

## **What We Believe as Friends**

### **(Pamphlet)**

We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of the virgin Mary (a miraculous birth) – betrayed by Judas Iscariot into the hands of the governor – Pontius Pilate; that he was crucified and buried in a borrowed tomb, rose again on the third day after his crucifixion, appeared unto certain of his followers – then ascended into Heaven to reign forevermore.

We believe the Holy Scriptures were given by divine inspiration, and that “Holy Men of God” spoke and wrote as they were moved and led by the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit. It is with the assistance of the Holy Spirit that we read the Bible with understanding, for instruction and comfort. We believe we should, in our meetings for worship, let not our own spirit sway us, but let the Spirit of God rule and reign in our hearts.

A liberty enjoyed by Friends is that any person moved by the Holy Spirit, may preach the doctrine of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ freely. We believe that God the Creator calls upon the young and the old, the learned and the unlearned, the rich and the poor, women as well as men, to be ministers. The gift is free, so the exercise of it should be free. “Freely you have received, freely give.”

Prayer is one of the first engagements of the awakened soul. It is only with divine help that we are able to watch and pray continually, and we believe, the solemn duty of prayer requires a special impulse, not upon command by man.

We maintain it is our duty to obey all the requirements of Civil Government, except those by which our allegiance to God is interfered with; liberty of conscience being the common right of all men.

The Spirit of Christ calls us all out of contention, therefore, we should not indulge ourselves in strife for objects of a perishable nature.

Let us seek peace and pursue it. There is a soil in which war cannot live, this soil is Christian Humility.

The Lord God took upon himself the form of man, in the person of Jesus Christ; thereby, revealing himself unto us, his purity, his love, and endeavouring to unfold to us his will. He also permitted that prepared body to be crucified as an atonement for the sins of the world, that by his blood our sins might be blotted out to be remembered no more, forever, the only condition being that we experience that true repentance which brings us to forsake our sins and obey God. “In this, God commends his love for us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

There is but one admission to the Church of Christ – to be born again. Jesus said, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit; marvel not that I said to you, “You must be born again.”

The creation of God in the soul is by the effective work of his blessed Son – Christ Jesus, who said, “Behold I create all things new.” So in the new creation, light first arises in the soul and shows to man his condition, and the necessity for a change. This is the true light that enlightens every man who comes into the world; and as man is faithful to its discoveries, he advances in the work of God and sees more light; for the more we have and enjoy of the light of Christ, the more humble we are, and the more zealous to live to the honour of God.

True Quakerism, or the Friends way of life, is a life dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ through obedience to his voice and light in the heart, and this, without any reservation whatsoever. The only way to attain to the consciousness of the presence of God is to obey his Spiritual

leading. The real Friend knows the voice of God, and feels conscious of the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Without faith, it is impossible to please God; for he who comes to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them who diligently seek him. This faith that comes from God is necessary in order to be saved. Salvation cannot be obtained from any other source but God. This heavenly faith bears fruit in the form of good works, but good works in themselves do not save. If we would have faith, we must walk in the light. Jesus of Nazareth was more than a man; “He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (the Light), and no man comes to the Father but by him.” “You must be born again.”

*Evangelical Quakers, 2020*