

Emmanuel Church Marlborough Basis of Faith

1. GOD

There is one God¹, who exists eternally² in three distinct but equal persons³: the Father⁴, the Son⁵, and the Holy Spirit⁶. God is unchangeable⁷ in his holiness⁸, justice⁹, wisdom¹⁰ and love¹¹. He is the almighty Creator¹²; Saviour¹³ and Judge¹⁴ who sustains¹⁵ and governs all things¹⁶ according to his sovereign will¹⁷ for his own glory¹⁸.

(1) Gen 1:1; Dt 6:4; Isa 44:6; 45:5,6; 1Th 1:9. (2) Ps 90:2. (3) Gen 1:26; Mt 28:18-20; 2Co 13:14; Jn 16:7-15; 20:21-22; Eph 2:18; 1Pe 1:2. (4) Jn 4:24; Ex 3:14; 1Jn 1:3. (5) Jn 10:30,33. (6) Jn 14:16-17. (7) Jas 1:17; Mal 3:6. (8) Ex 15:11; Isa 40:25. (9) Rom 2:11; Ps 96:13. (10) Dan 2:22-23; Rom 11:33-36. (11) 1Jn 4:8-10. (12) Gen 1-2; Heb 11:3. (13) Tit 3:4-7; Rev 7:9-10. (14) Heb 9:27; Rom 14:12; Rev 20:11-15. (15) Heb 1:3; Job 12:10. (16) Ps 103:19; Dan 4:34-35. (17) Gen 50:20; Act 2:23. (18) Eph 1:11-12; Isa 6:1-8.

2. THE BIBLE

God has revealed himself in the Bible¹, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone². Every word was inspired by God through human authors³, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God⁴, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine⁵. The Bible alone speaks with final authority⁶ and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice⁷.

(1) John 5:39; Heb 1:1,2; 2:1-4. (2) Lk 24:27,44; Heb 9:15. (3) Jer 1:9; Am 3:8; Zec 7:12; 1Cor2:13; 1Th 2:13; 2Pe 3:2. (4) 2Tim 3:16; 2Pe 1:20-21; 1Cor 2:13. (5) 1Cor 15:1-8; 2Pe 1:16-18; 1Jn 1:1-3; 2Tim 3:16-17; Pr 30:5. (6) Col 2:8. (7) Dt 4:2; Pr 30:5-6; Jude 3; Rev 22:18-19.

3. THE HUMAN RACE

All people, being created in the image of God¹, have inherent and equal dignity and worth². Their greatest purpose is to obey, worship and love God³. As a result of the fall of our first parents⁴, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted⁵ and all men and women are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and hostile to God⁶. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God⁷ and needs to be born again, forgiven and reconciled to God⁸ in order to know and please him.

(1) Gen 1:26-27; Ps 8:4-5; Ps 139:13-14; Ecc 7:29a. (2) Jas 3:9; Mt 10:31, 12:12; Mk 8:36,37; Ac 10:34-35, 17:26; Rom 2:11. (3) Ex 19:5; Ps 86:9; Mt 22:37; 1Co 10:31. (4) Gen 3. (5) Rom 5:12-19, 7:18-19, 8:10; Eph 4:17-18; Jer 17:9; Tit 1:15. (6) Eph 2:1; Ps 51:5; Rom 3:19-20, 8:7; Jn 3:19. (7) Rm 1:18, Eph 2:1-3. (8) Jn 3:3,5-8; Rom 4:7; 2Co 5:18-19; Eph 1:7.

4. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God¹ and fully man². He was conceived by the Holy Spirit³, born of a virgin⁴, and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father⁵. He taught with authority and all his words are true⁶. On the cross he died in the place of sinners⁷, bearing God's punishment for their sin⁸, redeeming them by his blood⁹. He rose from the dead¹⁰ and in his resurrection body ascended into heaven¹¹ where he is exalted as Lord of all¹². He intercedes for his people in the presence of the Father¹³.

