



RUGGLES

BAPTIST CHURCH

EST. 1870

Statement of Faith

The Apostles Creed and the New Hampshire
Confession of Faith of 1833/55

*Inviting Boston and beyond into a life-changing
relationship with Christ and his church*

TOGETHER WITH THE CHURCH IN ALL AGES:

We believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;

Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

Born of the virgin Mary,

Suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, dead and buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day, He rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven,

And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting.

Amen.

FURTHERMORE:

I. Of the Scriptures

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by people divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction;¹ that it has God for its author, salvation for its end,² and truth without any mixture of error for its matter;³ that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us;⁴ and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian unity,⁵ and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and opinions should be tried.⁶ All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.⁷

¹ 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21; Acts 1:16; 3:21; John 10:35; Psa. 119:11

² 2 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 1:10-12; Acts 11:14

³ Prov. 30:5-6; John 17:17; Rev. 22:18-19; Rom. 3:4

⁴ Rom. 2:12; John 12:47-48; 1 Cor. 4:3-4

⁵ Phil. 3:16; 1 John 4:6; Eph. 4:3-6; 1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 4:11

⁶ 1 John 4:1; Isa. 8:19-20; 1 Thess. 5:21; 2 Cor. 8:5; Acts 17:11; Psa. 119:59-60

⁷ John 5:38-39; Heb. 1:1-2; Rom. 16:25-26; Luke 24:44-46; Matt. 5:17-18

II. Of the True God

We believe that there is one, and only one, living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Yahweh, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of heaven and earth;¹ inexpressibly glorious in holiness,² and worthy of all possible honor, confidence, and love;³ that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;⁴ equal in every divine perfection,⁵ and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.⁶

¹ John 4:24; Psa. 147:5; 83:18; Heb. 3:4; Rom. 1:20; Jer. 10:10

² Exod. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:15-16; Rev. 4:6-8

³ Mark 12:30; Rev. 4:11; Matt. 10:37; Jer. 2:12-13

⁴ Matt. 28:19; John 15:26; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 1 John 5:7

⁵ John 10:30; 5:17; 14:23; 17:5, 10; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 2:10-11; Phil. 2:5-6

⁶ Eph. 2:18; 2 Cor. 13:14; Rev. 1:4-5; Rom. 1:1-4

III. Of the Fall of Humanity

We believe that humanity, male and female, was created in holiness, under the law of our Maker;¹ but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state;² in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners,³ not by constraint but choice;⁴ being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin,⁵ without defense or excuse.⁶

¹ Gen. 1:27, 31; Eccl. 7:29; Acts 16:26; Gen. 2:16

² Gen. 3:6-24; Rom. 5:12

³ Rom. 5:19; John 3:6; Psa. 51:5; Rom. 5:15-19; 8:7

⁴ Isa. 53:6; Gen. 6:12; Rom. 3:9-18

⁵ Eph. 2:1-3; Rom. 1:18, 32; 2:1-16; Gal. 3:10; Matt. 20:15; James 2:10; Rev. 20:11-15

⁶ Ezek. 18:19-20; Rom. 1:20; 3:19; Gal. 3:22

IV. Of the Way of Salvation

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace¹; through the mediatorial offices of the Son of God²; who by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin³; honored the divine law by his personal obedience⁴, and by his death made a full atonement for our sins⁵; that having risen from the dead⁶ he is now enthroned in heaven⁷; and uniting in his wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, he is the only one able to be a suitable, compassionate, and all-sufficient Savior.⁸

¹ Eph. 2:5; 1 John 4:10; 1 Cor. 3:5-7; Acts 15:11

² John 1:1-14; 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:5, Heb. 4:14; 12:24

³ Phil. 2:6-7; Heb. 2:9, 14-15, 2 Cor. 5:21

⁴ Phil. 2:8; Gal. 4:4-5; Rom. 5:19

⁵ Isa. 53:4-5; Matt. 20:28; Rom. 4:25; 3:21-26; 1 John 4:10; 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Heb. 9:13-15

⁶ Matt. 28:1-8; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-10; John 20:19-20; 1 Cor. 15:20

⁷ Heb. 1:3, 8; 8:1; Col. 3:1-4

⁸ Heb. 7:25; Col. 2:9; Heb. 2:18; 7:26

V. Of Justification

We believe that the great gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification¹; that justification includes the pardon of sin², and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness³; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood⁴; by virtue of which faith His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God⁵; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.⁶

¹ Acts 13:39; Rom. 3:28; 8:1

² Rom. 5:9; Zech. 13:1; Matt. 9:6; Acts 10:43

³ Rom. 5:17; Titus 3:5-6; 1 Pet. 3:18, 1 John 2:25; Rom. 5:21

⁴ Rom. 4:4-5; 5:21; 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9, Phil. 3:7-9

