

Rocky Fork Primitive Baptist Church
10 Articles of Faith Established in 1821

Art. 1. We believe in the only true and living God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost and these three are one. (1 Jn 5:7, Gen 1, Jn 1, Heb 1:8, Acts 5:3-4)

Art. 2. That the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice. (2 Tim 3:16, 2 Pet 1:21)

Art. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, and that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world. (Eph 1:4, Rom 9:11)

Art. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin, and in man's impotency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, either in whole or in part, by his own free will and ability. (PS 14, 53, 1 Cor 2:14, Rom 8:5-8)

Art. 5. We believe that sinners are justified in the sight of God, only by the righteousness of God imputed to them. (Tit 3:4-7, Rom 3:24)

Art. 6. We believe that God's elect shall be called, converted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit during this life. ** (John 3:8, 6:37-39, Eph 2:1-5)

Art. 7. We believe the saints shall be saved by grace and never fall finally away. (John 10:28-29, Rom 8:35-39)

Art. 8. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, and that true believers are the only proper subjects, and that baptism is by immersion. (Acts 8:37-, 1 Cor 11:18)

Art. 9. We believe in the resurrection of the body, and general judgment, and that the punishment of the wicked and the joys of the righteous will be eternal. (Matt 25:31-34, 1 Cor 15, Jn 5:28-29)

Art. 10. We believe that ministers have no right to the administration of the ordinances, only such as are regularly baptized, ordained and set forward to the work of the ministry. (Tit 1:5, 1 Pet 5:2, 1 Tim 3:5, 1 Cor 11, 14:40, pattern/example of NT church)

** Note: The word "converted" is used here as in the changing of ones nature, not in religious beliefs or lifestyle (though the Holy Spirit does give ability and conviction to the child of God to change lifestyle). Article 6 speaks of the new birth.

Rocky Fork Primitive Baptist Church
Articles of Faith - Expanded

We Believe...

- In the inspiration, authority and inerrancy of the scriptures. Scripture is preserved in English (KJV). The old and new testaments are complementary, complete (fully sufficient), and contemporary. Scripture is only rule of faith and practice (writings of church or commentators are supplementary, fallible aids).

2Ti 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

Psa 12:6-7 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation forever.

- In God's creation of the universe in six literal 24 hour days (young-earth). In a literal worldwide catastrophic flood that produced most of the fossil record we have today.

Gen 1:1- In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Heb 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

- In the eternal, equal triune God. In the deity of Christ and Holy Ghost. In the everlasting covenant in which the Father elects, the Son redeems, the Holy Ghost regenerates and sanctifies.

1Jo 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Heb 1:8 But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever: a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of thy kingdom.

Act 5:3-4 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

- In God's sovereign, all-powerful, all-present, all-knowing, holy, loving, unchanging nature. God is completely in control, but not completely controlling. He is outside of creation/universe (not part of it), yet He interacts in it.

Isa 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?

Col 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

- In the incarnation of Jesus. God came in the flesh and lived a sinless life. Jesus's incarnation was through a literal virgin (Mary never having been intimate).

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Luk 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

Luk 1:34-35 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

- In the literal/physical/historical death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

1Co 15:3-4 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures:

Luk 24:6-7 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee, Saying, the Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

- That man was originally born in image of God but fell/died in Adam to a "totally-depraved" state, incapable of spiritual understanding or obedience. Every man is born in the image of Adam. After new birth, man is depraved, but not totally, man has ability to follow the spirit or the flesh (spiritual warfare within).

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Rom 8:7-8 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Rom 3:10- As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

- That eternal salvation is “by grace.” There is only one way to heaven – Jesus Christ. Not of works, not of our will or outward faithfulness/profession. Baptism not required. God saves and preserves (once-saved, always saved).

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Rom 9:16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.

Joh 10:28-29 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

- That all of whom Christ died will be with Him in heaven. God's love for and substitutionary particular atonement of elected/predestinated people not based on any foreseen work or will of a man. Foreknowledge=God's intimate love beforehand, Election=God's sovereign choice of a people, Predestination=God's pre-determination of a people (not all events) to be conformed to Jesus in heaven, Atonement & Redemption=Christ's substitutionary payment for reconciliation, Justification=legal remission and absolution of guilt, Glorification=to be made like Christ, elevated to glory in heaven.

Joh 6:37-39 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out. For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day

Rom 3:23-25 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Rom 5:10-11 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

Rom 8:29-30 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did

predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Eph 1:4-7 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

1Pe 1:2-5 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

1Pe 1:18-19 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

- That man must be born again. Everyone elect child of God is born again the same way. The new birth is not of will of man. The gospel is not necessary to be born again. Every elect child of God will be born again between conception and death. The new birth is also taught as regeneration, quickening, spiritual resurrection, translation.

Joh 3:7-8 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Joh 1:13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Joh 5:25 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

1Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.

Eph 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

- That Christ is reigning today in His Kingdom “within us”, not physical/national kingdom, but spiritual: of righteousness, peace, joy in Holy Ghost. Manifested in the church.

Mat 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Luk 17:21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

Rom 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Eph 2:22 In whom ye also are builded together for a habitation of God through the Spirit.

