

Fundamental Beliefs

International Association of Free Seventh-day Adventists regards the Holy Bible as God's infallible Word and strongly believes in all its principles, doctrines, and teachings. This modified list of Fundamental Beliefs does not represent all the beliefs of the Bible or a specific creed espoused by this Association. The following are the fundamental doctrines upheld by this Association and all its member Churches and Ministries.

1. The true and living God, the first person of the Godhead, is our heavenly Father, and He, by His Son, Christ Jesus, created all things. (Matt. 28:18-19; 1 Cor. 8:5-6; Eph. 3:9; Jer. 10:10-12; Heb. 1:1-3; Acts 17:22-29; Col. 1:16-18.)

2. Jesus Christ, the second person of the Godhead, and the eternal Son of God, is the only Saviour from sin; and man's salvation is by grace through faith in Him. (Matt. 28:18-19; John 3:16; Micah 5:2; Matt. 1:21; 2:5-6; Acts 4:12; 1 John 5:11-12; Eph. 1:9-15; 2:4-8; Rom. 3:23-26.)

3. The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead, is Christ's representative on earth, and leads sinners to repentance and to obedience of all God's requirements. (Matt. 28:18-19; John 14:26; 15:26; 16:7-15; Rom. 8:1-10; Eph. 4:30.)

4. Through Christ, believers receive forgiveness of sins which are forsaken and confessed, and for which, as far as lies in their power, restitution is made. (Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14-15; 1 John 1:7-9; Isa. 55:6-7; Ezek. 33:15; Matt. 5:23-24; 6:14-15.)

5. The Bible is God's inspired word, and is the fully reliable, sufficient, infallible, basic rule of faith and practice. (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Ps. 119:9, 11, 105, 130; 1 Thess. 2:13; Isa. 8:20; Jer. 15:16; Heb. 4:12.)

6. All who enter the kingdom of heaven must have experienced conversion, or the new birth, through which man receives a new heart and becomes a new creature. (Matt. 18:3; John 3:3; 2 Cor. 5:17; Ezek. 36:26-27; Heb. 8:10-12; 1 Peter 1:23; 2:2.)

7. Christ dwells in the regenerate heart, writing upon it the principles of God's law, leading the believer to delight to obey its precepts, and imparting power for such obedience. (2 Cor. 6:16; Ps. 40:8; Heb. 8:10-12; John 14:15; Col. 1:27; 3:16; Gal. 2:20; Eph. 3:14-21.)

8. Upon His ascension Christ began His ministry as high priest in the holy place of the heavenly sanctuary, which sanctuary is the great original of which the sanctuary built by Moses was a copy. As in the earthly sanctuary, a work of investigative judgment began as Christ entered the second phase of His ministry, in the most holy place, foreshadowed in the earthly service by the Day of Atonement. This work of the investigative judgment in the heavenly sanctuary began in 1844, at the close of the 2300 years, and will end with the close of probation. (Heb.

4:14; 8:1-2; Lev. 16:2, 29; Heb. 9:23-24; Dan. 8:14; 9:24-27; Rev. 14:6, 7; 22:11.)

9. The second coming of Christ is the hope of the church, the climax of the gospel, and the goal of the plan of redemption, when Jesus will come literally, personally, and visibly, with all His holy angels. Many signs of the times testify that His coming is at hand. And the almost complete fulfillment of all the various lines of prophecy indicate that "He is near, even at the doors." (John 14:1-3; Titus 2:11-14; Heb. 9:28; Acts. 1:9-11; Rev. 1:7; Matt. 25:31; Luke 9:26; 21:25-33; Matt. 24:14, 36-39, 33, margin.)

10. The righteous dead will be raised to life at Christ's Second Advent. Together with the righteous living, they will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and will go with Him to heaven, there to spend the one thousand years known as the millennium. (Rev. 1:7; John 5:25, 28-29; Hosea 13:14; 1 Cor. 15:51-55; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; John 11:24-25; 14:1-3; Rev. 20:4-6; Isa. 25:8-9.)

11. The wicked who are living at the time of Christ's Second Advent will be slain by the brightness of His coming. These, with the wicked dead of all ages, will await the second resurrection, at the close of the one thousand years. (2 Thess. 1:7-10; 2:8; Jude 14-15; Rev. 20:5, 12, 15; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15; Isa. 24:21-22.)

12. At the end of the one thousand years, the following events will take place: (a) Christ and the righteous will descend from heaven, with the Holy City, the New Jerusalem (Rev. 21:2, 10); (b) the wicked dead will be resurrected for final judgment (Rev. 20:11, 12); (c) the wicked will receive the final wages of sin when fire comes down from God out of heaven to consume them (Rev. 20:7-10, 14-15); and (d) this fire, which destroys the works of sin, will purify the earth (2 Peter 3:10-14; Mal. 4:1, 3; Rev. 20:4, 8.)

13. The earth, cleansed by fire and renewed by the power of God, will become the eternal home of the redeemed. (2 Peter 3:9-13; Isa. 65:17-25; 35:1-10; 45:18; Matt. 5:5; Mal. 4:1-3; Prov. 11:31.)

14. The seventh day of the week is the eternal sign of Christ's power as Creator and Redeemer, and is therefore the Lord's day, or the Christian Sabbath, constituting the seal of the living God. It should be observed from sunset Friday to sunset Saturday. The Sabbath, along with marriage between a man and a woman, are two institutions

that came from the Garden of Eden. The Lord created each one as male or female, not to be altered or used in any unnatural or unbiblical way. (Gen. 2:1-3; Ex. 16:23-31; 20:8-11; John 1:1-3, 14; Ezek. 20:12, 20; Mark 1:21-32; 2:27-28; Isa. 58:13; Luke 4:16; 23:54-56; 24:1; Acts 17:2; Heb. 4:9-11; Isa. 66:22-23; Lev. 23:32; Gen. 2:21-24; Matt. 19:4-6; 2 Tim. 3:1-5.)

