

APPENDIX B

Articles of Faith of the Mississippi Baptist Association (Established in 1806)

The following articles of faith and church order are taken from "A Republican of the Minutes of the Mississippi Baptist Association, From its Organization in 1806 to the Present Time," by T.M. Bond (published by Hinton and Co., 1849; frontispiece).

Articles of Faith

1. We believe in one only true and living God; and that there are a trinity of persons in the Godhead--the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence, equal in power and glory.
2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, are of Divine authority, and the only rule of faith and practice.
3. We believe in the fall of Adam; in the imputation of his sins to all his posterity; in the total depravity of human nature; and in man's inability to restore himself to the favor of God.
4. We believe in the everlasting love of God to his people; in the eternal unconditional election of a definite number of the human family to grace and glory.
5. We believe that sinners are only justified in the sight of God, by the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ, which unto all and upon all them that believe.
6. We believe all those who were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world are, in time, effectually called, regenerated, converted, and sanctified; and are kept, by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation.
7. We believe that there is one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who, by the satisfaction which he made to law and justice, "in becoming an offering for sin," hath, by his most precious blood, redeemed the elect from under the curse of the law, that they might be holy and without blame before him in love.
8. We believe good works are the fruits of faith, and follow after justification, are evidences of a gracious state, and that it is the duty of all believers to perform them from a principle of love.
9. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, and a general judgment, and that the happiness of the righteous and the punishment of the wicked will be eternal.

On Gospel Order

1. We believe that the visible church of Jesus Christ is a congregation of faithful persons, who have given themselves up to the Lord, and to one another, and have covenanted to keep up a godly discipline agreeable to the rules of the gospel.
2. We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, the only lawgiver; that the government is with the body--"the church"--and is equally the right and privilege of each member thereof.
3. We believe that baptism and the Lord's supper are gospel ordinances, appointed by Jesus Christ, and are to be continued in the church.
4. We believe that baptism, by immersion, is the only scriptural mode, and that believers are the only proper subjects.
5. We believe that none but regular baptized church members have a right to partake of the Lord's supper.
6. We believe it to be the duty and privilege of all believers to make a public profession of their faith, to submit to baptism by immersion, and to give themselves members of the visible church.
7. We believe it to be the duty of every regular organized church to expel from her communion all disorderly members who are immoral in their lives or that hold doctrines contrary to the scriptures.