

The Affirmation of Faith of our Churches' Association in Canada

Affirmation of Faith (AoF)

What we believe as the basic truths about God, His works and His relationship with humanity.

The Bible

We believe the Bible to be the complete word of God, that the sixty-six books comprising the Old and New Testaments were verbally inspired by the Spirit of God and were entirely free from error as originally written, that God has superintended the transmission of Scripture throughout the ages, and that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice and is the true basis of Christian union.

The Triune God

We believe in one God, creator of all, holy, sovereign, immutable, and existing eternally in three equal persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, each being truly and essentially God.

The Father

We believe in God the Father, neither begotten nor proceeding, who, in his perfect love, reigns with providential care over all creation, accomplishes his will, and protects and preserves his children whom he redeems and adopts into his family as co-heirs with Christ.

The Son

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the promised Saviour of the world, eternally begotten of the Father, fully God and fully human; we believe in his virgin birth, sinless life, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, triumphant ascension, mediatorial ministry, and personal return.

The Holy Spirit

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who is fully God, the Lord and giver of life, eternally proceeding from the Father and the Son; who convicts of

sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; with whom believers are baptized into Christ's body and by whom they are regenerated, sealed, and indwelt; who sanctifies, illuminates, equips, empowers, assists in prayer, and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Satan

We believe that Satan is a fallen angelic being; the originator of sin; the deceiver of the world and the accuser of believers; who uses his real but limited power and presence to oppose the work of God; and who, along with all fallen spiritual powers, will be cast into the lake of fire for all eternity.

Humanity

We believe that human beings were created by God for his own glory, male and female, in his image, thus possessing immeasurable worth; that they sinned, becoming guilty before God, resulting in a state of total depravity and incurring physical and spiritual death.

Salvation

We believe salvation encompasses the renewal of all things, the fulfillment of Jesus' promise of the kingdom of God, and his ruling over all things in the new heavens and the new earth. We believe that the salvation of believers is by the sovereign, electing grace of God; that by the appointment of the Father, Christ voluntarily suffered a vicarious, substitutionary, expiatory, and propitiatory death; that justification is by faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ, in his all-sufficient sacrifice and resurrection; that those whom God has effectually called shall repent, believe, and follow Jesus, and will be divinely preserved and finally perfected by the Spirit into the image of the Lord.

The Local Church

We believe that a church is a company of immersed believers, called out from the world,

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separated unto the Lord Jesus, voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the faith and the observance of the ordinances. We believe it is a sovereign, independent body, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts and privileges under the Lordship of Christ, the Great Head of the church. We believe that its Officers are pastors and deacons.

Ordinances

We believe that there are only two ordinances, or visible symbols of the gospel, for the church regularly observed in the New Testament:

Baptism is the immersion of the believer in water whereby the believer obeys Christ's command and identifies with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection.

The Lord's Supper, or Communion, is the memorial wherein gathered believers partake of the two elements, the bread and the cup, which symbolize the Lord's body and shed blood, proclaiming his death until he comes, and is a continuing means for strengthening the faith of the believer.

The Lord's Day

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day in honour of his glorious resurrection and is a particularly appropriate day for corporate worship.

Religious Liberty

We believe in religious liberty, that all people have the right to practise and propagate their beliefs without undue interference by the civil authority.

The Church and State

We believe in the separation of church and state. The church should not resort to the state or worldly means to carry on its work. We believe that government is divinely appointed

for the interest and good order of society, and its leaders are to be prayed for, conscientiously honoured and obeyed, except only in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Ruler of the kings of the earth.

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Future Things

We believe in the personal and bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ in power and glory; in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust to stand before God in the final judgment; in the eternal, conscious punishment of the unregenerate in hell; and in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed in the new heavens and the new earth.

In the service of our Lord,

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« ... how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard...».

Romans 10:14