

# UNITED APOSTOLIC FAITH CHURCH

## WHAT WE BELIEVE AND TEACH

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# 1. GOD.

God is the original creator of all things, Himself eternally existent, without beginning or end (*Exodus 3:14*).

He is:

- ▶ **Omnipotent**, *having unlimited power. (Matthew 19:26);*
- ▶ **Omniscient**, *knowing everything. (Psalm 147:5)*
- ▶ **Omnipresent**, *present everywhere at the same time. (Psalm 139:3-10).*
- ▶ **Holy (Leviticus 19:2).**
- ▶ **God is Spirit (John 4:24)**
- ▶ No mortal man has ever seen Him or can see Him (*1 Timothy 6:16*).
- ▶ **We know Him through His Word in which He has revealed Himself and made Himself known to man.**

## 2. THE BIBLE

- ▶ We believe that all scripture as contained in the Old and New Testaments is the complete and infallible Word of God (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*).
- ▶ Jesus Christ believed in and expounded ‘all the scriptures’ (*Luke 24:25-27*).
- ▶ The Apostles spoke words given by God (*1 Corinthians 2:13*).
- ▶ This is the only foundation for our faith and practice, ‘all scripture is given... that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works’ (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*). (See also *2 Peter 1:20,21; Matthew 5:17, 18; Matthew 24:35; John 10:35; and Psalm 138:2*)

### 3. THE UNITY AND TRINITY OF THE GODHEAD.

- ▶ We believe that there is **one God who exists in three persons:**
- ▶ God the **Father**, God the **Son** and God the **Holy Spirit**.
- ▶ Although the **Father is God**, the **Son is God**, and the **Holy Spirit is God**. Yet, the **Son is not the Father**, the **Holy Spirit is not the Father**, and the **Son is not the Holy Spirit**. Each is a separate person.

### 3. Cont:

- ▶ **Genesis 1:26, 29** (Trinity and Unity) – ‘And God said, “Let us...”’ ;  
‘And God said, “Behold I...”’
- ▶ **Matthew 3:16-17** (Trinity) – The **Son** is **baptized**. The **Holy Spirit** **descends**. The **Father speaks**.
- ▶ (See also John 17:5; Ephesians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Isaiah 48:16; Hebrew 9:14).

## 4. THE DEITY AND PRE-EXISTENCE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

- ▶ We believe that Jesus Christ existed before all things
- ▶ He is the creator of all things;
  - ▶ ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us’ (John 1:1, 14).
- ▶ He was the perfect expression of the Father:
  - ▶ Colossians 1:15-17; 2:9; <sup>15</sup> The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

## 4. Cont:.

- ▶ Hebrews 1:3, 6-9<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup> So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs.
- ▶ **The Son Superior to Angels**
- ▶<sup>5</sup> For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father" Or again, "I will be his Father and he will be my Son"<sup>[b]</sup>?<sup>6</sup> And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

## 5. THE UNIVERSAL DEPRAVITY OF HUMANITY

- ▶ We believe that because of the fall of Adam, every human being has sinned and come short of the glory of God, and thus is in need of salvation.
- ▶ ‘All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way’ (Isaiah 53:6).
- ▶ ‘For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).
- ▶ See also Romans 3:9 What shall we conclude then? Do we have any advantage? Not at all! For we have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under the power of sin. Romans 10; 5:12. Not only has man committed sin, but he has a sinful nature (Jeremiah 17:9) so that even his good works are tainted. “All our righteousness is as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6). The ultimate result of this sinfulness is eternal separation from God



## 6. A FULL AND FREE SALVATION

- ▶ We believe that salvation is offered to all of humanity through the redeeming work of Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary.
- ▶ **1 Peter 3:18; 4:1**; and **Colossians 2:13-15** clearly indicate that it was through Jesus Christ's death on the cross that the full price of our sins was paid.
- ▶ It is true that Jesus descended to the 'lower parts of the earth' (**Ephesians 4:9-10**) and preached to the condemned 'spirits in prison' (**1 Peter 3:18-20**), but He spoke from paradise, or Abraham's bosom (**Luke 16:19-26**).

