



Tenets of Belief for *KnowYourWorldview.org*

The following *Articles of Faith* give an overview of Biblical truths, principles, doctrines, and my worldview's foundation by which website www.KnowYourWorldview.org was written.

Faith in Jesus Christ as my Savior, Lord, and FriendIS my compass in life. — Roger

**The amazing grace of the Master, Jesus Christ,
the extravagant love of God (*the Father*),
the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit,
be with all of you.**

— 2 Corinthians 13:14 MSG

Article 1: The One True God

There is only one true God eternally existent in Three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

God the Father is the eternally self-existent "I AM." He is infinite in holiness and in all other perfections. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, and present everywhere. God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. (*See list of 15 "God's Attributes" in website chapter 19.*)

God created us, male and female — humankind, in His own image — for fellowship, and **placed within us a heart that can choose to believe in Him.** (*See website chapters 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3.*) To the Lord God Almighty we owe our highest love, reverence, and obedience. **To draw near to God and to know Him in ever increasing revelation is a believer's greatest privilege and blessing.** (*Ephesians 1:17-19; 2 Peter 1:2-4*)

God the Son, Jesus Christ, is eternally God. (*Colossians 1:15-20*) As the Word, He was together with the Father and the Holy Spirit from the beginning. (*John 1:1-5,14*) For our redemption, Jesus left heaven as the Word incarnate and was born a human, yet without sin. As Immanuel, "God with us", Jesus perfectly revealed and obeyed the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature and identifying Himself completely with humankind. Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man. (*Matthew 1:23; Hebrews 2:14-18*)

Through His substitutionary death (*John 10:17-18*) on the cross, Christ made provision for the redemption of humankind from the bondage of sin and death. (*Ephesians 2:1-6*) Jesus was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples and many other followers. As the victorious risen Christ, Jesus ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God the Father, where **Jesus is the One Mediator and Reconciler in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and humankind.** (*Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 12:24; John 3:16; John 14:6*)

For everyone who believes and receives God's abundant provision of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ (*Romans 5:17*). God promises complete forgiveness of sins and new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (*1 Peter 1:3-5; John 11:25-26*). **God desires fellowship with His creation and to bless those who come to Him by faith, giving to them His grace and mercy,and assurance that we will live with Him in Heaven for Eternity.** (*Colossians 3:1-3*)

God the Holy Spirit works in the world to reveal and glorify Jesus Christ. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ. (*John 16:7-11*) **The Holy Spirit is our indwelling source of power for living a Christ-centered life, enabling us to understand spiritual truth in God's Word, and guiding believers in doing what is right, so they may live a godly life that pleases the Father.** (*John 14:15-17; John 16:12-15; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5; Ephesians 1:17-21*) As believers walk in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in their lives as an effective witness (*Galatians 5:22-23*), and builds up and equips the body of Christ with spiritual gifts which bring glory to God.

Article 2: Humankind

We, humankind, are the crowning work of God's creation. (*Ephesians 1:3-8*) God created us for intimate friendship with Himself, giving us the moral ability to choose right from wrong. (*2 Peter 1:3-8*) Through the temptation of Satan, humankind by free choice disobeyed the command of God, and fell in sin from original innocence. By sin, humankind experiences not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God. Only God's grace and forgiveness through salvation in Jesus Christ can bring us back into relationship with God. (*See website chapters 8, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 9.*)

The sacredness of each person is evident in that God created us in His own image. God wants a loving relationship with each one of us, so we can walk with Him, talk with Him, and enjoy working with Him on earth. (*Colossians 3:12-17*) Therefore, every person of every race possesses dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love. **God desires that everyone know Him as Savior, Lord, and intimate Friend.**

Article 3: The Scriptures

The Bible is God's infallible revelation of Himself to humankind and was written by men who were divinely inspired. Every word of Scripture was inspired by God Himself. It is Author God's love letter to all of humanity (each one of us) and is the final divine authority in every issue it communicates. What previous generations knew about living with God is the same knowing we have today. The Bible is the consistent, unchanged, unadulterated, complete truth straight from the Lord Himself. (*1 Corinthians 2:10-16; Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31; Deuteronomy 7:9*) (See website chapters 18, 19, 20 and 21.)