⁵ Rom. 5:19; 3:24-26; 4:23-25; 1 John 2:12

⁶ Rom. 5:1-3, 11; 1 Cor. 1:30-31; Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 4:8

VI. Of the Freeness of Salvation

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the gospel¹; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a sincere, penitent, and obedient faith²; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, but one's own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of God³; which rejection results in one's condemnation.⁴

¹ Isa. 55:1; Rev. 22:17; Luke 14:17

² Rom. 1:15-17; 16:26; Mark 1:15

³ John 5:40; Matt. 23:37; Rom. 9:32; Prov. 1:24; Acts 13:46

⁴ John 3:19; Matt. 11:20; Luke 19:27; 2 Thess. 1:8

VII. Of Grace in Regeneration

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again;¹ that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind and heart;² that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth,³ so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel;⁴ and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.⁵

¹ John 3:3-8; I Pet. 1:3, 23;

² Deut. 30:6; Ezek. 36:26; 2 Cor. 4:6, 5:17; Rom. 2:28-29

³ John 1:13, 3:8; Rom. 5:5, 8:16; James 1:18; Phil. 2:13

⁴ Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:5-10; 1 Pet. 1:22-25; 1 John 5:1-5

⁵ Matt. 3:8-10, 7:20; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph 5:8-9; 1 John 5:4, 18

VIII. Of Repentance and Faith

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties, and also inseparable graces, wrought in our souls by the regenerating Spirit of God;¹ whereby, being deeply convinced of our guilt, danger, and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ,² we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession, and supplication for mercy;³ at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King, and relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.⁴

¹ Mark 1:15; John 3:5-7; Acts 11:18; Eph. 2:8-10; Titus 3:5-6

² John 14:6-7, 16:8; Acts 2:37-38; Rom. 3:20-24

³ Psa. 51; Luke 15:18-21, 18:13; James 4:7-10; 1 John 1:8-10

⁴ Psa. 2:6; Acts 3:22-23, 4:12; Rom. 10:9-11; Heb. 4:14; 2 Tim. 1:12

IX. Of God's Purpose of Grace

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies, and saves sinners;¹ that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of the human will, it includes all the means in connection with, and necessary for, the salvation of sinners;² that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy, and unchangeable;³ that it utterly excludes boasting, and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy;⁴ that it encourages the practice of evangelism in the highest degree;⁵ that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the gospel;⁶ that it is the foundation of Christian assurance;⁷ and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.⁸

¹ John 15:15; Rom. 11:5-6; Eph. 1:3-14; 2 Tim. 1:8-9; 1 Pet. 1:1-2; 1 John 4:19

² Isa. 55:1; Matt. 11:28-29; John 7:37

³ Exod. 33:18-19; 1 Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6; Eph. 1:11; Rom. 11:32-36

⁴ John 15:16; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Rom. 3:27; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 2:12; 1 Pet. 5:10

⁵ 1 Cor. 9:22; Rom. 8:28-29; 2 Tim. 2:10; 2 Pet. 1:10

⁶ 1 Thess. 1:4-10

⁷ Rom. 8:28-30; 1 John 3:1-3, 19-24

⁸ Phil. 3:12; Heb. 6:11; 2 Pet. 1:10-11

X. Of Sanctification

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of his holiness;¹ that it is a progressive work;² that it is begun in regeneration;³ and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means of grace—especially, the Word of God, corporate worship and fellowship, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness, and prayer.⁴

¹ 1 Thess. 4:3; 5:23; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Cor. 7:1; Eph. 1:4

² Prov. 4:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; Heb. 6:1; 2 Pet. 1:5-8; Phil. 3:12-16

³ 1 John 2:29; Rom. 8:5; John 3:6; Phil. 1:9-11; Eph. 1:13-14

⁴ Phil. 2:12-13; Eph. 4:11-12; 1 Pet. 2:2; 2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 13:5; Luke 11:35; 9:23; Matt. 26:41; Eph. 6:18; 4:30

XI. Of the Perseverance of Saints

We believe that such only are genuine believers as endure unto the end;¹ that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from those who fall away;² that a special providence watches over their welfare;³ and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.⁴

¹ John 8:31; 1 John 2:27-28; 3:9; 5:18

² 1 John 2:19; John 13:18; Matt. 13:20-21; John 6:66-69; Job 17:9

³ Rom. 8:28; Matt. 6:30-33; Jer. 32:40;

⁴ Phil. 1:6; 2:12-13; Jude 24-25; Heb. 13:5; 1 John 4:4

XII. Of The Harmony of the Law and the Gospel

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral governance¹; that it is holy, just, and good²; and that the inability which the Scriptures ascribe to fallen people to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin³; to deliver them from which, and to restore them through a Mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.⁴

¹ Matt. 5:17-18; Luke 16:17; Rom. 3:31; 1 Pet. 1:25

² Psa. 12:6; 19:7-11; Rom. 7:12

³ John 3:19; Rom 3:23

⁴ Rom. 3:24; 8:2-4; Heb. 8:10; Jude 20-21;

XIII. Of A Gospel Church

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers¹, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel²; observing the ordinances of Christ³; governed by His laws⁴; and exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His word⁵; that its only scriptural officers are overseers/elders/pastors and deacons⁶, whose qualifications, claims, and duties are defined in the epistles to Timothy and Titus.

