

CONSTITUTION OF THE CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH
of
URBANA, ILLINOIS

PREAMBLE

Receiving by faith the Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation, and believing the Bible to be the divinely inspired, infallible and authoritative Word of God; accepting the historical, distinctive Baptist principles and knowing that all things should be done decently and in order; we, therefore, band ourselves together as a body of immersed believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and hereby adopt the following constitution as our method of labor for the Lord.

ARTICLE I Name

The name of this church is the Calvary Baptist Church of Urbana, Illinois, incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois.

ARTICLE II Purpose

The purpose of this church shall be the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ as a soul saving institution; the administering of the ordinances of the New Testament; the promotion of the spiritual growth of its members, and the evangelization of the world as a Bible believing, missionary minded, evangelistically alive Baptist Church.

ARTICLE III Character

Section 1. Declaration of Faith

- a. We believe that the Bible is God's Word, plenary and verbally inspired, and is the sole authority in all matters of faith and practice. (II Tim. 3:16, II Peter 1:21,22)
- b. We believe in one God, the divine Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit; eternally co-existing, equal in essence and attributes, yet distinct in office and activity. (Matt. 3:16,17, Matt. 28:19,20, John 17:22,23)
- c. We believe in Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God (John 3:16); in His pre-existence (John 1:1), His virgin birth (Matt. 1:23), His incarnation (John 1:14), His sinless life (II Cor. 5:21), His miracles (John 2, Matt. 8), His substitutionary atoning death on the cross (I Tim. 2:6), His bodily resurrection from the grave (I Cor. 15:20), His high-priestly work in heaven (Heb. 7:25), and His personal, visible, glorious imminent return to earth to set up His kingdom. (John 14:3, Acts 1:10,11, Rev. 19)
- d. We believe in the Holy Spirit; the third person of the Godhead, who convinces the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, and regenerates, leads, comforts, enlightens and sanctifies believers. (John 14:26, John 16:7-11, 13)

- e. We believe that God originally created all things, not by evolutionary processes, but directly and immediately, and that He sustains and guides all things to their predetermined end. (Gen 1:1, John 1)
- f. We believe that man was made in the image of God (Gen. 1:16), originally sinless and pure, and sinned in Adam as the natural head of the race (Rom. 5:12), and is now sinful by nature and by choice, and is in need of salvation (Rom 3:10-12, 23, Rom. 5).
- g. We believe in salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ apart from human works or ceremonies. (Eph. 2:8,9, Titus 3:5)
- h. We believe that the Universal Church is a spiritual body of which He is the Head, and of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that the local church is a company of believers in the Lord Jesus Christ; immersed on a credible confession of faith and voluntarily associated for worship, work and fellowship. (I Cor. 12:13, Eph. 5:22-33, Acts 2:41-47)
- i. We believe that the ordinances of the church are only two in number, baptism being the immersion of the believer in water in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, thus symbolizing the believer's previous experience of regeneration through faith, and his union in death, burial and resurrection of Christ as set forth in Romans 6:3-11. The Lord's Supper instituted by Christ being a memorial of His atoning sacrifice. (Matt. 28:19,20, Rom. 6:3,4, I Cor. 11:23 ff.)
- j. We believe that the local church is independent and autonomous and must be free from the interference of any ecclesiastical or political authority and that therefore Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions. (Acts 2:41-47, Acts 6, Mk. 12:17)
- k. We believe in the resurrection of the body: the existence of all men, either in Heaven or Hell, in divine judgment, in rewards or punishments and in the certain fulfillment of all Bible prophecies. (I Cor. 15, Rev. 20:11-15, II Cor. 5:8-10, Rev. 22:12)
- l. We believe that we should be earnestly contending for the faith, once and for all delivered unto the saints, and that we should preach the Word, being urgent in season, out of season, reproving, exhorting, with all long-suffering and doctrine. (II Tim. 4:2 ff., Jude 3)

Section 2. Covenant

The covenant by which this church exists as a distinct body and which every member accepts, is as follows:

Having been led by the Holy Spirit to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and on the public confession of our faith, having been immersed in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God and this assembly, solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another, as one body in Christ.