

ARTICLE III - STATEMENT OF FAITH
taken from Lazy Mountain Bible Church Constitution

1. *THE HOLY SCRIPTURES*

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are verbally inspired of God and completely inerrant in the original writings, and are the supreme and final authority for faith and life. (II Tim. 3:16,17; II Peter 1:20, 21)

2. *THE GODHEAD*

We believe in the one Holy, Almighty God, eternally existing in three co-equal Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deut. 6:4; John 10:30, 14:16-18; Matt. 3:16,17)

3. *SATAN*

We believe that Satan is a personal being, the enemy of God; and the author of sin and rebellion; the deceiver, corrupter and destroyer of men; who is justly condemned to be cast into the lake of fire forever. (Isa. 14:12-17; Eph. 6:10-16; I Pet. 5:8; John 8:44; II Cor. 11:13,14; Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:1-10)

4. *THE DEPRAVITY OF MAN*

We believe that man was originally created by God in His own image, but that he voluntarily sinned against God, resulting in physical decay, spiritual death, and a soul independent of God's laws. Therefore, mankind is born with a sinful nature and is guilty, incurring God's penalty which is eternal damnation. (Gen. 1:26, 27, 2:17; Rom. 5:12,19, 6:23, 3:19; Eph. 2:1-3; John 3:36)

5. *SALVATION FOR MAN*

We believe that lost mankind can only receive spiritual life as a gift of God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ. His shed blood is the basis for our forgiveness and freedom from sin's penalty, making possible our spiritual birth into the family of God by the Holy Spirit, who gives us God's life in our spirits. (John 3:16,36; Eph. 2:5-9; Rom. 3:21-26; John 1:12,13, 10:28; Rom. 8:15,16; Titus 3:5)

We believe that all who are born of the Holy Spirit are united with the Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. This relationship makes available to each of sin, our sin nature, the world, and Satan. (Rom. 6:1-14, 8:11-13; Col. 2:9-13; Eph. 1:17-21, 6:10-18; I Cor. 10:13, 12:13; I John 2:15-17, 5:3-5)

We believe that the bodies of all believers, living or dead, shall be changed at the coming of Christ to be eternally free from death and the presence and bondage of sin. Unbelievers will be resurrected to final judgment, and will continue in everlasting conscious punishment in the lake of fire. (John 5:28,29; Matt. 25:46; I Cor. 15:51-57; Rev. 20:4-6, 11-15)

6. *GOD THE FATHER*

We believe that salvation is an action by God which is rooted in the will, power, and glory of God the Father. The Father has initiated the salvation of all who will be saved by

choosing us for Himself before creation, and drawing us to the Son by His grace, bringing many sons into glory. For those who thus trust in Christ, the Father has willed eternal safekeeping and fruit for His praise. Our relationship to the Father is now that of children in His family. Our purpose is to worship the Father and glorify Him by serving Jesus Christ. The Father's plan and ultimate purpose is that He will be glorified by all creation through out eternity. (Eph. 1:13-14; John 6:37, 44; Heb. 2:10; John 6:39-40; 15:8,16; Rom. 8:15-17; John 4:23, 24, 12:24-26; I Cor 15:24-28; Phil. 2:11; Rev. 5:13)

7. *GOD THE SON*

We believe that Jesus Christ, being truly God and co-equal with the Father, was begotten of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, becoming truly man. The Lord Jesus lived sinlessly on this earth and gave to fallen man a visible representation of the invisible God. He was crucified for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are declared to be righteous on the basis of His shed blood. (John 1:1-3, 14, 10:30; Luke 1:26-28; Heb. 4:15; Col. 1:15; I Cor 15:3; Rom. 3:21-26, 5:9)

8. *GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT*

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the agent of God's salvation, bringing conviction to men and illuminating them to an understanding of the Gospel. He regenerates those who believe in Christ, imparting to them a new divine nature, making them sons in the family of God. Simultaneous to this new birth, the Holy Spirit permanently indwells every believer, sealing him until the day of his final redemption. He also baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ, equipping them with spiritual gifts for mutual edification. The abiding presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit is the basis for His continuing work in the believer's life, as He desires to control, guide, and teach the believer, producing the fruit of the Spirit and good works. (John 16:8-13; Titus 3:5-8; John 3:5-6,16; II Cor. 5:17; II Pet. 1:14; Rom. 8:9,14,17; I Cor. 6:19; Eph. 4:30; I Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 1:3; John 14:16,17; Eph. 5:18; Gal. 5:16, 22-23)

9. *THE CHURCH*

We believe that the universal Church consists of all believers from Pentecost to the return of Christ. Christ is the Head of the Church, which is His Body and espoused Bride. We also believe that a local church is made up of fellowshipping believers in a particular place. The establishment and order of local churches is defined and taught in the New Testament Scriptures. (Eph. 1:22-23, 4:1-6, 5:22-32; Heb. 10:24-25; I Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11)

10. *OUR COMMISSION*

We believe that those who have never heard or believed the Gospel are lost and guilty, and that it is therefore our divine commission to preach to people everywhere their need to repent of sin and believe in Jesus Christ for salvation. (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8; II Cor. 5:10-21; Rom. 1:18-19, 10:9-17)