

Articles of Faith



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Christ Gospel Churches International, Inc.

Articles of Faith

Acceptance of the following statements of faith forms a simple basis for making application to join in fellowship with Christ Gospel Churches International, Inc.

The purpose for stating these articles is to establish an explanation of the fundamental doctrines of Christ Gospel Churches International, Inc., so that all people can understand what we, as an organization, hold to be right and true according to God's Holy Word.

We maintain that the Bible is the sole basis for our faith and doctrines since its Truth is all-sufficient for mankind.

I. The Scriptures Were Written under the Divine Inspiration of Almighty God.

We believe that the Holy Bible is the inspired Word of God, which has been given to man to reveal God's eternal Master Plan and Purposive Will for all creation. We believe the Bible is infallible, authoritative, and that it provides the rules of faith and conduct for all Christian living. God's Word is all-sufficient and meets mankind's every need, both spiritually and naturally (II Timothy 3:16,17; I Thessalonians 2:13; II Peter 1:21).

II. The One and Only True God Reveals Himself in Three Manifestations: the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Ghost.

There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), and out of this one Fountainhead flows a threefold stream of revelation called the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost (I John 5:7; John 1:1,2; Isaiah 48:16,17; John 10:30).

III. Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, Had a Specially Prepared Body of Flesh in Order to Redeem Mankind.

As the firstborn of every creature, Jesus Christ existed in Eternity-past (Colossians 1:15-19). Then, Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary in present time (Luke 1:27-35), which was the fulfillment of Isaiah's Prophecy in the Old Testament (Isaiah 7:14). At the end of Jesus Christ's three-and-one-half years of Ministry on Earth, during which time He went about doing good, healing all that were oppressed, raising the dead, and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, Jesus Christ was delivered up to be crucified, not because He ever had sinned, but because He determinedly died for the sins of the whole world. On the third day, Jesus Christ was raised from the dead by the Glory of the Father (Acts 10:38-40; Romans 1:3,4; 6:4). He ever lives at God's Right Hand to make intercession for mankind (Hebrews 7:25; Acts 7:56).

IV. Salvation Is Wrought Through the Shed Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ.

All human beings are born sinners. Sin entered the world through the disobedience of mankind. Before they sinned, these disobedient creatures were known as Adam-male and Adam-female (Genesis 5:2; Romans 5:12).

Every person is a sinner by birth and by deed (Romans 3:23; Romans 3:10; Isaiah 53:6; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Psalm 51:5; Psalm 58:3). Because God says in His Word that the penalty for sin is eternal Death in Hell and the Lake of Fire (Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:12-15), all men are in need of a Saviour and the experience of Salvation through the shed Blood of Jesus Christ, God's spotless Lamb (Hebrews 9:22; Matthew 26:28; John 3:17,18).

Salvation is received through confession and repentance of one's sins (Romans 10:8,9) and through believing on the LORD Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8). Salvation is not earned by man's

good works; it is a Gift from God, which man receives by having faith in the shed Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ, Who died in man's place on Calvary's Cross (Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

The evidence of Salvation is the outward demonstration of the inward Working of God's Grace in the heart, which produces a separated, godly, holy life (Titus 2:12).

V. Water Baptism Is a Commandment which Every Believer Should Obey.

Those who confess faith in the LORD Jesus Christ are commanded to be baptized in water in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38; 8:12; 9:18; 19:5; Matthew 28:19,20).

VI. The Infilling of the Holy Ghost Is Evidenced by Speaking in Tongues.

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is promised to all believers (Acts 2:38). The evidence that a believer has been baptized in the Holy Ghost is that he will experience speaking in a tongue not studied or learned. The Holy Ghost language is given to the believer for the purpose of his praying and praising God more perfectly (Acts 2:4,11).

After the believer's initial experience of receiving the Holy Ghost, he has many infillings of the Spirit. The Holy Ghost is a Gift from God to help the believer in his spiritual growth (Acts 8:17).

VII. Believers Are Commanded to Grow Spiritually, and They Are Rewarded for the Degree of Spiritual Growth They Have Attained While on Earth.

God has commanded that believers grow in Grace and Knowledge of the LORD Jesus Christ (I Peter 2:1,2; II Peter 3:18). God's Word commands that the believer grow unto the measure of the Stature of the Fullness of Jesus Christ or unto full spiritual maturity (Ephesians 4:13,14).

A. God's Pattern for Spiritual Growth Is Found in the Mosaic Tabernacle.

The Old Testament Tabernacle is a picture of the Stature of Jesus Christ; hence, it is a pattern for all believers to follow as they seek to grow to full spiritual maturity (Hebrews 9:8-11; Ephesians 2:19-22).

