

Addenda to 1963 Mennonite Confession of Faith

Article 2 – Divine Revelation

God inspired and moved men to write His Word, using their various personalities, experiences, and talents. God did not dictate His Word but guided and supervised the writing so that His Word is totally true and without error in its original writings. We believe that the inspiration of the Bible is plenary, meaning that it extends to all parts of the Bible equally; it is also verbal, meaning that the very words, tenses, and composition were inspired by God. God has faithfully preserved His written Word by preserving thousands of ancient manuscripts and fragments that were hand copied by dedicated followers of His, allowing us to have great confidence that faithful translations of the Scriptures contain essentially the same content as the original manuscripts.

Article 3 - God's Creation and Providence

We believe that the Genesis record of creation is historically accurate and literally true, that the creation week was seven 24-hour days and that Adam and Eve were historical figures created by a special and direct act of God. Since humans uniquely bear the image of God and are thereby substantively different than animals, all human life is sacred from conception to natural death and should be treated with dignity and respect. All people groups are equally qualified to receive God's love and Christ's redemption.

Article 5 - Christ, the Savior from Sin.

We believe that Jesus offered Himself up as a substitutionary atoning sacrifice for sinners, in accordance with the will of the Father. Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24) and thereby completely satisfied the righteous demands of a holy God, redeeming us from the curse of the law. While He was made a curse for us (Galatians 3:13), as the sinless Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:19), He was never anything less than fully acceptable to the Father. His death and shed blood is the only satisfactory, propitiatory sacrifice (1 John 2:2), without which the full weight of God's perfect wrath abides upon all who remain in the rebellion of unbelief (John 3:36).

Article 8 - The Church of Christ

The Biblical Mennonite Alliance does not function as a conference, which historically required a geographical boundary and uniform administration. Our congregations exercise accountable self-government, while respecting and adhering to the BMA positions and policies which should be seen as minimum requirements for membership. Congregations are encouraged to make life-style applications that reflect their local corporate conscience beyond BMA requirements.

Article 11 - Christian Baptism

We believe immersion to also be a legitimate form of water baptism symbolizing death and resurrection with Christ. Only believers (not infants) are to be baptized, and those who have been baptized as infants should be re-baptized upon confession of faith. Spirit baptism identifies the believer spiritually with Christ and initiates one into His universal body. In a similar way, water baptism identifies the believer publicly with Christ and His people and should generally be associated with commitment to a local church body.

Article 19 - The Christian and the State

As citizens of the heavenly kingdom, we believe our commission is to preach the gospel, teach the Word of God, and disciple those who come to faith. We further believe that the Holy Spirit working through the Gospel message is the only means of lasting change in a world consumed by darkness and decay. It is also clear from Scripture that political reforms will not stand against the power of man's reprobation and natural inclination to sin. In view of these things, we choose not to participate in political rallies, marches, protests, etc. in favor of our commission to proclaim the Word of God and disciple His people. Christians collectively and personally are permitted to privately appeal to authorities regarding matters of concern. Such appeals must be made with the highest respect and humility, recognizing that such authority has been appointed and placed over us by God. (Romans 13:1-5).

Article 20 – The Final Consummation

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all the dead, the saved unto life eternal, the lost unto eternal death. Those whose names are not found written in the Book of Life are cast into the lake of fire where they suffer the righteous wrath of God in a state of conscious suffering for all eternity. (Matthew 25:46, Revelation 14:11, 20:11-15)

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