## 6. A FULL AND FREE SALVATION Cont:

- ▶ He did not suffer further in that place. Jesus took the spirits of the righteous dead to heaven with Him (**Ephesians 4:8**). All who repent of sin (i.e. turn from sin) and believe the gospel are saved (**Acts 2:36-39; Romans 1:16; 10:8-13**).

**This salvation includes:**

- ▶ **a. FORGIVENESS OF SINS.**
- ▶ **b. JUSTIFICATION.**
- ▶ **c. REGENERATION (The New Birth)**
- ▶ **d. LORDSHIP**

# FORGIVENESS OF SINS

- ▶ ‘Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world’ (John 1:29).
- ▶ ‘Thus, it was necessary for Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations...’ (Luke 24:46-47);
- ▶ ‘We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...’ (Ephesians 1:7).
- ▶ ‘If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9).
- ▶ ‘... the blood of Jesus Christ His Son, cleanses us from all sin’ (1 John 1:7)

# JUSTIFICATION.

- ▶ ‘It is God that justifies’ (Romans 8:33), or pronounces right in His sight the unrighteous ones who believe in Jesus.
- ▶ They are ‘justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus’ (Romans 3:24-26), and can say, ‘Being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him’ (Romans 5:9,10).
- ▶ ‘Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ’ (Romans 5:1). ‘Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification’ (Romans 4:25)

# REGENERATION (The New Birth)

- ▶ ‘Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God’ (John 3:3- 5).
- ▶ ‘You must be born again’ (John 3:7).
- ▶ We are born again by receiving Christ personally. ‘As man has received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name’ (John 1:12-13);
- ▶ by the word of God (1 Peter 1:23; James 1:18,21);
- ▶ and by the Holy Spirit (John3:6, Titus 3:5).

# LORDSHIP

- ▶ While it is God who freely gives salvation to those who believe, it is a necessary part of salvation that the new believer should reorder his life priorities to make Jesus Lord of His life. Romans 10:9 says that if you confess with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved.
- ▶ Romans 6:17-18 shows just how powerful this concept of Jesus as Lord is: 'But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness'
- ▶ Following the experience of salvation, the believer must grow in his walk with God, learning to walk in the Spirit rather than in the flesh (Galatians 5:16);

## LORDSHIP cont:

- ▶ According to the Word rather than in the ‘vanity of the mind’ (Ephesians 4:17) and be faith rather than by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).
- ▶ We believe that Christianity is a walk of faith, and that faith principles are to be applied to every area of life (Matthew 17:20)

## 7. RESTITUTION

- ▶ We believe that once our sins are removed and we are reconciled to God, we should do everything in our power to make restitution for anything wrong done to others, and to forgive those who have wronged us.
- ▶ We need to make good or restore those wrong things that we have done to others – returning stolen property, paying for the restoration of things we have damaged or rectifying the wrongs we have done.
- ▶ In **Matthew 5:23-26**, Jesus teaches that we need to be reconciled to our brothers before we can enjoy a proper relationship with God. Therefore, acts of restitution would seem to be some of the first fruits of repentance that should accompany salvation. We will then have a conscience void of offence before God and man (**Leviticus 6:1-7; Luke 19:8; Matthew 18:15-19**).



## 8. HOLINESS OF LIFE

- ▶ We believe that it is the responsibility of the child of God to:
  - ▶ ‘Put off concerning the former conduct, the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;
  - ▶ Be renewed in the spirit of your mind; that you may put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:22-24).

## HOLINESS OF LIFE Cont:

- ▶ **SANCTIFICATION**. To sanctify means to make holy, or to set apart and bring into line with God's will. God desires His children to be sanctified wholly (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- ▶ 'Be ye holy; for I am holy' (1 Peter 1:16). This is possible through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ on Calvary, but people may miss this blessing by not hearing this truth, or because of lack of faith.
- ▶ Although we are justified instantly when we receive Christ and are accepted as holy by God, yet sanctification is a process which takes place in our lives through the working of the Holy Spirit (Romans 12: 1-2; 15:16; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 4:22-24).
- ▶ Jesus Christ reigns in the believer and is made unto him sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:30). As we receive and obey the Word of truth we continue to be sanctified (John 17:17), the blood also sanctifying, or keeping us clean (1 John 1:7, Hebrews 13:12-13).