There are three separate and distinct degrees or attainments of growth revealed in the Bible.

The Mosaic Tabernacle is a picture of the Spiritual Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ. And the three classes or degrees of growth the believer will experience as he grows in Christ's Stature are pictured by the three divisions in the Old Testament Tabernacle: the Courtyard, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies.

1. The Courtyard Pictures the Foundational Experiences Believers Must Have in Order to Build Spiritually.

The Courtyard was where blood was shed as animal sacrifices were offered for the people's sins and, then, consumed by the Fire of the LORD that burned upon the Brazen Altar. The Laver, also in the Courtyard, was used by the Priests as they cleansed themselves once all over and, then, as they daily cleansed their hands and feet so that their service would be acceptable to God.

The sacrifices and the blood shed in the Courtyard are a picture of Salvation through the sacrifice and shed Blood of Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:18,19; Ephesians 2:8-10). The Fire which consumed the sacrifices is a picture of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4).

The all-over washing of the Priests in the Water of the Laver is a picture of Water Baptism in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ because the Rock from which the Water came was Christ (I Corinthians 10:4; Acts 2:38).

The daily washing of the Priests' hands and feet is a picture of the believer spiritually washing his hands and feet, by faith, in the Waters of Christ Jesus' Name, Death, and Life. In this way the believer experiences daily sanctification, a laying aside, a burying

of his old nature in the Death of Jesus, so that he can take on the nature of Jesus Christ and rise up daily to walk in the newness of Resurrection Life (I Corinthians 15:31; Romans 6:3,4).

2. The Holy Place Pictures the Next Realm of Spiritual Growth in Christ's Stature.

The Holy Place was where incense was burnt upon the Golden Altar and where the Priest offered prayers. In this place the Priest also replenished the oil in the Golden Candlestick and the frankincense and bread upon the Golden Table of Shewbread.

The prayers of the Priest are a picture of the prayers the believer offers in the Name of Jesus (Romans 8:26,27; John 14:13,14).

The light from the Golden Candlestick is a picture of the complete Light of the LORD's Truth the believer finds in Christ Jesus (John 8:12; II Timothy 3:16,17).

The frankincense and the bread upon the Golden Table are pictures of the strength of faith the believer finds in Christ's Word which enables him to walk in the Light he has received from the Word (Philippians 4:13).

3. The Holy of Holies Pictures the Highest Realm of Spiritual Growth in Christ's Stature.

The Holy of Holies was where, once a year, the High Priest placed the Atonement Blood on the Mercy Seat. This is a picture of Jesus Christ's Atoning Blood which was placed on the Mercy Seat in Heaven (Hebrews 9:24-28). His Blood of Atonement made it possible for the believer to be united in a Oneness of Relationship with the LORD's Headship, His Master Plan, and His Purposive Will (Ephesians 1:22,23).

B. Glory Garments of Resurrected Believers Depict Their Degrees of Reward for Spiritual Growth.

The three classes of garments mentioned in the Book of Revelation depict the glory garments that will be worn by resurrected

believers: (1) White Robes are for those who have attained only the Courtyard experiences (Revelation 6:9-11; 7:9,17); (2) White Raiment is for those who have attained the degree of spiritual growth which has given them ruling and reigning power found in the Holy Place (Revelation 4:4; 5:8-10); (3) White Linen is for those who have attained the full, complete spiritual maturity of the Bride of Christ (Revelation 19:7,8).

These three classes of glory garments represent the three major degrees of reward for those who have obeyed the command to grow spiritually. Not all believers will be in the Bride. Only those who grow up to full spiritual maturity in the Spiritual Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ will receive the reward of wearing White Linen, the glory dress of the Bride (Revelation 19:7,8).

VIII. There Are Two Resurrections.

The first resurrection includes *all overcoming believers*. There are three phases to the first resurrection.

The second resurrection is for believers who did not live overcoming lives while on this earth, and included in this resurrection are all sinners.

A. The First Resurrection Has Three Phases.

Phase one of the first resurrection already has taken place. Old Testament overcomers were resurrected at the time of Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 27:51-53; Ephesians 4:8).

The second phase of the first resurrection will take place when Jesus Christ appears in the air at the Rapture. New Testament overcomers who have died since Christ's resurrection and also the New Testament overcomers who are alive at this time will be caught up to meet the LORD in the air (I Thessalonians 4:16,17).