¹ 1 Cor. 1:1-13; 12:13; Matt. 18:17; Acts 2:41-42; 5:11; 8:1

² Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 5:12-13

³ Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:41; 1 Cor. 11:23-26

⁴ Matt. 28:20; John 14:15; 15:12; 1 John 4:21; John 14:21; 2 John 6

⁵ Eph. 4:7, 11-13; 1 Cor. 14:12

⁶ Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 15:22; 20:28; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:6-9

XIV. Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer,¹ into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Spirit;² to show forth in a solemn and beautiful symbol, our faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life;³ that it is pre-requisite to the privileges of church membership; and we believe that the Lord's Supper⁴ is that in which believers by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ;⁵ preceded always by solemn self-examination.⁶

¹ Acts 8:36-39; Matt. 3:5-6; John 3:22-23; 4:1-2; Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:12; 16:32-34; 18:8

² Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47-48; Gal. 3:27-28

³ Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; 1 Pet. 3:20-21; Acts 22:16

⁴ Acts 2:41-42; Matt. 28:19-20

⁵ 1 Cor. 11:26; Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20

⁶ 1 Cor. 11:28; 5:1, 8; 10:3-32; 11:17-32; John 6:26-71

XV. Of the Lord's Day

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, commemorating the resurrection of Christ from the dead;¹ that it is the day on which we devoutly observe all the means of grace, both private² and public.³

¹ Matt. 28:1; Mark 16:1; Luke 24:1; John 20:1, 19; Acts 20:7; Col. 2:16-17;

1 Cor. 16:1-2

² Psa. 119:15

³ Heb. 10:24-25; Acts 11:26, 13:44; Luke 4:16; Psa. 26:8; 87:3

XVI. Of Civil Government

We believe that civil government is of divine appointment, for the interests and good order of human society¹; and that government leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed²; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ³, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.⁴

¹ Rom. 13:1-7; Deut. 16:18; Jer. 30:21

² Matt. 22:21; Titus 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:13; 1 Tim. 2:1-8

³ Matt. 10:28; Dan. 3:15-18; 6:7-10; Acts 4:18-20; 5:29

⁴ Matt. 23:10; Rom. 14:4; Rev. 19:16; Psa. 72:11; Psa. 2:1-12; Rom. 14:9-13

XVII. Of The Righteous and the Wicked

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked¹; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in His esteem²; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse of sin³; and this distinction holds among people both in and after death.⁴

¹ Mal. 3:18; Prov. 12:26; Isa. 5:20; Gen. 18:23; Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 6:16

² Rom. 1:17; 7:6; 1 John 2:29; 3:7; Rom. 6:18, 22; 1 Cor. 11:32; Prov. 11:31; 1 Pet. 4:17-18

³ 1 John 5:19; Gal. 3:10; John 3:36; Isa. 57:21; Psa. 10:4; Isa 55:6-7

⁴ Prov. 14:32; Luke 16:25; John 8:21-24; Prov. 10:24; Luke 12:4-5; 9:23-26; John 12:25-26; Eccl. 3:17; Matt. 7:13

XVIII. Of The World to Come

We believe that the end of the world is approaching¹; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven², and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution³; that a solemn separation will then take place⁴; that the wicked will be adjudged to eternal punishment, and the righteous to eternal joy⁵; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of people in heaven or hell.⁶

¹ 1 Pet. 4:7; 1 Cor. 7:29-31; Heb. 1:10-12; Matt. 24:35; 1 John 2:17; Matt. 28:20; 13:39-40; 2 Pet. 3:3-13

² Acts 1:11; Rev. 1:7; Heb. 9:28; Acts 3:21; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 5:1-11

³ Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15:12-59; Luke 14:14; Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; 6:40; 11:25-26; 2 Tim. 1:10; Acts 10:42

⁴ Matt. 13:49, 37-43; 24:30-31; 25:31-33

⁵ Matt. 25:35-41; Rev. 22:11; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Mark 9:43-48; 2 Pet. 2:9; Jude 7; Phil. 3:19; Rom. 6:32; 2 Cor. 5:10-11; John 4:36; 2 Cor. 4:18

⁶ Rom. 3:5-6; 2 Thess. 1:6-12; Heb. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 4:5; Acts 17:31; Rom. 2:2-16; Rev. 20:11-12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17