

Agape Fellowship Elder Covenant

1. We believe in one sovereign, living, active and glorious God that eternally exists in three infinite Persons as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.
2. The Bible is the inerrant Word of God and is the ultimate written rule for Agape. It is the infallible, written Word of God and is useful for teaching, preaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. Decisions made by Agape Elders must obviously be done in line with the clear teachings of the New Testament and never in contradiction to them.
3. Jesus is the incarnate son of God, and lived on earth in the flesh. He lived without sin and worked real miracles, and cast out real demons. He raised people from the dead, turned water into wine, healed the lame and blind, walked on water and calmed the storms. He was crucified on a cross and resurrected bodily, conquering death. He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father.
4. God created the Universe out of nothing and sustains it. God also directly created Adam from the ground and Eve from Adam's side. Thus Adam and Eve were the historical parents of the entire human race and were created male and female equally in the image of God.
5. Adam, as head of the human race, fell into sin, and his sin has infected the entire human race in such a way that corruption, guilt, condemnation and death belong to every person. All have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. (Romans 3:23)
6. Salvation is only found through Jesus Christ. There is one God and one Mediator. (John 14:6 1 Timothy 2:5). By His perfect obedience to God the Father, and by His suffering, death and resurrection as the immaculate Lamb of God, Jesus obtained forgiveness of sins and perfect righteousness for all who trust in Christ. Through living a perfect life, and dying in the place of believers in Him, Jesus absorbed the punishment due to us – the just dying for the unjust – and thus appeased the righteous wrath of God. The destination of all who die apart from Jesus is hell – an everlasting place of torment and separation from God. Though the Father desires that all would come to Jesus, Jesus Himself testified to the reality that most would not come to God through Him.
7. The Holy Spirit is God, is a person (not an impersonal force), and has always been at work in the world. He quickens people to the work of Jesus, empowers believers to follow God and testify of Him, and without the work of the Spirit, nobody would ever come to salvation, because all are dead in sin and trespasses.
8. There is one universal Church, composed of all people in every time and place, who are saved in and by Jesus and united to Him through faith and by the Spirit. They are united into one Body and Jesus Himself is the all-sustaining, all-supreme, all-authoritative Head. The ultimate purpose of the Church is to glorify God in the everlasting and ever increasing gladness of worship. Baptism is to be administered by immersion to all of those who have repented and come to faith in Jesus.
9. Jesus has given His church a Great Commission to make disciples of Jesus in all places. This involves proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus to every tribe and tongue and people and nation, baptizing them in Jesus' name, and teaching them His ways and words. This Commission extends right up until the time of Jesus' sure and certain bodily return to the Earth as a mighty King.
10. The work of an Elder is not to lord it over the flock, but rather to lead in humility and servant-heartedness with Jesus Christ as the ultimate model. The work of an Elder is to preach and teach the truth and to shepherd the local Body of Christ. As an Elder, I agree to lead humbly, to seek Biblical unity with the other Elders, to point to the ultimate authority of Jesus, and to seek the unity prayed for by Jesus in John 17. I agree to be diligent in my study and teaching of the Word of God, in prayer, and in shepherding my own family. I agree to also shepherd the Body of Christ and fulfill the Biblical obligations of being an Elder. I agree to voluntarily resign this position of Elder if I am unable to maintain these 10 affirmations and beliefs.