## HOLINESS OF LIFE Cont:

- ▶ **THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.** This is the transformation of character, which is brought about by the activity of the Holy Spirit, so that the life of the believer might reveal the beauty, and character of Christ.
- ▶ The nine fold fruit of the Spirit is given in **Galatians 5:22-23**.
- ▶ **Ephesians 5:9** speaks of the fruit of the Spirit as being ‘in all goodness, righteousness, and truth’,
- ▶ **James 3:18** speaks of the ‘fruit of righteousness’. This fruit grows in the character of the believer as he learns to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and is the progressive evidence of the new birth.

## HOLINESS OF LIFE Cont:

- ▶ **GOOD WORKS.** The Bible emphasizes that it is the responsibility of the child of God to 'be careful to maintain good works' (**Titus 3:8**).
- ▶ 'Sanctification' refers to the separation to God, the 'fruit of the Holy Spirit' to the effect on character, while good works are the expression of this in everyday life.
- ▶ These good works must be seen in every area of life (**Titus 2:2-4; Matthew 5:13; Ephesians 2:10**).

## HOLINESS OF LIFE Cont:

- ▶ **RELATIONSHIPS**. Jesus said, ‘A new covenant I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another’ (John 13:34).
- ▶ This is the mark of true disciples of Jesus (John 13:35).
- ▶ This involves accepting , forbearing and forgiving one another (Colossians 3:13-14; Ephesians 4:31-32)

# EROS

Romantic or sexual

# AGAPE

Love of humanity. Contributing.

# PHILIA

Feeling part of a team/group.

# PHILAUTIA

Self-love. Self Big Ups. Being kind to self.

# STORGE

Family love. Relations or very close friends.

# PRAGMA

Love that endures. Being there.

# LUDUS

Play. Fun. Exciting love.

# MANIA

Obsessive Love



## HOLINESS OF LIFE Cont:

- ▶ **INWARD GODLINESS – NOT TRADITIONS.** There is a strong tendency in all of us to substitute outward appearance of behaviour for true godliness.
- ▶ Jesus accused the Pharisees of hypocrisy because their hearts in fellowship were far from God, and they clung to the traditions of men rather than seeking to know God (**Mark 7:5-8**).
- ▶ **Colossians 2:6-10** proves that we are complete in Christ, but that merely observing the traditions of men can ‘cheat’ us of our inheritance.
- ▶ **1 Peter 3:1-5** may appear to be a list of rules for dress amongst women, but actually teaches a submissive, gentle, and quiet spirit is ‘precious in the sight of God’.
- ▶ The moment we begin to make rules about outward appearance we are in danger of judging others and giving the idea that salvation can come through our own works, rather than the blood of Jesus.

## 9. WATER BAPTISM FOR BELIEVERS BY IMMERSION.

- ▶ We believe that all those who have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour should be baptised in water by full immersion in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ It is a type of the burial of the old life following our death-union with Christ, and sets forth our rising in newness of life(Matthew 3:13-17; 28:19-20; Acts 2:38; 8:35-40; Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12)



## 10. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WITH THE SIGN OF NEW TONGUES

- ▶ We believe that it is the will of God for all those who have been born again and baptised in water, to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This is evidenced by the ability to speak in other tongues. Jesus promised it (**John 14:16, 17,26; 16:7-15; Acts 1:4-5**).
- ▶ The disciples received it (**Acts 2:4; 10:43-46; 19:2-6**). This blessing is for all believers. (**Acts 2:38-39**).
- ▶ In this way, we are baptised into the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:13,27**), that is, we function more effectively as the body of Christ.
- ▶ “These signs shall follow them that believe... they shall speak with new tongues” (**Mark 6:16-20**).
- ▶ **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the doorway to the gifts and manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian.**

# 11. DIVINE HEALING FOR THE BODY.

- ▶ We believe that divine healing was included in the redemptive work of Christ on Calvary. **Sickness, disease and infirmities are the outcome of the fall of man; they are part of the curse.**
- ▶ While God may permit and use these for His purpose, satan is the author of them. **(Job 2:1-7; Luke 13:16).**
- ▶ Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).
- ▶ By His atonement, Christ redeemed us, spirit, soul and body from the curse; “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses” (Matthew 8:16-17);
- ▶ “With His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:4-5). Divine healing is part of the kingdom gospel (Matthew 9:35; Mark 16:15-18).

