to repentance and faith (I Corinthians 4:3-4; Acts 11:18; Romans 10:17). That nothing prevents the salvation of the worst sinner except his own voluntary refusal to receive Christ as Lord and Saviour (I Timothy 2:1-4; John 5:40), that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel (Romans 1:16; 10:13); that every born-again person is eternally secure in Christ. (Romans 8:28-39)

The Church

We believe the true Church is the Body of Christ consisting of both Jew and Gentile of which He is the living Head (Ephesians 2:11-22; 5:23; Colossians 1:18, 24); that the Body of Christ is manifested in local assemblies of believers, each assembly being independent and 3 autonomous, directed by the Holy Ghost and answerable only to Christ. (Acts 9:31; Romans 16:16; I Corinthians 11:16; Acts 13:1-4)

That the Church has two ordinances:

A) Baptism, which is immersion in water of the believer picturing union with Christ in death, burial, and resurrection (Matthew 28:19-20; Romans 6:3-4)

B) The Lord's Supper, which consists of unleavened bread and unfermented fruit of the vine picturing the Lord's death and the believer's continual fellowship with Him (Deuteronomy 32:14; I Corinthians 11:23-26)

That the ministry of the Church is the evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15; Acts 1:8) and the 4 edification of the believers. (Ephesians 4:12,16)

Last Things

We believe the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to be a literal, bodily, personal return (Acts 1:11); that His coming for His bride, the Church, constitutes the blessed hope of the believer (Philippians 3:20-21; Titus 2:11-13); that His coming for the Church will be 5 pre-tribulational (I Thessalonians 4:13-5:9); that His coming with the church some seven years later will be 6 pre-millennial and 7 inaugurates the one thousand year reign of Christ and the saints on the earth (Revelation 19:11; 20:6); that the souls of those who trust Christ for salvation, at death, go immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the day of resurrection of the righteous dead when soul and body will be reunited to ever be with the Lord (Luke 16:19-22, 26; II Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 1:23); that the souls of those who reject Christ go to a place of conscious misery until the judgement of the great white throne when soul and body will be reunited in resurrection to be arraigned before God in judgement and then cast into the lake of fire which is the second death. (Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15)

1 gaining favour, satisfying the demand, 2 having active hatred, 3 self-governing, 4 to build up, 5 The Church, the Body of Christ, in its entirety, will, by resurrection and translation be removed from the earth before the Tribulation begins, 6 Christ will return to earth before the millennial age, 7 brings about the beginning of

Angels

We believe there is a host of spirit beings called angels which were created by God (John 1:3; Colossians 1:16); that one of the chief of these spirit beings named Lucifer through pride became Satan and the Devil (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-14); that sin as suggested by the Bible began in the heart of this being and in his sin and his further rebellion against God a large number of other spirit beings joined with him (Revelation 12:4, 7-9); that there is now a spiritual warfare being waged between good and evil angels and that the believer has as his enemies these wicked angels and as his ministers these good angels. (Daniel 10:12-13, 20; Ephesians 6:10-12; Hebrews 1:14) That this being, called Satan, is the prince of the power of the air and the god of this world and that he continually walks about seeking whom he may devour (Ephesians 2:2; II Corinthians 4:3-4; I Peter 5:8); that he is the father of lies and a murderer (John 8:44); that he is a defeated foe and the believer need not fear him, yet should be careful not to be ignorant of his devices and should stand against his wiles clothed in the armour of God (Hebrews 2:14-15; James 4:7; II Corinthians 2:11; Ephesians 6:13-18); that Satan and all who follow him have a place prepared for them by God which is said to be one of everlasting fire and punishment. (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20: 10-15)

PRINCIPLES AND POLITY

The Shining Light Independent Baptist Church is a Bible believing, Bible practising church group. There are certain distinctives and certain significant principles and doctrines which distinguish us from other groups. These distinctives are noted in the outline form following:

I) The Supremacy of the Scriptures

- A) Bible - verbally inspired
- B) Bible - final authority in all matters of faith.
- C) New Testament - basically the "Rule of Faith and Practice"

- D) We only accept the King James Bible (1611) as the perfectly preserved word of God for the English language.

II) The Autonomy of the Local Church

(the quality or state of being self-governing)

- A) **A Church** - A called out assembly
- B) **Members** - born-again, baptise believers
- C) **Officers** - pastors, deacons, others
- D) **Polity** - The Local New Testament Church is a theocracy operated on the New Testament principle of **"One Accord"**. (Acts 15:25, I Corinthians 1:10) Our Lord Jesus is the Head; this makes the church a theocracy. We are governed by His will, which is to be prayerfully sought by the members of the church. Decisions are then to be made on the grounds that the duly appointed leadership of the church is of one accord. Where one accord can not be reached, yet a decision must be made, the duly ordained Pastor of the church is to make the decision. (Acts 15:13-19)

- E) Ordinances** - only two: Baptism and the Lord's Supper
- i) Baptism** - immersion in water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- a) Prior requirements** - Salvation
- b) Purpose** - a church ordinance only, it has no saving power
- ii) Lord's Supper**
- a) Elements** - unleavened bread and un-fermented fruit of the vine (grape juice). Deuteronomy 32:14
- b) Message** - a memorial and prophecy
- c) Requirements** - Salvation, baptism, and fellowship at a Local New Testament Church of like Faith.
- d) Purpose** - a church ordinance only, has no saving power
- F) Program**
- i) Evangelization of the world
- ii) Education of the saints
- III) Separation of Church and State**
- A) State has no right to dictate or interfere in the spiritual beliefs of its citizens.
- B) Churches have no right to expect or receive financial subsidy from the State.
- C) This church recognises the Divine authority of government but insists upon the basic principle of separation of Church and State.
- IV) The Liberty of the individual**
- A) The right of every individual to personally approach God apart from human intervention or mediation
- B) Recognising that each individual is responsible for the exercise of this privilege
- C) We emphasise the natural value and rights of the individual as to liberty of conscience. Each individual is obligated to let the Word of God be the regulator of his conscience.
- V) The Spiritual Priesthood of All Believers**
- A) We do not stand for sacramental-ism, sacerdotalism or ritualism.
- B) We hold to a "Royal Priesthood of all Believers" with Christ as our Great High Priest, and every believer given the privilege of access to the Throne and the offering of spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Religious belief emphasising the powers of priests as essential mediators between God and man.