

I: THE NATURE OF THE CHURCH.

1. The church shall be known as Providence Chapel, Hookgate, which is an independent Baptist fellowship.
2. We believe that the true church consists of the whole number of God's elect, chosen before the foundation of the world from every generation and from every land and who have been regenerated by the Holy Spirit and brought to trust in Christ alone for salvation.
3. The New Testament also uses the term church in a restricted and local sense, whereby Christians in a particular locality unite together in a visible bond of fellowship for worship, and evangelism. Such groups that seek to:
 - 3.1 preach and practice the whole counsel of God's Word;
 - 3.2 administer correctly the two ordinances, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, established by Christ's authority;
 - 3.3 recognise the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ in scriptural church government through the rule of elders are designated in Scripture as local churches of Christ.
4. Passages for study:
Isaiah 2:1-5; Ephesians 1:3-12; Acts 14:21-28; Matthew 16:13-20; Matthew 18:15-20;
Revelation 5:9

II: THE DOCTRINAL BASIS OF FAITH.

1. We believe in:
 - 1.1 **The divine inspiration and infallibility of the Holy Scriptures as originally given and their final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.**
Passages for study:
Psalm 19; Luke 1:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1,2,4; 2 Peter 1:16-21; 3:1,2; Revelation 22: 18-21
 - 1.2 **The unity of the Godhead and the divine co-equality of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The sovereignty of God in creation, providence and redemption.**
Passages for study:
Psalm 8:96,104; Genesis 1,2; Isaiah 40:12-31; Daniel 4:33-37; John 17:1-10; Romans 11:33-36; Ephesians 1:3-14; Revelation 21:1-7
 - 1.3 **The depravity of every part of human nature in consequence of the Fall rendering man subject to God's wrath and condemnation.**
Passages for study:
Genesis 8; Psalm 51; Jeremiah 17:9,10; Matthew 15:17-20; Romans 1:18-32; 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-10
 - 1.4 **The deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His perfect satisfactory and meritorious atonement by which sin alone can be expiated, God's wrath propitiated, and sinners saved, His bodily resurrection, His ascension into Heaven to be our Great High Priest, His personal universal future and final return in glory.**

Passages for study:

John 1:1-2; 14:7-10; Matthew 16:15-18; Philippians 2:5-12; 1 Timothy 3:16; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-35; Galatians 4:1-4; Mark 13:31; Luke 4:22,24,25-32; John 5:45-47; Isaiah 53; Romans 5:8-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10-21; 1 Corinthians 15; Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 4:8-10; Hebrews 2:17,18; 4:14-16

1.5 The justification of the sinner solely by grace through faith in the atoning merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Passages for study:

Romans 4,5; Galatians 3; Ephesians 2:1-10

1.6 The necessity of the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration, conversion, sanctification, ministry and worship.

Passages for study:

Ezekiel 36:23-27; Titus 3:4-7; John 1:11-13; 3:1-7; 6:63; Romans 8; John 14:17-26; 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 2:11-14; 2 Corinthians 3

1.7 The ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as being instituted by our Lord Jesus Christ, but not in Baptism as conveying any regenerating grace, neither in the Lord's Supper as being a sacrifice for sin nor involving any change in the substance of the bread and wine.

Passages for study:

Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 14:17-25; Acts 2:38-47; 8:26-39; Romans 6:1-5; 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

1.8 The resurrection of the body, the final judgement of all mankind by our Lord Jesus Christ with the eternal punishment of the wicked, and the eternal blessedness of the righteous.

Passages for study:

John 14:1-6; 5:24-29; 11:21-27; Acts 1:6-12; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-14; Revelation 1:4-8; 19:1-9,21

2. This basis may be added to upon agreement by the church so as to clarify our understanding of the truth and to counter heresy and error.