

ESI Articles of Beliefs

- I. We believe in the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments as verbally inspired by God, and inerrant in the original writings, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)
- II. We believe in one God, eternally existing in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4, 2 Corinthians 13:14; Luke 3:22)
- III. We believe that Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man. (John 1:1-2, 14; Luke 1:35)
- IV. We believe man was created in the image of God, that he sinned, and thereby incurred, not only physical death, but also spiritual death which is separation from God, and that all human beings have a sin nature. Man is dead in sin and therefore helpless and incapable of advancing his spiritual position, pleasing God, or gaining salvation. Therefore, salvation must be initiated by God alone and consummated by grace alone. (Genesis 1:26-27; Colossians 3:10; Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:12; Romans 3:23; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Hebrews 9:27)
- V. We believe that the Lord Jesus died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood. (John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 15:22; Romans 6:23; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 John 4:10)
- VI. We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven and His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4; ; 1 John 2:1-2; Hebrews 4:14-16)
- VII. We believe that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will personally return and set up His Kingdom wherein He will rule and reign in righteousness. (Daniel 2:44; 1 Corinthians 15:24)
- VIII. We believe that all who receive by faith the Lord Jesus Christ are born again of the Holy Spirit, and thereby become children of God. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Acts 16:31; 1 John 1:7)
- IX. We believe that, since salvation is a gift of God and Jesus' blood atones for past, present and future sins, the believer once saved by grace is kept secure by grace forever. (Romans 3:24; Romans 5:20-21)
- X. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the blessedness of the saved, and the retribution of the lost. (1 Corinthians 1:5; Matthew 25:46; John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 20:1-15)

We believe in the system of the reformed faith as set forth in the Calvinistic creeds of the Church, which represents the historic faith as taught in the Scriptures and which has been part of our Christian heritage.

We believe in the "Five Solas" that emerged from the Protestant Reformation

- ❖ Sola Fide, by faith alone.
- ❖ Sola Scriptura, by Scripture alone.
- ❖ Solus Christus, through Christ alone.
- ❖ Sola Gratia, by grace alone.
- ❖ Soli Deo Gloria, glory to God alone.