# DIVINE HEALING FOR THE BODY Cont:

- ▶ The early church taught it, and an ordinance was instructing the sick to call for the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil:
- ▶ ‘And the prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord will raise Him up’ (James 5:14-15).
- ▶ Special miracles were wrought by the apostles (Acts 9:33-42; 28:8-9; Roman 15:19; Acts 19:11-12).
- ▶ Healing may also come by the word of faith (Acts 3:6-8, 16).
- ▶ Keeping God’s laws (e.g. with regard to sensible eating, rest and forgiveness) helps to maintain good health (obedience – Exodus 15:26; sensible eating 1 Timothy 4:3-5; relationships Matthew 18:34-35; 1 Corinthians 11:29-31; rest Mark 2:27; Philippians 2:25-30).

## 12. THE BODY OF CHRIST FOR THE REVELATION OF CHRIST.

- ▶ We believe that the church is the body of Christ (**Colossians 1:18**) and consists of believers of all races, nations and languages who become one body through partaking one bread (Christ) and being baptised in one spirit:
  - ▶ (Holy Spirit) (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 12:12-13; Ephesians 2:14-16, 20-22).
  - ▶ The body of Christ is manifested by the fruit of the Holy Spirit and:

## a) THE NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- ▶ The gifts of the Holy Spirit are a revelation of the power of Christ through the believer, and are for the comfort, exhortation and building up of the body of Christ (Romans 1:11; 1 Corinthians 14:3).
- ▶ We are exhorted to follow love, and to desire spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1),
- ▶ We are to be mindful of the teaching of the scriptures that the fruit of the spirit (Galatians 5:22-25) should always accompany the gifts of the spirit (1 Corinthians 12-14).
- ▶ Therefore, 'be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord' (Isaiah 52:11).

## b) THE FIVE OFFICES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- ▶ (Ephesians 4:7-16) which are “apostles... prophets... evangelists... pastors and teachers”.
- ▶ These are given for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry.
- ▶ It is therefore desirable to recognize and encourage the ministry of such men, who are a gift to the body of Christ.
- ▶ They, in turn, should seek to establish a Spirit led church in which all of the saints are being prepared for effective ministry work ‘till we all come to the unity of the faith... unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ’.

## c) MINISTRIES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- ▶ These are talents and abilities that God gives us so that we might fulfil the specific ministries in the church. We need to develop and exercise these to excel to the edifying of the church (Romans 12:1-8; 1 Corinthians 12:28-30). .
- ▶ Cell groups also provide a vehicle for ‘friendship evangelism’ (Acts 2:46-47; 5:42; 12:12; 20:18-20; Romans 16:3-5).
- ▶ The United Apostolic Faith Church believes that the Body of Christ will attain, not merely to the babe state as recorded in 1 Corinthians 3: 1-2 and Hebrews 5: 12-13, but to that of the ‘full age’ of ‘PERFECT MAN’ of Ephesians 4:13-15, that is the victorious warrior of Ephesians 6:10-18 and the OVERCOMER of Revelation 2:26-29

## 13. SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- ▶ We believe that all believers are called to become involved in spiritual warfare. ‘We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places’ (Ephesians 6:12).
- ▶ Jesus taught us to pray ‘Deliver us from the evil one’ (Matthew 6:13 NIV), and James writes ‘Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you’ (James 4:7).
- ▶ The fact of spiritual warfare is dramatically illustrated by the battle of Israel with Amalek and the part played by Moses’ prayers (Exodus 17:8-13).
- ▶ Daniel 10: 12- 14 reveals the spiritual forces involved behind national events and the part that can be played by prayer.
- ▶ For spiritual warfare we need to be protected by the ‘armour of God’ (Ephesians 6:11, 13-17), such as ‘all prayer and supplication in the spirit (Ephesians 6:18).