The third phase of the first resurrection will occur at the beginning of the Millennial Reign of Jesus Christ on Earth. This resurrected group will be composed of the New Testament overcomers

who will give their lives as martyrs during the Tribulation Period (Revelation 20:4).

B. The Second Resurrection Includes All the Remaining Dead.

The second resurrection is made up of two classes of people: all believers who were not overcomers and all sinners.

The remaining dead believers will not be raised until the final judgment of the “all dead” at the end of the Millennium. They will have no part in the first resurrection because they were not overcomers when they died (John 5:28,29; Revelation 20:5).

All dead sinners will be resurrected along with all the non-overcoming believers, and all these people will be judged according to the deeds they committed while they were in their earthly bodies. Those whose names are not found in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:15).

The *all dead* come out of four places: Death, Hell, the Sea, and the Dust (Revelation 20:11-14; John 5:28,29; Daniel 12:2).

IX. There Are Four Places of Abode for All Human Beings.

All people who have lived on the Earth will be resurrected to spend Eternity in one of four places. Three places are reserved for believers: the New Heavens, the New Earth, and the New City. And one place is reserved for all sinners: the Lake of Fire.

The glory garment that each believer will wear at the resurrection will determine his eternal place of abode because his garment will indicate his degree of spiritual growth and its incumbent reward.

Those who are clothed with White Robes will remain in the New Heaven throughout Eternity (Revelation 7:13-17).

Those who are clothed with White Raiment will live on the New Earth throughout Eternity. After Christ’s Millennial Reign has ended, this group of overcomers will have ruling power over the people who will dwell on the New Earth (Revelation 5:8-10).

When King David sits upon his throne again (Jeremiah 30:7-9; Ezekiel 34:23; Ezekiel 37:24; Hosea 3:5; Amos 9:11), as God promised him, he will be assisted in his rule by the White Raiment group of overcoming believers.

Those who are clothed in White Linen will live in the New City throughout Eternity. They are the spiritually mature ones who are in the Bride of Jesus Christ, and they are the only ones who will live continually in the personal Presence of God and the Lamb (Revelation 22:2-5).

X. Righteous Saints Are to Be Holy in Conduct and Dress.

Conduct: The Christian's daily conduct should be above reproach so that he will not bring shame upon the LORD's Name and the ministry to which he is called (Hebrews 12:14; I John 2:15-17; I Corinthians 8:9-13; II Corinthians 7:1).

The word *Holy* means to be separated from all that is unclean and to be consecrated to all that is sacred and pure. God alone is perfect and holy; man is imperfect and sinful. Therefore, man must become holy by putting off the sins of the flesh and by putting on God's Righteousness (Romans 6:12,13).

Dress: The Christian's dress should be modest, conforming to the standards set forth in the Scriptures (I Peter 3:3-5; I Timothy 2:9,10).

XI. The Great Tribulation Will Cover Three-and-One-Half Years.

After the LORD appears in the clouds to catch away overcoming believers, there will be a three-and-one-half-year period of tribulation on earth (Daniel 9:24-27).

From the going forth of the commandment to restore Jerusalem and the Temple until the time of Jesus Christ is a prophetic period of time called "seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks." The birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ the Prince, closed the prophetic period of seven plus sixty-two weeks, which totals sixty-nine weeks.

The seventieth prophetic week is divided into two parts, and in the middle of this last week, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, was cut off and rejected by the Nation of Israel. God judged Israel by destroying Jerusalem, and He left her temple and city desolate.

Daniel 9:26 relates to the coming of Titus, the prince who brought Jerusalem to a complete and utter destruction in the year A.D. 70.

Daniel 9:27 pertains to the Messiah, the Prince, Who came to confirm the covenant with many for one prophetic week, which is seven years of time. Messiah was cut off in the middle of the week or at the end of three-and-one-half years.

At the close of the first three-and-one-half years, the sacrifices were to cease. This was fulfilled when Jesus Christ offered Himself as the Lamb of God upon the Cross. When He died, there was no longer any need for oblations and animal sacrifices to be offered (Hebrews 9:11-14). There was no need for the type and shadow to continue once they had been fulfilled by Jesus Christ's Sacrifice upon the Cross. Jesus Christ was the only One, according to God's Word, Who caused the Old Testament sacrifices to cease.

When Jesus Christ died upon the Cross, the veil in the Temple was rent in twain. However, because Israel had rejected her Messiah, Jesus Christ, she trod His Blood underfoot and repaired the Temple's veil and continued to bring animal sacrifices, with their blood, into the temple. Israel preferred animal blood above the precious Blood of God's Only Begotten Son.