As our ultimate source of all truth (*Colossians 2:6-7*), instruction (*Proverbs 3:5-8*), and correction (*2 Timothy 3:16-17*), the Bible is our guidebook for living a righteous and godly life. It gives us insight into the will and purposes of God. It contains all that is needed for guidance in godliness and practical Christian conduct. It is complete truth, and we can trust it for all matters in this life and Eternity. (*2 Peter 1:3-8; Hebrews 4:12-13*)

God's Word IS our weapons in spiritual battles,because God knows better than we ever could the reality of spiritual warfare we experience as humankind. (*Ephesians 6:10-18*) **It is by the POWER OF GOD** that "WE ARE demolishing arguments and ideas, every high-and-mighty philosophy that pits itself against the knowledge of the one true God. And WE ARE taking prisoners of every thought, every emotion, and subduing them into obedience to *Jesus Christ*." (*2 Corinthians 10:3-5 The Voice*) **It is by God's truth, the Word of God, HELP FROM JESUS HIMSELF, that is how we win any and all spiritual battles in life.** (See website Introduction and chapters 18, 19 and 20.)

Putting on the Armor of God is our responsibility to help protect ourselves with God's help in life's spiritual battles. (*Ephesians 6:10-18*) (See "*Am I wearing God's armor?*" in website chapter 17 for a list of strategic training questions with scripture answers.) **You must be actively engaged in God's Word to shape and nurture your Biblical worldview.** (Also, see discussion "*It teaches us how to engage with God....*" in website chapter 19.)

Article 4: Salvation

Salvation is a free gift of God,based on the merits of the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus. The salvation of humankind (each one of us) is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not based on human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imparts His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justifies them — giving believers life and right-standing with God because of Jesus' death and resurrection. (*John 3:16; John 6:29; Ephesians 2:8-10; 2 Corinthians 5:21*)

The believer's new life in Christ includes privileges of adoption and inheritance in the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. The fruit of salvation is an active, engaged lifestyle of loving obedience and service to Jesus Christ our Savior. (*John 8:31-32; 1 John 5:1-13*)

Article 5: Water Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Water Baptism: All believers are to be baptized in water as an outward sign of the inward work that God accomplished in forgiving their sins. It is an act of obedience recognizing God's work in the life of a believer through a crucified, buried, and risen Savior. (*Romans 6:3-4*) In baptism, believers declare to the world that their old sinful nature has died with Christ and that they are raised with Him to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. (*Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39*)

The Lord's Supper: God declared a New Covenant (*Luke 22:20; Hebrews 8:10*) with us through His Son, Jesus Christ. The night before Jesus' death, He ate the Passover meal with His disciples. "He took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God for it,*and saying* 'Each of you drink from it, for this is my blood, which confirms the covenant between God and his people. It is poured out as a sacrifice to forgive the sins of many.'" (*Matthew 26:26-29 NLT; John 10:17-18*) Today, when believers participate in The Lord's Supper (Communion), they celebrate the truth of Jesus' words until He comes again. (*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

Article 6: The Christian Life

The Christian life is lived in continual fellowship with God, seeking the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit as our Source of life and blessing. **Scripture encourages us to follow Jesus passionately with unbounded enthusiasm, knowing Him in ever-increasing revelation.**

Life Seeking God: Believers mature and grow spiritually and in Christ-likeness by drawing near to the Lord for the ever-increasing fellowship God offers. For example, by prayer (talking and listening to God) and diligently reading and studying Scripture (knowing and obeying His Word), **we can better hear the voice of a loving Father calling us to come nearer.** "By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence." (*2 Peter 1:2-8; 1 John 5:1-5; Psalm 27:8*)


Life Abundant: When God becomes a believer's highest priority, they find joy and fulfillment in life through spiritual victory in Jesus Christ. The abundant life Jesus gives is not about material possessions or human accomplishments; it is about **knowing** God,

being in Him, **bearing** the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and **manifesting** the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. (*Ephesians 3:16-19; Galatians 5:22-23; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11*)