# THE BLOOD OF THE EVERLASTING COVENANT

- ▶ The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is the price of our redemption (Revelation 5:9).
- ▶ It is the new and living way. We have ‘boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus’ (Hebrew 10:19- 20).
- ▶ We believe that faith in the blood of Jesus gives us a weapon against the powers of darkness.
- ▶ The blood is a spiritual weapon, ‘the weapons of our warfare are not of this world’ (2 Corinthians 10:4).
- ▶ We have come to the blood of sprinkling (Hebrews 12:24; 1 Peter 1:2).
- ▶ The blood of Jesus is a weapon against the power of the devil (Revelation 12:11).
- ▶ The blood speaks to the Father of our redemption, to the saints of victory, and to satan of defeat (Hebrews 12:22, 24).

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- ▶ We believe that God has established His kingdom over which He reigns as King.
- ▶ The ‘gospel of the kingdom of God’ was a major theme of the message preached by the Lord Jesus during His life on earth (Matthew 4:17,23).
- ▶ The same theme is also prominent in the teaching and preaching of the apostles (Matthew 10:7; Acts 20:25; 28:31).
- ▶ It is also to be preached in the entire world ‘for a witness’ before the return of Christ (Matthew 24:14).
- ▶ Therefore, it is an important part of our message in these times.
- ▶ There are a number of aspects of the message of the Kingdom which we need to consider, including: ☐ The universal aspect ☐ The individual aspect ☐ The Israel aspect ☐ The future aspect (all nations)

# THE LATTER RAIN

- ▶ We believe that we are living in the time of the latter rain. The latter rain began after Jesus Christ was baptised in water and with the Holy Spirit, and continued after the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, through Apostles and Prophets.
- ▶ ‘I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh: and your son and daughters shall prophesy...’ (Joel 2: 28; Acts 2:17).
- ▶ God is again manifesting spiritual gifts in the body of Christ so that His word may flow among men accomplishing His will (Isaiah 55: 10-11),
- ▶ Fulfilling the scriptures concerning the latter rain, which is the word of God coming again through the oracles, or gifts and offices given by the Holy Spirit. (James 5: 7; Zechariah 10:1).

# THE COMING OF THE LORD.

- ▶ We believe that the physical and literal return of the Lord to the earth is near.
- ▶ While we hold that the great message for men at this time is the revealing of Christ in His body until His fullness is manifested for world blessing, yet we believe that 'this same Jesus' will appear (Acts 1:11) in immortality and incorruption, shining forth in glorious splendour (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- ▶ During the time of waiting which still remains, the 'Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world' (Matthew 24:14).
- ▶ The signs given in the word of God of the approach of the end of the world are very prominent in the world, indicating to us the nearness of these events (2 Timothy 3:1-5; Zechariah 14:1-5; Joel 2:23-32; Ezekiel 38 and 39; Daniel 7:13-14).

# RESURRECTION.

- ▶ We believe that the dead are to be raised (John 5:28, 29; 1 Corinthians 15).
- ▶ At death, believers pass directly into the hands of Christ (Philippians 1:20-24; 2 Corinthians 5:1-9).
- ▶ Their bodies are raised at the return of Christ (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).
- ▶ The body is sown in corruption, in weakness; a natural body: it is raised in incorruption, in glory, in power; a spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:42-44). 'Like unto His glorious' (Philippians 3 :21).
- ▶ Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life' (John 11:5). Unbelievers are raised, after the thousand year rule of Christ, for judgement at the great white throne' (Revelation 20:11-15).