God's Judgment of Israel came through the person of Titus. History tells us that Jerusalem was famine-stricken to the point that they even ate their children in an effort to survive. The Holy City was utterly destroyed, and to this day, Israel does not have a Holy City; she does not have a Brazen Altar; she does not have any sacrifices to offer before Jehovah God. Therefore, it will be impossible for the Antichrist to take away that which God already has taken away. Clearly, then, it had to be Jesus Christ on the Cross, the fulfillment of the type, Who caused the sacrifice and oblation to cease in the middle of Daniel's prophetic seventieth week.

Jesus ministered for three-and-one-half years; then, He died, causing the Old Testament sacrifices to cease.

The last half of the seventieth week of Daniel is left to be fulfilled upon Israel, which will be the three-and-one-half years of tribulation during the rule and reign of the Antichrist (Revelation 13:5).

However, of the seventieth week about which Daniel prophesied, three-and-one-half years already have been fulfilled, and before the last three-and-one-half years are fulfilled, which is the time of the Great Tribulation, the present Church Age, the Dispensation of Grace in which God deals particularly with the Gentiles, takes place. The seventy weeks of Daniel's Prophecy relate to the period of time in which God especially deals with His chosen people, the Jews. The Gentile period is not included on God's prophetic time clock for the Jewish nation.

Although there is confusion concerning the length of time designated for the Tribulation Period, all Scriptural evidence points to the conclusion that it is three-and-one-half years in duration. The following portions of Scripture bear witness of the length of time designated as the Great Tribulation:

First, the city of Jerusalem is to be trodden underfoot for a period of forty-two months (Revelation 11:2).

Second, the two witnesses shall prophesy a thousand, two hundred, and threescore days, which equal 1,260 days or approximately three-and-one-half years (Revelation 11:3).

Third, the woman mentioned in Revelation 12:6 will flee into the wilderness where she will be fed for a thousand, two hundred, and threescore days, or 1,260 days.

Fourth, the Beast who comes up out of the Sea will be given power to continue for forty-two months (Revelation 13:5).

Without any doubt, then, this fourfold witness of God's Word establishes a Tribulation Period of three-and-one-half years.

All those who have not surrendered their lives to God by daily overcoming their flesh will be left on the Earth during this time of torment (Revelation 13:5-8; 11:2,3; 12:6).

XII. The Millennial Reign of the LORD Jesus Christ on the Earth Will Begin When He Returns as the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Christ will return at the end of the Tribulation Period to wage war against the Antichrist and his followers (Revelation 19:11-21). Then after Lucifer, in his full stature (Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon), has been cast into the Bottomless Pit, the LORD Jesus Christ will begin His Reign of a thousand years upon the cleansed Earth (Revelation 20:1-6).

Jesus Christ's return to Earth at this time is called His "Second Coming." This event is described by the Prophet Zechariah (Zechariah 14:3,4). Israel will be saved when she accepts Jesus Christ as her Messiah, and Jerusalem again will be the center of worship to the one True God. All the nations left on the Earth will go to Jerusalem to worship the LORD Jesus Christ (Zechariah 14:16,17).

XIII. God Divinely Ordains Ministers of the Church.

True ministers of the Word of God are especially called and ordained, according to the Scriptures (Acts 13:2,3; Matthew 10:1,2).

XIV. The Ordinances of the Church Are Communion, Foot Washing, and Divine Healing and Deliverance.

Each of these ordinances are scriptural and are to be practiced throughout the year as a part of the church's regular worship services.

A. Communion Is a Memorial of Jesus Christ's Crucifixion and Death.

Believers should partake of the LORD's Supper as an outward demonstration of their inward acceptance of God's Spirit and Word. Communion is a memorial of Jesus Christ's Suffering and Death for

man; and it is a Prophecy of His Second Coming (I Corinthians 11:24-26; Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20).

B. Foot Washing Is a Symbol of Christ's Love and Humility.

The believer should practice the scriptural act of foot washing because it is a demonstration of one's desire to follow Christ's example of humility and love toward the brethren (John 13:5-17).

C. Divine Healing and Deliverance Were Provided in the Atonement Blood of Jesus Christ.

Divine healing and deliverance are an integral part of the Gospel. Healing and deliverance were provided for in Jesus Christ's Atonement Blood and are part of the believer's privileges. Healing and deliverance are not dependent upon man's faith or merit; they are governed by God's Mercy and Grace toward man (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).

