

ARTICLES OF FAITH¹
of Exeter Chapel

ARTICLE 1 – GOD

We believe that there is only one living and true God, Creator of heaven and earth; that he possesses all possible perfections and each in an infinite degree; and that he exists eternally in three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the same in essence and equal in every divine perfection.

Exodus 20:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:9; Genesis 1:1; Exodus 15:11; John 10:30; Matthew 28:19

ARTICLE 2 – CHRIST: HIS PERSON

We believe that the Son, who is the Word of the Father, the true and eternal God, took man's nature of the virgin Mary, so that two whole and perfect natures, the Godhead and manhood, were joined together in one person; thus Christ is true God and true man. As to his manhood, he was in every respect like us, except without sin.

John 1:1, 14; Philippians 2:6-8; Matthew 1:23; Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 4:15

ARTICLE 3 – CHRIST: HIS WORK

We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ truly suffered, died, and was buried to be a sacrifice both for original sin and for the actual sins of man, thereby reconciling us to the Father. On the third day he rose again bodily from the dead; he ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God, where he ever lives to make intercession for the redeemed.

1 Corinthians 15:3, 4; Romans 5:18, 19; Isaiah 53:4-6; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Acts 2:32, 33 Hebrews 7:25

ARTICLE 4 – HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, was sent by the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; to effect the new birth; to baptize all believers into the body of Christ; to indwell them permanently; and to lead them into all the truth.

John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-11, 13; John 3:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Romans 8:9

ARTICLE 5 – THE SCRIPTURES

We believe that the Holy Scriptures are the inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word of God, whose teaching, whether on matters of faith, history, or nature, is to be regarded as true without any mixture of error. The Scriptures contain all things necessary to salvation, so that whatever is not found therein and cannot be proved thereby is neither to be required as an article of faith nor regarded as necessary to salvation.

2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:21; John 10:35; Revelation 22:18, 19

ARTICLE 6 – MAN

We believe that man was created in the image of God in a holy and happy state; but by his disobedience to the law of his Creator, he not only exposed himself to personal misery, but involved all his descendants in the temporal and eternal consequences of sin. As an effect of his fall, the whole human race possesses a depraved nature, by which men are prone to choose and delight in evil and disinclined to things morally good.

Genesis 1:27, 31; 3:1-24; Romans 3:10-18, 23; 5:12; 6:23; 8:7; Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Ephesians 2:1-3

ARTICLE 7 – MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

We believe that God made man, male and female, two equal but distinct and complementary sexes. God created marriage to be an exclusive, lifelong covenant between one man and one woman, representing the spiritual union between Jesus Christ and his church and the only permissible context for sexual relations. God designed the family as the foundational institution of human society, composed of persons related to each other by marriage, blood, or adoption. Children are a gift from the Lord, and all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception to natural death.

¹ These Articles of Faith are not exhaustive. Exeter Chapel acknowledges the Holy Scriptures as our supreme authority in all matters of belief and practice. Questions concerning the mission or faith of Exeter Chapel should be directed to the Elders.

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:18, 24-25; Proverbs 2:17; Malachi 2:14; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4; Psalm 127:3-5; Ephesians 6:1-4; Psalm 139:13-16

ARTICLE 8 – SALVATION

We believe that the only way of salvation from man's state of guilt and condemnation is through the righteousness and atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is now exalted at God's hand as Prince and Savior, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins. Salvation is by grace through faith, apart from any human merit or works, so that whoever believes in Christ shall not perish but have everlasting life.

Acts 4:12; 5:31; Romans 3:21-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 2:8, 9; John 3:16

ARTICLE 9 – PERSEVERANCE

We believe that Christ died for our sins and rose again for our justification; and we have the fullest assurance that those who are truly born of the Spirit and believe in Christ shall never be lost, and that those who die in the Lord shall rise again to a glorious immortality. Therefore, it is the duty of all believers to give all diligence to make their calling and election sure by sincere and loving obedience to the commands and teachings of God's Word.

Romans 4:25; John 6:39; 10:28, 29; Philippians 1:6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 2 Peter 1:10,11

ARTICLE 10 – THE FUTURE

We believe that Christ will come a second time, personally and visibly, with power and great glory, and that there will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust. The just will be raised incorruptible and, together with the righteous living, changed in a moment, shall be rewarded according to the deeds done in the body and received into Christ's kingdom and glory; and so shall they ever be with the Lord. The unjust shall awake to shame and everlasting condemnation.

Hebrews 9:28; Acts 1:11; Matthew 16:27; Acts 24:15; 1 Corinthians 15:51, 52; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17; Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:46; 2 Thessalonians 1:9

ARTICLE 11 – THE LORD'S DAY

We believe that the first day of the week, called the Lord's Day, ought to be kept holy; and that it is our duty to assemble on that day and worship God in a public manner, by offering up our prayers and thanksgiving, by giving attention to the preaching of the Word, and by observing the ordinances of the church.

Exodus 20:8-11; John 20:1, 19, 26; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1, 2; Hebrews 10:25; Revelation 1:10

ARTICLE 12 – THE ORDINANCES

We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ to be continued until his second coming. Only those who have professed their faith in Christ have a Scriptural right to baptism; and this ordinance is to be administered by immersion only, signifying our union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic remembrance of Christ's broken body and of his shed blood.

Matthew 28:19; John 3:23; Acts 2:38, 41; 8:36-39; Romans 6:3, 4; Luke 22:19, 20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

ARTICLE 13 – THE CHURCH

We believe that the church is the spiritual body of Christ, of which he is the head, composed of all true believers in our Lord Jesus Christ. This body is expressed on earth in local congregations of believers, united together for worship, for mutual edification, and for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. Officers of the local church are pastors (or bishops or elders) and deacons, whose qualifications and duties are clearly set forth in the letters of the New Testament.

Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:41, 42; Hebrews 10:25; Matthew 28:18-20; Philippians 1:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-13