# THE MILLENIUM.

- ▶ We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ will reign for a thousand years on earth and the overcoming Christians will reign with Him (Isaiah 11-12).
- ▶ The covenant of peace between God and man will be fulfilled during this time, after Christ triumphantly returns to earth (Ezekiel 34:25,26; 37:26; Revelation 19:11,21).
- ▶ ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our God and of His Christ, and we will reign forever and ever’ (Revelation 11:15 NIV).
- ▶ The Lord God gives unto Jesus ‘the throne of his father, David’, and He rules over ‘the house of Jacob’ with His saints (Luke 1:32-33; 22:29-30; Matthew 19:28).
- ▶ All nations of the earth will be subject to God’s rule (Psalm 2:7-9), and will enjoy God’s peace and blessing (Micah 4:1-4).
- ▶ Satan is bound for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-3), and longevity is enjoyed by humanity

# THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED.

- ▶ We believe that all those who reject Christ will go to a place of torment when they die. There they will await the great day of judgement (Psalm 9:17).
- ▶ Jesus said, 'The rich man also died and was buried. In hell (Hades) where he was in torment, he looked up...' (Luke 16:19-31NIV).
- ▶ The day will come when 'death and Hades', and those not found in the book of life, will be thrown into the lake of fire. 'This is the second death' (Revelation 20:11-15).
- ▶ Jesus taught this: 'If your right eye causes you to sin, pluck it out, and cast it from you: for it is more profitable for you that one of your members perish, than for your whole body to be cast into hell' (Matthew 5:29).

# TITHES AND OFFERINGS.

- ▶ We believe that God requires us to bring one tenth of our income to the church where we worship and fellowship.
- ▶ Tithes should be brought into the storehouse – the church where we obtain spiritual meat.
- ▶ The scriptures teach that the tithe belongs to the Lord and is not ours (Malachi 3:8-12).
- ▶ Blessing is promised to all those who are obedient in this respect.
- ▶ Giving of tithes originated in faith, not in the law. Abraham voluntarily gave tithes (Genesis 14: 17-20);
- ▶ Jacob also. Jesus recognised the right of God in this and approved of it (Luke 11:41).
- ▶ Paul exhorts to proportional giving (1 Corinthians 16:2).
- ▶ God also asks for offerings over and above the tithe (Malachi 3:8)



# DEDICATION OF INFANTS

- ▶ We believe that it is the duty and privilege of parents to bring their children to the Church for dedication to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:22; Luke 2:22-40; Mark 10:13-16).
- ▶ Christian parents must bring their children up in the way of the Lord (Ephesians 6:4).

# THE COMMUNION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

- ▶ We believe in partaking of the Lord's supper to commemorate the Lord's death (Acts 2:42).
- ▶ We are to partake of the bread and the wine, in remembrance of our Lord's death, until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:2-32; Luke 17-20).
- ▶ To eat and drink unworthily is to eat and drink unto condemnation, but, by discerning the Lord's body, there is healing for such as are weak or sickly.
- ▶ There is no special hour laid down in the Scriptures for this ordinance 'this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:23-33).

# HOLY MATRIMONY

- ▶ We believe that marriage is holy (Hebrews 13:4) and was ordained by God for companionship and mutual help (Genesis 2:18; Ephesians 5:22-23), and for the procreation of children (Genesis 1:28), to be brought up in the fear and nurture of the Lord.
- ▶ In all matters of marriage, divorce and remarriage, close attention must be paid to the teaching of scripture (Matthew 5:32; 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16; 27-28; 2 Corinthians 6:14).
  - ▶ We should note the following points: Marriage is a lifelong commitment (Matthew 19:6)
  - ▶ Marriage should be within the bounds of God's word, and God's guidance should be sought (e.g. 2 Corinthians 6:14)
  - ▶ Proper counselling should be sought before marriage
  - ▶ God has a solution for every problem that may arise in marriage

# PRAYER FOR KINGS, PRESIDENTS, RULERS AND FOR ALL IN AUTHORITY.

- ▶ We believe that our Christian duty extends to matters relating to national affairs as well as spiritual matters.
- ▶ It is the duty of all to pray for kings, and for all in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-3), to fear God and honour the King (1 Peter 2:17) – remembering that the powers that be, are ordained of God (Romans 13:1)