- In the existence of Satan, angels and a spiritual world. God created Satan upright. Satan is a powerful (but not equal with God) spiritual being that exists today tempting humanity to steal glory from God. Satan is limited/bound. Heavenly angels exist to bring messages and watch over God's people.

Eph 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Mat 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.

- That God works miracles (outside/above laws of nature). Including preaching, healings, speaking in tongues/languages, etc. But that apostolic powers/miracles were used to "confirm the word" until NT written and though these miracles are present today, these "gifts to men" not present today.

Gal 3:5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Mar 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Heb 2:4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

- In the 2nd coming of Christ and last judgment. There will be a general resurrection in which all will be resurrected, some to life eternal, some to the lake of fire and eternal damnation. There is a literal-eternal Heaven, a literal-eternal Hell.

Joh 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

1Th 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are

alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Rev 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- That man should have an honest and holy conversation (Godly/moral lifestyle). Good works and holiness (separateness, abstaining from sin) should be practiced to bring glory to God. Church members should not “yoke” with ungodly people even in marriage, social events, or jobs. Auxiliary institutions that divide loyalty (Masons, or any club/hobby/sports/entertainment etc. that takes away from the Lord) are not to be participated in.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Rom 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Eph 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

2Co 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

- In the institution of the Family. Man and woman are to keep themselves pure before marriage. Marriage is to be between one man and one woman. The man is head of family and should take a leadership role in equipping/teaching his wife and children the word of God. Parents are to train up children, protecting them from and building a foundation against the wickedness of the world. Life begins at conception.

1Co 7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

Mar 10:6-9 But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and cleave to his wife; And they twain shall be one flesh: so then they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body.

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Deu 11:18-20 Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. And ye shall

teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates:

Isa 44:24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself;

- In the church of Jesus Christ. The local, visible body of baptized believers. There should be a regular assembly of local church for public worship. Public worship practice/style should be patterned after NT: family-integrated, a cappella singing, male elder-led preaching/teaching, prayer and testimony.

Heb 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1Ti 2:12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

Jos 8:35 There was not a word of all that Moses commanded, which Joshua read not before all the congregation of Israel, with the women, and the little ones, and the strangers that were conversant among them

- In church government/authority/order/rule. A local church should be autonomous (self-ruled, no hierarchy, no national denominational authority). NT-patterned combination of congregational and elder "rule." Elder's teach/preach, baptize, and ordain other elders/deacons. Two offices in church: elder (bishop/overseer), deacon (involved in daily ministrations). Congregation "involved" in major decision making and with member acceptance and discipline. All members (including elders) are accountable to be disciplined (with love) by the church (put in place of needed restoration before they can commune; excluded, excommunicated).

Mat 18:17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.

1Pe 5:2-3 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.

Tit 1:5 For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

Act 6:1-3 And in those days, when the number of the disciples were multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. Wherefore, brethren, look ye

out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.

1Ti 3:15 But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

- In church perpetuity (“The Church” Christ built will always exist until his 2nd coming). “The Church” has always existed (retained candlestick, held to essential truths) by various names outside of Roman Catholic “church.” Churches are formed from extensions of existing churches.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Rom 11:4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

- In partaking in Lord’s Supper (Communion). It is done in remembrance of the Lord (life and death, etc.). Done as a church (baptized believers with unity of faith and spirit). Real wine and unleavened bread should be used. Emblems are symbolic, not transubstantiated.

Mat 26:26- And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body...

1Co 11:25 After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

1Co 11:20- When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper...

1Co 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order.

- That baptism is (commanded) for believers only, by immersion, administered by ordained elder (authority from Christ’s church). Baptism represents the death/burial/resurrection of Jesus (newness of life) and represents a marriage ceremony (becoming part of the local body/bride of Christ, covenanting/committing to service to husband). “re”-baptism is necessary for church fellowship/membership if criteria not met. Baptism saves/delivers, but not eternally.

Act 8:36-37 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

1Pe 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

Act 19:5... When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- In saving souls, saving self, saving from ignorance, saving by baptism, saving...etc. Temporal/Time salvations (deliverances) are extremely important to bring honor and glory to God, but they are not in context of eternal salvation. God enables, convicts, commands, desires, but does not predestinate. Unlike eternal salvation, temporal salvations are conditional. Someone who has spiritual life (has been born again), must be willing and obedient, must manifest faith and good works, must turn from sin and ignorance (repentance) and change their life (conversion), must follow the spirit and not the flesh...to be saved/delivered. These temporal salvations bring great glory to God and blessing to His children. The gospel/bible or knowledge is necessary.

Jam 5:19-20 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Act 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

1Co 15:1-2 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

1Ti 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Rom 10:17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- In preaching the gospel (evangelism) to the church and to non-believers, or believers in ignorance or those deceived. The preached word/gospel is extremely important for the honor and glory of God and for temporal salvation of God's children. It matures and builds up the church. Elders are called and commanded to preach. Elders/evangelists travel as led by the Spirit. (Mission boards should not be involved with destination or with collecting money). Methods used should be within scriptural example. Done to make disciples, not children of God. All church members are to "preach the gospel" with their lifestyle.

Mat 28:19-20 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Note: This is NOT a comprehensive list of scriptures.