

As a partner of the Bund evangelischer Freikirchen (Taufgesinnte Gemeinden) we work together based on this confession of faith

Creed of the BeF (TG)

Preamble

Because each congregation is independent and makes its own decisions, we emphasize and hold that each congregation retains its confession(s) of faith. However, congregations also have the freedom to add the BEF (TG) confession to their creeds or, after close examination, to use it as their own (in case they do not yet have one and wish to do so).

The Triune God

We believe in one, omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, eternal, triune God; one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Wie believe in God the Father, who created all things. All creation is in His hand while he leads it to its goal.

We believe in God, the Son, who was sent to earth by the Father out of love and became man in Jesus Christ. As true God, He also became fully human. Born of the Virgin Mary, He grew up and lived a sinless life. Jesus Christ, in His divine authority, performed miracles and vicariously gave His life up on the cross for the guilt of mankind. He was buried, rose again bodily, and ascended into heaven to His Father. Now He sits at the right hand of the Father in power and glory. From there He will come again in power and glory to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in God, the Holy Spirit. He is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father. At Pentecost, he was sent to earth by the Father in the name of the Son. Since then, he has been carrying out the Son's work of salvation on earth, leading people to saving faith through the new birth. Thereby he builds the church of Jesus Christ.

Relevant Scriptures: Gen. 1:1; 3:22; Isa. 48:12-16; Matt. 28:18-20; John 3:5-6; 5:22-23; 14:26; 16:13-14; 2 Cor. 13:13; Eph. 2:18; Phil. 2:6-11; 1 John 5:20; Rev 19:11-16

The Bible

We believe that God reveals Himself in the Bible as His Word. The Bible is the divinely inspired and therefore infallible and inerrant Word of God in every respect in the original writings. As such, it has authority for faith and life.

Relevant Scriptures: Ex. 24:4; Luke 24:27; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; John 10:35; Matt. 5:17-18; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; Rev 22:18-19

Man

We believe that man is created in the image of God. This gives every human being value and dignity. We are therefore committed to the protection of human life from conception to death. God created human beings as male and female and gave them the task to multiply and to care for God's creation. We profess the resulting concept of marriage and family: marriage between a man and a woman. This is based on a mutual promise of fidelity until death parts them. Marriage is the legitimate framework in which human sexuality is to be lived out.

We believe that man turned away from his Creator through disobedience. Having fallen into sin, he is now under the judgment of God. This will reach its finality in eternal punishment at the end of all time.

Relevant Scriptures: Gen. 1:27f; 2:15, 24; 9,1; Ps. 14,1-3; 139,13-16; Isa. 53,6a; Matt. 25,41; Rom. 1,3, 23, 26-28; 5:12; 6:23a; 1 Cor. 7:2, 39; Eph. 5:21-33; Heb. 13:4

The Redemption

We believe that the lost person can only be saved through Jesus Christ and thus escape the eternal judgment of God. Every person may turn to him in personal faith, confess his sin and claim the redemptive work of Jesus Christ for himself. In this way, he receives forgiveness of his sin and is granted God's righteousness. He is born again by the Holy Spirit and thus made a child of God. He should live according to his election in order not to fall back into unbelief.

Relevant Scriptures: John 1:12; 14:6; Acts 4:12; Rom. 3:21-26; 8:1, 29-33; Eph. 1:4-8; 2:8-10; Col. 1:21-23; Titus 3:4-7; Heb. 3:12-13; 1 John 1:9

The Church

We believe that the New Testament church of Jesus Christ was called into being by the Holy Spirit. The church has existed throughout the ages in all parts of the world to this day. Every child of God is called to publicly confess his faith through baptism, to seek committed membership in a local church, and to serve it with the gifts he has received from the Holy Spirit.

We believe that church is a visible expression of the Kingdom of God. We are united by inter-church cooperation for the Kingdom of God, while affirming the local church autonomy. We believe that men called by the Holy Spirit and appointed by the local church should assume the office of pastor, elder or preacher.

We believe that the mission of Jesus Christ – namely, the proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world – is for every child of God and the church. This commission is carried out in word and deed.

Relevant Scriptures: Matt. 16:18f; 18:19f; 28:18-20; Mark 16:15f; Acts 2:1-4, 38, 41-47; 4:32f; Rom. 12:3-7; 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 1:20-23; 2:13-22; 3:20f; 4:8-12; 1 Tim. 2:12-3:13, 15; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Pet. 1:13-17; 3:15; 4:10-12

The Christian Life

We believe that all followers of Jesus should strive to live a life worthy of their identity as children of God. The Bible also calls this "sanctification". The ethical instructions of the Bible are normative and binding for all of God's children.

Relevant Scriptures: John 14:15, 21; 15:10; Eph. 2:10; 4:1-2; Phil. 2:12f; 1 Thess. 4:3; Heb. 12:14; James 2:17

The Goal

We believe that the personhood of man will outlast bodily death and that every person will also be bodily resurrected: the saved to eternal life, the lost to eternal judgment. We believe that at the end of time God will create a new heaven and a new earth and establish his Kingdom, which will remain forever.

Relevant Scriptures: Dan. 12:2; 1 Cor. 15:53; John 5:28-29; Rom. 2:5-10; 2 Thess. 1:8-9; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev 21:1; Dan. 6:27; 7:14; 2 Pet. 1:11; Rev 11:15