XV. The Mission of the Church Is Fourfold in Its Scope.

The fourfold mission of the church is to worship God; to instruct believers in their spiritual education; to be shining lights in their moral development by living righteously and doing good deeds; and to be witnesses throughout the world to the LORD's Truth.

The first man, Adam-male and Adam-female, refused to listen to God's Instruction (Genesis 2:16,17; Genesis 3:6-8), choosing instead to disobey their Creator. Thus, sin passed on to the whole human race (Romans 5:12).

In their rebellion, man refused to give God His rightful worship and praise and, instead, turned to idol worship. As a consequence of man's sin, his vehicle of light was darkened, and he became a useless, morally depraved vessel. He followed his own

desires instead of fulfilling God's Purpose for creating him, which was for man to be a bearer of the Light of Truth (Romans 1:21-23; Matthew 5:14-16).

However, since God is mindful of fallen mankind, He mercifully provided man with redemption and cleansing from his sin through Jesus' Death on Calvary's Cross.

When man turns to Jesus Christ in faith and believes on Him for Salvation, the LORD will redeem him from his sin; then, man can give God the true praise and worship due Him.

Also God gives His Spirit and Word Gifts to His Apostles, Prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers in order to provide the Body of Christ with spiritual education in the LORD's Truth so that believers can grow to spiritual maturity.

After redemption, man can be the burning and shining lamp that God intended him to be (Matthew 5:16), and he can witness to the whole world of God's redeeming Grace and Love (Acts 1:8).

The Church is the Body of Christ and the dwelling place of God's Spirit. As God's bearers of the Light of Truth, the Church is to carry out the Great Commission. Each believer is to be an integral part of the work of evangelizing the world (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

The following statements are the reasons Christ Gospel Churches International, Inc., exists as an organization:

- To maintain churches in which to worship God (I Corinthians 12:13; John 4:23,24).
- To provide spiritual education for the growth of the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:23-25; I Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11-16).
- To teach those in the Body of Christ to be a shining light in their moral development (Matthew 5:14-16).

- To fulfill Jesus Christ's command to preach the Gospel to the whole world through evangelism (Matthew 16:15-28; Matthew 28:19, 20).

Those who join us in following the LORD Jesus Christ must agree that, in the Light of the inspired Word of God, these articles of faith agree with Scriptural Truth and form a solid basis for further growth in the Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of our LORD and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



References For Studying These Articles Of Faith

For additional explanation of the doctrines outlined in these articles of faith, please refer to the following books written by Rev. B. R. Hicks. Each number of article is followed by the title of the book in which related subject matter can be found.

- Article I:** *Confirming Our Faith in the Holy Bible*, 1978.
- Article II:** *Confirming Our Faith in God*, 1978.
- Article III:** *Confirming Our Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ*, 1979.
- Article IV:** *Confirming Our Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ*, 1979.
Introduction to the Study of the Blood, 1985.
Confirming Our Faith in the Bible's Teaching About Mankind, 1980.
- Article V:** "The Truth of Water Baptism," 1968.
- Article VI:** "The Gift of the Holy Ghost," 1990.
- Article VII:** *Precious Gem in the Tabernacle*, 1961.
Revelation Book One, Jesus Christ, the Resurrected King, 1973.
"Secrets to Spiritual Growth," 1980.
"The Need for Spiritual Growth," 1990.
"Degrees of Reward for Spiritual Growth," 1984.
- Article VIII:** *Revelation Book Two, Jesus Christ, the Slain Lamb*, 1973.
- Article IX:** *Revelation Book Two, Jesus Christ, the Slain Lamb*, 1973.
- Article X:** *Man's Threefold Nature, Volume One: His Body, Soul, and Spirit*, 1999.
Man's Threefold Nature, Volume Two: His Heart, 2001.
Man's Threefold Nature Volume Three: His Will, 2001.

The Powerful Voltage of Humility, 1967.

“Why Short Hair for Men and Long Hair for Women,” 1993.

Article XI: *Antichrist, 1987*

The Mystery of God’s Supreme Sovereignty in the Book of Daniel, 1985.

Article XII: *The LORD’s Sixty-Six Spiritual Principles of Truth — Matthew through Revelation*
(See Principle 66).

Article XIV: “The Ordinances of Communion and Foot Washing,” 1994.

Sickness and Healing, 1982.

Many of the fundamental doctrines of Christ Gospel Churches International, Inc., are contained in Rev. B. R. Hicks’ book, *Drops of Doctrine, 1975*. Most of the articles of faith are explained further in this most comprehensive, single publication on doctrine.