

Welcome to
Emmanuel
Baptist Church



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Introduction to the Articles of Faith

Emmanuel Baptist Church began its ministry in Eastleigh in 1933. Then as now it existed to present the 'faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints' (Jude 1:3). It is a member of the Old Baptist Union, a group of evangelical Baptist churches founded in 1880.

One of the distinctive features of the Old Baptist Union is its Articles Of Faith. While OBU churches are diverse in nature and style, they are united around this framework of beliefs. They are not extraordinary in themselves: There is little if anything here that you will not find in other Christian groups. The distinctiveness comes from having them all in such a comprehensive statement.

This is not about saying we are superior to any other group. We are not. It is about saying that we know what we believe, and we rejoice in the security that brings..

Please read this book prayerfully as you consider the implications of living your Christian life in the light of what you read. Keep it safe for future reference.



Charlie Keene (Pastor)

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An Introduction to the Old Baptist Union

The Old Baptist Union is a group of evangelical Baptist churches founded in 1880, dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Whilst not prepared to compromise any one of the tenets set out in the Articles of Faith, the Union is in no way sectarian. Fellowship with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ is encouraged and the Union itself is in membership with the Evangelical Alliance.

The system of government is neither strictly Congregational nor wholly Presbyterian, but a sensible combination of the two. In practice it has served to preserve a wholly evangelical witness for one hundred and twenty years and for this we are deeply grateful to God.

The executive body of the Union is the Council of Management. Elders and deacons are nominated by local churches and ordained by the Union to their office. Pastors may be invited to serve by the local church, but will be appointed and ordained to their office only after satisfying the Union's doctrinal and pastoral standards.

The following are the Articles of Faith of the Old Baptist Union, organised after the scriptural principles of the General Baptists of 1611 and 1660; from which we, being their true representatives, justly claim to be known as "Old Baptists".

We believe with all our hearts in the only true and living God, the Creator and preserver of all things, visible and invisible; and that in the unity of this Godhead there are three Persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2 Corinthians 13:14. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

We believe in the full inspiration of the Bible, accepting it as the Word of God, and regarding its teaching as of supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

2 Timothy 3:16-17. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Peter 1:21. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Spirit.

John 17:17. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.

We believe in the Bible doctrine of the Fall of Man, and in his consequent need of redemption through the atoning sacrifice of Christ, and regeneration through the Holy Spirit. We believe also that God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), for which cause Christ commanded that the Gospel should be preached to every creature.

Romans 5:12. Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.

Romans 5:8. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

John 3:6-7. Flesh gives birth to flesh but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You

should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

We believe that by His grace and through the merits of Jesus Christ, God made full provision for the salvation of all men, but that those only will be saved who repent of their sins and accept Christ, by faith, as their Saviour.

John 3:16. For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:18. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

1 John 2:2. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

We believe that all who truly repent and believe the Gospel should be baptised by immersion.

Matthew 28:19. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:38. Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:4. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

We believe that those who are baptised should receive the "laying on of the hands of the presbytery" (1 Timothy 4:14) in accordance with New Testament teaching and practice.

Acts 8:17. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Hebrews 6:1-2. Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance

from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgement.

1 Timothy 4:14. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through a prophetic message when the body of elders laid their hands on you.

We believe in the Virgin Birth of the Lord Jesus; and in His Deity and absolute Sinlessness.

Luke 1:35. The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Hebrews 1:1-3. In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 1:8. But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the sceptre of your kingdom.

1 Peter 2:22. He committed no sin and no deceit was found in his mouth.

We believe in Christ's death upon the Cross as an atoning sacrifice for sin; we believe in His bodily resurrection; in His Ascension into Heaven, there "to appear for us in God's presence" (Hebrews 9:24) and in His personal Coming Again to receive His people to Himself, and to establish His Millennial Kingdom.

1 Peter 1:18-19. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Corinthians 15:3-4. For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,

Hebrews 1:3. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Hebrews 9:28. So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

We believe in the infallibility of Christ as a Teacher.

Matthew 7:29. Because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

John 12:48. There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.

John 17:14. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am not of the world.

We believe in the Personality and Deity of the Holy Spirit and in His continued presence in the Church; and that His gifts may still be claimed and exercised, subject to His will.

John 15:26. When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

2 Corinthians 13:14. May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Acts 5:3-4. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

1 Corinthians 12:4-11. There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.

Romans 11:29. For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

We believe in the existence of a personal Devil, the arch enemy of God and man, "who leads the whole world astray" (Revelation 12:9); and that, although his power is still great on earth, he is a defeated foe, doomed to final destruction.

Matthew 4:1. Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.

1 Peter 5:8-9. Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

Revelation 20:10. And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

We believe that man is a being consisting of body, soul and spirit.

We believe that the spirit can live independently of the body and that it continues in a state of consciousness between death and the resurrection.

1 Thessalonians 5:23. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ecclesiastes 12:7. And the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Revelation 6:9-10. When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

Acts 7:59. While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

We believe, without being extremists, in the present day possibility and privilege of divine healing.

1 Corinthians 12:9. To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,

James 5:14-15. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

We believe that we should observe the ordinance of the Lord's Supper in accordance with our Saviour's injunction.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26. For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in

my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We believe in the resurrection of the body, in the glorification of the redeemed and in the "everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thessalonians 1:9) of the finally impenitent.

John 5:28. Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice.

1 Corinthians 15:49-53. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven. I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.

Matthew 13:41-43. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.

Revelation 20:15. If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

We believe in the need of obedience to "everything" (Matthew 28:20) Christ has commanded; and that the way of obedience is the way of sanctification, power and blessing.

Matthew 4:4. Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

1 Thessalonians 4:3. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality.

1 Peter 1:22. Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart.

Romans 6:16. Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey-- whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

John 14:21. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

We believe that marriage is the union between one man and one woman, ordained by God, acknowledged by Jesus Christ and attested to in the Scriptures. It is a building block for sound community and a safe place to bring up children.

Genesis 2:21-25. So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman', for she was taken out of man." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh. The man and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Matthew 19:3-6. Some Pharisees came to him to test him. They asked, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any and every reason?" "Haven't you read," he replied, "that at the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female', and said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Ephesians 5:21-33. Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which

he is the Saviour. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no-one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.