

Evangelical Church of Liberia
Monrovia, Liberia
West Africa

Articles of Faith and Practice

We believe:

THE SCRIPTURE: the sixty-six books both Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, without errors in the works of the original writings, the complete revelation of God's will for the salvation of men, and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and practice (II Timothy 3:16; II Peter 1:21; I Corinthians 2:13)

GOD: There is one God, the Creator and preserver of all things, infinite in being and perfection. He exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who are co-equal and co-eternal (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; Hebrew 1:1-13; Colossians 1:15,19)

JESUS CHRIST: He is very God, and very man, having been conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a perfect, sinless life. He died on the cross, a sacrifice for our sins, according to the scriptures. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven, where is now as our high priest and advocate at the right hand of the Majesty on High (Luke 2:3-35; Philippians 2:5-8; I Corinthians 15: 1-4; Hebrew 1:3,19; 1 John 2 :1-2).

THE HOLY SPIRIT: The Holy Spirit is the third person of the God-head who regenerates(that is, give new life to anyone who, though dead in sins and trespasses, exercises saving faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:11; John 6:63a) indwells (that is, resides in everyone who truly believes in Jesus Christ- John 14: 16,17; I Corinthians 6:19), baptizes(that is, places every true believer into a mystical union (I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26,27; Romans 6:3,4), seals (that is, by the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer, the divine mark of ownership is eternally placed to indicate that the one indwells is God's own eternal possession (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30), and fills those who believe (that is, empowers those yielded to God in daily conduct and service (II Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 5:18; Galatians 5:16,22-25; Colossians 3:17). The Holy Spirit's ministry is to glorify God in the life of the believer as He guides, instructs, empowers, and gives spiritual abilities for service (John 3:3-6; I Corinthians 6:19, 12:13; Ephesians 5:18).

God originally created an innumerable company of sinless, spirit- beings, known as angels. They are messengers of God to help his people in all ages. One angel, high in rank, however, sinned through pride. He is known as Satan. A great company of other active agents of Satan known as demons fell with him (Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 29:11-19; I Timothy 3:6)

MAN: Man was created in the image and likeness of God, but in Adam all mankind fell into sin with the result that all men are sinners by nature and action. All men are depraved and without hope apart from the grace of God. (Genesis 1:25, 27, 2:17, 6:5; Romans 3: 10-19, John 3:6,16)

SALVATION: Salvation is received by faith alone in the God-man, Jesus Christ, apart from works (Eph. 2:8-9). Christ died as substitutionary sacrifice to redeem us from our sins if we believe in him. His shed blood and resurrection provide the only ground for justification and salvation. Only those who receive Jesus Christ are born of the Holy Spirit and are truly Christians, even children of God. There is no salvation for those who died outside of Christ (Acts 4:12; John 3:5; II Corinthians 5:21; John 1:12; Romans 5:8; John 2:18, 3:18).

ASSURANCE AND ETERNAL SECURITY: Everyone who truly believes in Jesus Christ's atoning work and has appropriated this benefit personally to life is assured of salvation both now and forever. Those so assured of salvation both now and forever are eternally kept saved due to the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit unto the day of redemption (Colossians 2:2; I John 5:13; Hebrew 6:11, 10:22; John 5:14, 10:28; Romans 8:29; Hebrew 7:25; I John 2:1,2).

SANCTIFICATION: That is believers setting apart unto God is in three-fold; positional at the point of conversion; progressive , on a daily basis as we walk the Christian pilgrim way; and ultimate which is experienced in the hereafter when each believer enters into the presence of the Lord (John 17:17; II Corinthians 3:18; 7:1; Ephesians 4:24; 5:25-27; I Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrew 10:10,14, 12:10; I John 2:15-17, 3:2)

THE CHURCH: The church embracing all true believers is the body and bride of Christ, formed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, (that is, the placing of individual believers in the body of Christ). The local Church is intended to be a local

organized representation of the mystical body of Christ, and should be composed only of true believers (Ephesians 1:22-23; I Corinthians 12:13; Philippians 1:1, Ephesians 1: 20-23, 4:3-10,30; Colossians 3:14-15).

ORDINANCES: The ordinances of the Church are the Lord's Supper and Water Baptism by immersion, which are to be observed by the Church during the present age. They are designed to strengthen the believers spiritually and to be a public witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. They are not a means of salvation (M28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 8:36-38; 10:47-48; 16:32; 18:7-8; I Corinthians 11:23-26).

CHRISTIAN AND SERVICE: Man is saved unto good works (Ephesians 2:10; Titus 3:8) and faith without work is dead (James 2:17). Therefore, Christians are called to a holy life of service and testimony in the power of the Holy Spirit, which service includes the propagation of the gospel message to the whole world. The Holy Spirit bestow by his own sovereign will, diverse grace gifts upon all who believe in Christ for the enablement in service for God's glory. Christians will give account of, and receive reward for their faithful service at the judgment seat of Christ (Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 3:12-15; II Corinthians 5:9-10; Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11; I Peter 1:15-16).

SPIRITUAL GIFTS: These are bestowed freely and determined by the Holy Spirit on believers and not by the will or desire of man. These grace (unmerited favor) gifts are meant for the edification of the body of Christ and for service to the glory of God. In this age, God has given for the building up of the Church the following grace gifts among others: faith administration, care, pastor/teacher, evangelist, wisdom, knowledge, discernment, (Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:4-11; Ephesians 4:11). Some of the spiritual gifts listed in scripture, for example; tongues, healing, etc. are sign gifts. However, an undue emphasis on possession of any of those sign gifts as a means or prerequisite for salvation or mark of spiritual superiority is unscriptural and is rejected (John 6:3-16; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 14:40).

THE BLESSED HOPE: The blessed hope of the Church is the personal, imminent and Pre-millennial second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is the rapture of the believers in Christ, including both the living and the dead. This hope must

have a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believers. (John 14:1-3; I Corinthians 15:51-52, I Thessalonians 4:13-18 Titus 2:11-14; II Peter 3:11).

THE RETURN OF CHRIST AND THE TRIBULATION: We believe that our Lord Jesus Christ will return imminently, personally, and bodily for His church and also for the establishment of His kingdom on earth. For believers, His coming is their blessed hope and demands constant expectancy, holy living, and sacrificial service. (1 Thessalonians 4:13–18; Titus 2:11–14; 2 Peter 3:8–14)

The Church believes and teaches that the premillennial return of Christ to establish His earthly reign is an important doctrine of eschatology. All who teach and preach in the Church are expected to do so consistent with this interpretation of end-time events. However, those with a different understanding of the coming kingdom are permitted to join our membership.

THE TRIBULATION: In the end times shall come a period of divine judgment upon the whole world, which day by day, continues to ripen for judgment (Matthew 24: 15-21; Jeremiah 30:7; Daniel 9:27; Revelation 6:1-17; 19:21).

THE RESURRECTION: All the dead will eventually resurrect bodily at the end times, the believers into everlasting blessedness and joy with their Lord, the unbelievers into judgment and everlasting conscious punishment (John 11:25; - 26; Luke 16:19-26; 23:42; I Corinthians 15:20-22; II Corinthians 5:8; II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Revelation 20:11-15)