Life Stewardship: As believers in Christ Jesus, we declare His Lordship by managing our lives and affairs according to the will of God. Through such stewardship, we express our love, trust, and reverence for the Lord. True Biblical stewardship encompasses more than finances, including **being** Christ-like in our relationships with others, **using** spiritual gifts for God's glory, and **investing** our time and resources in God's Kingdom work. Jesus' command to "love your neighbor as yourself" is fulfilled by a believer **proclaiming** the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ, and **living** with ever increasing Christ-likeness for the glory of God. (*Colossians 3:10-17; John 4:23-24; my life verse is Acts 20:24 NIV*)

Article 7: The Church

New Testament Scriptures describe the Church as the Body of Christ (*Colossians 1:18*) in the world today. The Church is comprised of a group of believers and Jesus Christ, who is the Head of the Church. God admonishes believers to assemble together regularly in spiritual unity. (*Colossians 3:15-17*) **The Biblical purpose of the Church (Body of Christ) is to worship God together, encourage believers to mature in Christ-likeness, equip believers for ministry in the Church, and train believers to be effective witnesses of Jesus Christ.**



Speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope
so you'll all be together in this, no one left out,
no one left behind. I know you're already doing this;
just keep on doing it.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:11 MSG

Article 8: The End Times

The Rapture: The Rapture of the Church (Body of Christ) is the next prophetic event to happen in which God **"snatches away" all believers from the earth and takes us to Heaven**in order to make way for His righteous judgment (referred to as the Tribulation) to be poured out on the evil, sin on earth. (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:50-53*)

There is a significant amount of debate regarding when the Rapture occurs in relationship to the 7-years of Tribulation period. (*Revelation chapters 5-18*) The primary interpretations on the Rapture's timing are pre-tribulation, mid-tribulation, pre-wrath, and post-tribulation. The Rapture should not be a divisive issue, but rather a **glorious event for which we should be longing, when we will finally be free from sinand in God's presence for Eternity!**

Personally, I believe in a pre-tribulation Rapture of Believers, the Body of Christ, just before the 7-years of Tribulation. For one reason,because we are the **Bride of Christ**, that I cannot comprehend Christ allowing His bride to go through the horrific Tribulation period. (*Ephesians 5:25-27; John 14:1-3; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:6-9*) Because of Christ's love for us, Believers will not experience Tribulation. (*1 Thessalonians 1:10*) (See website chapter 8.3: "Rapture of Believers" for relevant scriptures and comments.)

Heaven: Life's purpose is to live eternally in loving, loyal relationship with God,starting now during on our earthly journey as Believers in Jesus Christ,then in Heaven forever in worshipful relationship before God's throne. (*Philippians 3:20; Revelation 21*) Scriptures tell us Heaven is a place of eternal peace, joy and fellowship with God. Heaven is a realm of perfect harmony in union with God, where all suffering and pain are erased.

"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, **SET YOUR SIGHTS ON THE REALITIES OF HEAVEN**, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. **Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.** For you died to this life, and **your real (ETERNAL) life** is hidden with Christ in God.

— Colossians 3:1-3 NLT

Judgment Seat of Christ: After the Rapture of the Church (Body of Christ), believers will be brought before the judgment seat of Christ. He will reward them on the basis of the works they accomplished. This is not a judgment to determine their salvation, but a reward for labor on Christ's behalf. (*2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:11-12; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15*)

The Second Coming of Christ: After the Tribulation period, the Bible declares that Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth with the armies of Heaven to defeat the Antichrist and those following him against Israel. **Jesus Christ's name is called The Word of God.... and the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.** (*Revelation 19:11-21*) At this Second Coming, the beast and false prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire, and Satan will be bound for a thousand years. (*Revelation 19:20; Revelation 20:1-3*) Christ's kingdom will be marked by material and spiritual blessing, since the curse upon the earth will be removed (*Romans 8:19-25*)**MARANATHA!**

The Final Judgment: The final judgment will determine the eternal status of both believers and unbelievers. According to God's Word, believers in their resurrected and glorified bodies will receive their reward and dwell forever in heaven, a place of eternal joy in God's presence. Those rejecting salvation through Jesus Christ will spend eternity in hell, a place of darkness, suffering and separation from God. At the end of all things, God will establish the new heaven and the new earth. (*Matthew 25:31-46*)