15. The tithe is holy unto the Lord, and is God's provision for the support of His ministry. Freewill offerings are also part of God's plan for the support of His work throughout the world. Tithes and offerings are to be brought into God's storehouse where meat-in-due season or present truth is dispensed. (Lev. 27:30-32; Mal. 3:8-12; Num. 18:20-28; Deut. 14:23; Matt. 23:23; Prov. 3:9, 10; 1 Cor. 9:13-14; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Ps. 96:8.)

16. Immortality comes only through the gospel, and is bestowed as a gift from God at Christ's second coming. (1 Cor. 15:21-22, 51-55; Ps. 146:3-4; Eccl. 9:5-6, 10; 1 Tim. 6:15-16; 2 Tim. 1:10; 1 John 5:11-12.)

17. The condition of man in death is one of unconsciousness. All men, good and evil alike, remain in the grave from death to the resurrection. (Eccl. 9:5-6; Ps. 115:17; 146:3-4; Job 14:10-12, 21-22; 17:13; John 11:11-14; 1 Thess. 4:13; John 5:28-29.)

18. The Christian is called unto sanctification, and his life should be characterized by carefulness in deportment and modesty and simplicity in dress. (1 Thess. 3:13; 4:3, 7; 5:23; 1 Peter 2:21; 3:15, 3-5; Isa. 3:16-24; 1 Cor. 10:31; 1 Tim. 2:9-10.)

19. The Christian should recognize his body as the temple of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, he should honor God by caring for his body; abstaining from such things as alcoholic beverages, tobacco in all its forms, and all unclean foods; refraining from unnecessary surgeries, drugs, and body alterations; obeying the eight natural laws and utilizing natural remedies. (1 Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20; 9:25; 10:31; 2 Cor. 6:16-18; 7:1; Gal. 5:17-21; 6:7-8; 1 Peter 2:9-12; 1 Cor. 10:1-11; Rom. 12:1-2; Lev. 11:1-8; 19:28; Gal. 6:8; 2 Tim. 3:1-2.)

20. The church is to come behind in no gift, and the presence of the gift of the Spirit of prophecy is to be one of the identifying marks of the remnant church. (1 Cor. 1:5-7; 12:1-28; Amos 3:7; Hosea 12:10, 13; Isa. 8:20; Rev. 12:17; 19:10.) The members of God's remnant church recognize that this gift was manifested in the life and ministry of Ellen G. White.

21. The Bible teaches a definite church organization. The members of this organization are under sacred obli-

gation to be subject thereunto, loyally to support it, and to share in its maintenance, and respect its male-only ministers and elders. They are admonished not to forsake the assembling of themselves together. (Matt. 16:16-18; Eph. 1:10-23; 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 14:33, 40; Titus 1:5-9; Matt. 18:15-18; 1 Cor. 12:12-28; 16:1-3; Ex. 28:1; 1 Tim. 3:1-2; 1 Cor. 11:3; Heb. 10:25; Acts 4:32-35; 6:1-7.)

22. Baptism by immersion typifies the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, and openly expresses faith in His saving grace, and the renunciation of sin and the world, and is recognized as a condition of entrance into church membership. (Matt. 3:13-17; 28:19; Acts 2:38, 41-47; 8:35-39; 16:32-33; 22:16; Rom. 6:1-11; Gal. 3:27; Col. 3:1-3.)

23. The ordinance of the Lord's supper commemorates the Saviour's death, and participation by members of the body is essential to Christian growth and fellowship. It is to be preceded by the ordinance of foot washing as a preparation for this solemn service. (Matt. 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:23-30; John 6:48-56; 13:1-17.)

24. In the Christian life there is complete separation from worldly practices, such as card playing, theater-going, dancing, etc., which tend to deaden and destroy the spiritual life. (2 Cor. 6:15-18; 1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; 2 Tim. 2:19-22; Eph. 5:8-11; Col. 3:5-10.)

25. God speaks to us through the study of His holy Word, imparting new light and strength; and through prayer the soul is united with God. These are Heaven's ordained means for obtaining victory in the conflict with sin and for the development of Christian character. (Ps. 19:7-8; 119:130; John 6:63; 17:17; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1; Ps. 55:17; Isa. 50:4.)

26. Every church member is under sacred command from Jesus to use his or her talents in personal soul-winning work in helping to give the gospel to all the world. When this work is finished Jesus will come. (Matt. 25:14-29; 28:18-20; Rev. 22:17; Isa. 43:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:17-20; Rom. 10:13-15; Matt. 24:14.)

27. In accordance with God's uniform dealing with mankind, warning them of coming events that will vitally affect their destiny, He has sent forth a proclamation of the approaching return of Christ. This preparatory message is symbolized by the three angels' messages of Revelation, chapter 14, and meets its fulfillment in the great Second Advent Movement today. This has brought forth God's remnant church, which keeps the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. (Amos 3:7; Matt. 24:29-34; Rev. 14:6-10; Zeph. 3:13; Micah 4:7-8; Rev. 14:12; Isa. 26:2; Rev. 22:14.)

International Association of Free Seventh-day Adventists

Office: 6000 Live Oak Pkwy. Ste. 114 / Norcross, GA 30093
Phone: 770-270-535 / Website: www.freesda.org / Email: info@freesda.org

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