(1) Jn 1:1; Heb 1:8; Is 9:6; 1Jn 5:20; Lk 1:76, 3:4 (cf. Is 40:3); Php 2:10-11 (cf. Is 45:18,23); Jn 8:58-59 (cf. Ex 3:14); Jn 2:25; Rev 22:13; Heb 13:8; Jn 1:3, 6:4-14, 11:43-44; Mt 28:17; Jn 20:28; Rev 1:5-6. (2) Jn 1:14; Mt 1:18-23, 4:2, 26:40; Lk 10:21; Jn 4:6, 11:3,5,35; 19:28; Php 2:8; Heb 2:9,14,17,18; Lk 2:41-52 (3) Mt 1:18,20; Lk 1:35 (4) Mt 1:18,23; Lk 1:27,34 (5) Jn 17:4; Heb 4:15; 7:26. (6) Mt 7:28-29; Jn 7:16-17,46; Jn 8:26-28; Mt 7:24-27, 12:46-50, 17:5. (7) Ez 18:20; Mt 20:28; Gal 3:13; Rom 5:8, 6:23; 1Pe 2:24. (8) Isa 53:4-6; Jn 1:29; 1Cor 15:3. (9) Lev 17:11, 14; Heb 9:11-28; Eph 1:1; 1Pe 1:18,19; Gal 3:13; 1Cor 6:20. (10) Mt 28:5-6; Lk 24:38-39; Jn 20:17,24-29; Ac 1:3; 1 Cor 15:3-20. (11) Lk 24:50-51; Ac 1:9-11; Ph 3:21; 1Co 15:15:43-49. (12) Mt 28:18; Eph 1:20-23; Ph 2:9-11. (13) Rom 8:34; Heb 7:25.

5. SALVATION

Salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved¹. It has been accomplished by the Lord Jesus Christ² and is offered to all in the gospel³. God in his love⁴ forgives sinners⁵ whom he calls⁶, granting them repentance and faith⁷. All who believe in Christ⁸ are justified by faith alone⁹, adopted into the family of God¹⁰ and receive eternal life¹¹.

(1) Mk 10:26-27; Eph 2:5; Ti 3:5; 2 Tim 1:9; Gal 2:16; Rev 7:10. (2) Mt 1:21; Jn 3:17; Ac 4:12, 15:1; 1Cor 1:18; 2Tim 1:9-10; Jn 19:30. (3) Rom 1:16; Rom 3:26. (4) Rom 5:8; Jn 15:13. (5) Col 2:13. (6) 2 Cor 4:4; 1 Pe 2:9, 5:10; Ac 2:39; Jude 1; 2Th 2:14; Jn 6:44. (7) Ac 5:31, 11:18; Eph 2:8. (8) Ac 16:31; Jn 3:16. (9) Ac 13:39; Rom 1:16-17, 3:2, 4:24; 2Cor 5:21; 1Cor 1:30; Gal 3:11. (10) Eph 2:19; Jn 1:12; 1Pe 2:10; 1Jn 3:1. (11) Jn 3:15, 10:10, 14:2-3, 17:3; 1Jn 3:2, 5:11-12.

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ¹ and to apply his work of salvation². He convicts sinners³, imparts spiritual life⁴ and gives a true understanding of the Scriptures⁵. He indwells all believers⁶, brings assurance of salvation⁷ and produces increasing likeness to Christ⁸. He builds up the Church⁹ and empowers its members for worship¹⁰, service¹¹ and mission¹².

(1) Jn 16:14-15; Isa 11:2; Joel 2:28-32. (2) Jn 14:26, 15:26. (3) Lk 15:15-20; Jn 16:8; Ac 2:37, 16:29-30; 2Cor 5:17 (4) Jn 3:1-8; Rom 8:1-17; Eph 2:1, 4:22-24, 5:14. (5) 2Pe 1:21; 1Cor 2:6-16. (6) 2 Cor 1:22; Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19; Lk 1:41,67; Ac 2:4, 4:8, 31, 6:3, 5, 7:55, 9:17, 11:24, 13:9; Eph5:18; Isa 44:3; Jn 4:15. (7) 1Jn 3:24, 4:13, 5:13; 2Cor 1:21-22; Eph 1:13, 4:30. (8) 2Cor 3:17-18; Rom 8:13; Gal 5:17-18, 22-26; Php 2:12-13; Rom 7:24-25; 1 Jn 3:2. (9) 1 Cor 12:13; Rom 12:3-8; Eph 2:22, 4:1-16. (10) Jn 4:24; Eph 6:18; Jude 20; 1 Cor 2:4; Eph 5:18-20. (11) Rom 15:17-19; Php 3:3. (12) Ac 1:8.

