

PART 17 - FOUNDATIONS

17.1 The following provisions under this Part were previously unalterable and shall not be altered except by resolution of the Board of Elders sanctioned by a resolution passed at a general meeting by 75% of the votes cast by the voting members present at the meeting.

17.2 This Church shall be affiliated with the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada and shall be autonomous in its own right.

17.3 Statement of Faith

A. ABOUT GOD

God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe. He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and are one God. (Genesis 1 – 2; John 1:1-3; Leviticus 19:2; Jeremiah 23;24; 1 Peter 1:2)

B. ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

Jesus Christ is the Son of God. He is co-equal with the Father. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of all people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. It is through Christ alone that we are redeemed and is it to Christ alone that we give ourselves eternally. (Matthew 1:18-23; Romans 5:6-8; Romans 5:18)

C. ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son of God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians, we seek to live under His guidance daily. (John 16:7-13; 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12; 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 1:13; 5:18)

D. ABOUT THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to us. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is authoritative for us in all areas of life. (Psalm 119:105; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

E. ABOUT HUMANITY

Humanity is the pinnacle of God's creation, and we have been created spiritually in His image, to be like Him in character. Out of God's entire creation, humans alone possess a spirit that will live beyond this temporal life. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called "sin". This attitude, and its corresponding behavior, separates people from God and His holiness and results in physical and spiritual death. (Psalm 8, Ecclesiastes 12:7; Romans 3:23; 5:12-14, 18)

F. ABOUT MARRIAGE

Marriage is a publicly recognized covenanting together for life, between a woman and a man who live together in a relationship, characterized by truth and fidelity, and for the purpose of lifelong companionship, mutual interdependence and responsibility for each other, and potential procreation. It is symbolic of God's relationship to His people and Jesus Christ's relationship to His church. (Genesis 2:22-24; Matthew 19:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33, Hebrew 13:4)

G. ABOUT SATAN

Satan is a completely evil fallen angel who is hostile to God and bent on thwarting His purposes. Satan actively works to deceive and blind people to the truth, to tempt people to sin, and to accuse those who follow Christ. His power, however, is subordinate to the authority that is vested in Christ through His incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension. Christ has dominion over all of creation; nothing thwarts the purposes of God. Satan's final judgement and annihilation will come when Christ returns and completes His work of redemption with the consummation of His Kingdom. On that day, all evil will be judged and extinguished. (Romans 8:28; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Ephesians 6:11-12; Colossians 2:13-15; 2 Timothy 2:26; Hebrews 2:14-15; James 4:7-8; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 5:19; Revelation 2:10; Revelation 12:7-12; Revelation 20:1-15; Revelation 21)

H. ABOUT SALVATION

Though it cost Him the life of His Son, salvation is God's free gift to us – but we must accept this gift to make it our own. Forgiveness is an individual matter that must take place between every individual and God, their Creator. It is attained in no way through anything we can say or do, but rather by acknowledging one's sinfulness and accepting by faith alone God's offer of forgiveness. When we make this decision to turn from our self-ruled life to a new life that is ruled by Jesus Christ, we are saved. This decision on our part brings to us God's promise of eternal life with Him, adoption into His family, the indwelling of His Spirit, and the guarantee that the believer shall never perish. (John 3:16; 14-6; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 2:8-9)

I. ABOUT THE CHURCH

Everyone who has accepted God's gift of salvation to them makes up the Church of Jesus Christ. This group, the Holy Spirit and Word of God, are the primary means God uses to accomplish His mission. Every believer is gifted by the Holy Spirit to perform specific functions within the church, and is called to be a minister on Christ's behalf, and exercise their unique function within the body. There is no "class" structure within God's church – everyone shares the same standing on account of their faith in Jesus Christ though their different giftedness leads to a different role or function. The Head of the church is Christ Himself. He is the High Priest and Lord of those who take His name.

The primary function of the church is to be the people of God in the world, to demonstrate to the world what it looks like for a people to live together under the authority of Jesus Christ, and to make disciples. (Matthew 28:18-20; John 4:23-24; 1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Peter 2:9-12)



J. ABOUT ETERNITY

People were created by God to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by our sin or eternally with God through His forgiveness by faith in Jesus Christ. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in fellowship with Him is Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. (John 3:16; John 14:17; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15)

K. ORDINANCES

Jesus Christ has instituted the ordinances of believers' baptism and the Lord's Supper. These are to be actively practiced, but not to be regarded as a means of salvation. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

Excerpt from Bylaws of New Life Community Baptist Church
(revised version November 2017)