

THE MIDLAND RECORDS

(The Original Midlands Baptist Confession-REP)

The first General Meeting, 2 May 1655

Articles unanimously agreed unto by all the messengers of the churches met at Warwick on the 2nd day of the 3rd month 1655.

1. We believe that there is one only true God which is one God who is eternal, almighty, unchangeable and incomprehensible, infinite; who is a spirit having (3) his being of himself and giveth being, to all creatures and doth what he will in heaven and in earth moving all things according to the counsel of His own will.

2. That this infinite being is set forth to be Father, the Word and the Holy Spirit and these three are one. I. J'n.5.7.

3. We profess and believe the Holy Scriptures, the Old and New Testament, to be the word and revealed mind of God which are able to make men wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus and are given by inspiration of God serving to furnish the man of God to every good work and that by them we are instructed to try all things whatsoever that are brought unto us under pretense of truth. Is. 8.20; 2 Tim. 3.15ff.

4. Though Adam was created righteous yet he fell through the temptation of Satan and in his fall overthrew not only himself but all posterity making them sinners by his disobedience so that we were by nature children of wrath and defiled from the womb being shapen in iniquity and conceived in sin. Ps. 51.5; Ro. 4.11.

5. That God elected and chose, in his eternal counsel, some persons to life and salvation even before the foundation of the world. Acts 13.48; Eph. 1.3f; 2 Thes.2.13; I. Pet. 1.2. Whom accordingly he doth and will effectually call and whom he doth so call he will certainly keep by his power through faith and unto salvation. 2 Tim. 1. 9f; I. Cor. 1.9; I Thess. 5.24; I. Pet. 1.5 etc.

6. That election was free in God and of his good pleasure and not at all for or with reference to any foreseen works or faith in the creature as the motive thereunto. Eph.1.4f; Ro. 11.5f.

7. That Christ Jesus was in the fullness of time manifested in the flesh being borne of a woman and being perfectly righteous gave Himself for His elect to redeem them unto God by his blood. Jn. 10.15; Eph.2.25ff; Ro.5.9.

8. That all until they are quickened by Christ are dead in sin and trespasses, Eph2.1, and therefore have not power to believe. savingly of them selves, Jn.10.23; Is.26.12, but faith is the free gift of God and mighty work of God in the soul even like the raising of Christ from the dead, Eph. 1.9. Thus, we consent not with those that hold that God hath given power to all men to believe to salvation.

9. That Christ is the only true king, priest and prophet of the Church. Acts 3.22f; Heb. 4.14; 7.1.
10. That every man that is justified is justified by Christ, Ro. 8.33; I. Cor. 6.11 apprehended by faith. And that no man is justified in the sight of God partly by Christ, partly by works. Ro. 3.20, 28, 30; Gal. 5.4.
11. That Jesus of Nazareth of whom the Scriptures of the Old Testament prophesies (*sic*) is the true Messiah and Savior of man and that he dyed on the cross, was buried, rose again in the same body in the which he suffered and ascended to the right hand of the majesty on high and appeareth in the presence of God making intercession for us.
12. That all that have faith wrought in their harts by the power of God according to his good pleasure should be careful to maintain good works and to abound in them acting from principles of true faith and unfeigned love looking to God's glory as the main end. Tit. 3.8; Heb. 11.6; I. Cor. 13.1; 10.31.
13. That all those that profess faith in Christ and make the same appear by their fruits are the proper subjects of baptism. Acts 8.37.
14. That baptizing is not by sprinkling but dipping of the person in the water representing the death, burial and resurrection of Christ. Ro. 6. 3f; Col. 2.12.
15. That persons so baptized ought to walk together by free consent as God shall give opportunity in distinct churches or assemblies of Zion continuing in the apostle' doctrine and fellowship and breaking of bread and prayers as fellow members caring for one another according to the will of God. Acts 2.42,46.
16. That at the time appointed of the Lord the dead bodies of all men shall rise again that they may receive according to what they have done good or evil. I. Cor. 15.53; Mt. 24.31.