7. THE CHURCH

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong¹. It is made visible in local churches², which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other³ for the worship of God⁴, the preaching of the Word⁵, the administering of Baptism⁶ and the Lord's Supper⁷; for pastoral care⁸ and discipline⁹, and for evangelism¹⁰. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within¹¹ and between¹² churches by mutual love, care and encouragement. True fellowship between churches exists only where they are faithful to the gospel¹³.

(1) Mt 16:18; Eph 1:22-23; 2:19-22, 5:23-32; Rev 7:9-10, 19:7; 1 Pe 2:5; Col 1:18. (2) Rom 1:7, 16:1,16, 23; 1 Cor 1:2, 16:19; Gal 1:2, 22; Eph 1:1; Php 1:1; Col 1:2, 4:16; 1Th 1:1; 1 Pe 1:1; Rev 2,3. (3) Ac 2:42-47. (4) Ac 4:23-31, 13:1-2. (5) Ac 20:7; Eph 4:11,12; 2Tim 4:2. (6) Ac 8:12; 18:8; 19:5. (7) Ac 2:42; 1 Co 11:18-28. (8) 1Pe 5:2-3. (9) Mt 18:15-17; 1 Cor 5:9-13; 2Th 3:6, 14-15. (10) Ac 2:47. (11) 1 Cor 3:5-9; Eph 2:11-22; 4:1-16; Php 2:1-11. (12) 1Th 1:7, 2:14; Ro 15:26, 16:1-2, 16; Ac 11:29-30; 1 Co 16:1-4, 19-20; Col 4:16; 2Co 8:18-19. (13) Gal 1:8-9; 2Co 6:14-7:1

8. BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

Baptism and the Lord's Supper have been given to the churches by Christ^{1,2} as visible signs of the gospel³. Baptism is a symbol of union with Christ⁴ and entry into his Church⁵ but does not impart spiritual life⁶. The Lord's Supper is a commemoration of Christ's sacrifice⁷ offered once for all⁸ and involves no change in the bread and wine⁹. All its blessings are received by faith.¹⁰

(1) Mt 28:19. (2) Lk 22:19; 1Co 11:23-26. (3) Ac 8:12, 36-38; 9:17-18; 10:44-48; 16:14-15, 31-33; 18:8; 19:4-5; 2:42, 46; 20:7. (4) Rom 6:3-4, 6; 2Co 5:17. (5) 1Co 12:12-13; Gal 3:27-28. (6) Jn 3:16; Ac 8:13,20-23; 16:31; 1Co 1:17, 15:1-8; Eph 2:8-9. (7) Lk 22:14-20; Jn 6:57-58 (8) Heb 9:25-28; 10:11-12. (9) Ac 1:9,11; 1Co 10:3-4,16-17. (10) Jn 6:29,35, 51-58; Jer 31:31-33.

9. THE FUTURE

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory¹. He will raise the dead² and judge the world in righteousness³. The wicked will be sent to eternal punishment⁴ and the righteous will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God⁵. God will make all things new⁶ and will be glorified forever⁷.

(1) Mt 24:30; Jn 14:1-3, 28; Ac 1:11, 3:20-21; 1 Co 1:7; 11:26; Php 3:20; 1Th 1:10, 4:16; 2Th 1:7; Heb 9:28; Rev 1:7. (2) Dan 12:2; Jn 5:28-30; 1Co 15:22-23. (3) Ps 96:13, 98:9; Mt 16:27, 25:31-32; Rom 2:5-6,11; 2Tim 4:1; Rev 20:11-15, 22:12. (4) Mt 25:46; Rom 2:5,9,16; 2Th 1:7-10; Jude 15; Rev 21:8. (5) Mt 25:46; Lk 21:18-19, 28; Rom 2:7, 10; Col 3:4; Heb 9:28; 2Tim 4:8; Rev 21:6-7, 27. (6) 2Pe 3:7, 13; Rev 21:5 (7) Rom 11:33-36; Rev 4:11; Jude 24-25.

This Basis of Faith is the Doctrinal Basis of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches (FIEC). In Point 3 the phrase 'All people' replaces the phrase 'All men and women', for clarification only. Bible references have been added. See also www.fiec.org.uk/about-us/beliefs.



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