

ARTICLE 3

We believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary.

That Jesus was crucified, buried, and raised from the dead.

That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of the Father as the Intercessor.

1. The Relationship of the Father to Christ: “That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of the Father”

a. The New Testament indicates that God is the Father.

Scripture references: Ephesians 1:3, 17

b. In the New Testament, the word “Father” when used to describe God is relational in meaning.

Scripture references: John 1:14,18; 17:1-5; Romans 1:7

(1) **God’s relationship with Christ**

(2) **God’s relationship with believers**

2. The Incarnation and Virgin Birth: “Conceived of the Holy Ghost, and born of the Virgin Mary”

a. Through the Incarnation, Jesus Christ, the Son, came to earth in human form.

Scripture references: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:8-20; John 1:14; Romans 8:3; 1 Timothy 3:16

(1) **Jesus Christ came into the world and took on “flesh.”**

(2) **Never can we fully explain the Incarnation or exaggerate its profoundness.**

b. Christ’s birth was a miracle.

Scripture references: Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:18, 34-38; Matthew 1:18, 20; Luke 9:34

(1) **The Scriptures stress the action of the Holy Spirit in the birth of Christ.**

Mary being “with child of the Holy Spirit”—

Mary’s baby conceived “of the Holy Spirit”—

Mary’s being “overshadowed” by the Holy Spirit—

(2) **By the Holy Spirit, the Son of God was united with human nature.**

3. The Cross and Atonement: “That Jesus was crucified”

a. God’s purpose of sending His Son was to save His people from their sins.

Scripture references:

Purpose of sending Jesus Christ—Matthew 1:21; Luke 19:10

Aspects of receiving salvation—1 Timothy 1:15; 2:4; Romans 5:9; 8:23-24

Salvation: past, present, and future—Luke 7:50; Ephesians 2:8; 1 Corinthians 1:21; Titus 3:5;
2 Corinthians 2:15; Philippians 2:12-13; Ephesians 3:14-19; Romans 8:23-24; 13:11; 2
Timothy 4:8

God, more powerful than Satan—Romans 8:19-23; 1 Corinthians 5:28; Revelation 19:6, 11-
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Salvation process—Romans 8:29-30

(1) **There are two major aspects of our salvation: deliverance and hope.**

Deliverance—

Hope—

- (2) **In its complete scope, salvation embraces the past, present, and future.**

Past—

Present—

Future—

- (3) **God is more powerful than Satan, and through His salvation plan He will triumph over evil.**

God is actively at work in overcoming evil.

God will triumph over evil.

Redeemed men and women will find perfect fellowship with God.

b. Christ's death was unique.

Scripture references: Matthew 1:21; Luke 19:10; 2 Corinthians 5:19; Romans 8:32

- (1) **God acted in and through Christ and His Cross.**

- (2) **The death of Christ was an atoning action—an atoning, saving, reconciling action of God.**

c. Christ's death on the Cross has profound meaning for us and for the world.

Scripture references:

Christ's sacrifice—Hebrews 9:14; 10:1-18; Mark 14:24; John 6:53-56; Acts 20:28; Romans 3:25; Hebrews 9:14; 1 John 1:7; Colossians 1:20

Christ's voluntary action—John 10:18; Matthew 26:51-53, 54; Galatians 1:4

Christ as our substitution—Isaiah 53:5-6; Galatians 1:4; John 1:29

Christ as our ransom—Ezekiel 18:20; Mark 10:45; Matthew 20:28; 26:28

Christ's victory—John 12:31; 16:11; Colossians 2:15; Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:20; 6:11; 1 Peter 5:8

(1) The Cross was a sacrificial death that frees us from the consequences of sin.

Sacrifice—

Blood of Christ—

(2) The Cross was a voluntary death.

(3) The Cross was a substitutionary death.

(4) The Cross was a ransom.

(5) The Cross was a decisive victory.

By the power of the Cross the decisive defeat of Satan took place.

Though Satan was judged and defeated through the power of the Cross, he has not yet conceded defeat.

The temptation may be to focus too much on just one side of the issue—either the victory of Christ or Satan's power to inflict misery.

4. The Resurrection: Christ “Buried” and “Raised from the Dead”

a. Jesus’ death and His Resurrection are true historical events.

Scripture references: Luke 24:31, 39-40; John 20:27; 21:1-23; 1 Corinthians 15:4-9

b. Christ’s Resurrection was a significant event in the world.

Scripture references:

Resurrection indicating a new people—Colossians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Philippians 3:21

Resurrection giving new life—Ephesians 2:5-6; Romans 6:4

Resurrection guaranteeing a future resurrection for believers—1 Corinthians 15:20, 23, 35-57; Philippians 3:21; Revelation 1:18

(1) **The Resurrection of Christ demonstrates that believers are members of a new people.**

(2) **Believers are now raised with Christ to newness of life.**

(3) **The Resurrection of Christ is the pledge and guarantee of the future resurrection of believers.**

5. The Ascension: “That He ascended to heaven and is today at the right hand of God as the Intercessor”

a. After His Resurrection, Christ ascended to heaven.

Scripture references: Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9-11; Ephesians 4:10

b. Christ’s Ascension has great significance for us.

Scripture references:

Physical presence of Christ—Acts 9:1-22

Spiritual presence of Christ—Matthew 28:20; see also Acts 18:9-10

Outpouring of the Holy Spirit—Acts 2:33; Ephesians 4:7-11

Christ’s prayers for us—Hebrews 7:25; 9:24

- (1) **The Ascension brought an end to the visible, physical presence of Christ on the earth.**
- (2) **Though He departed from the earth, Christ is still present in a real sense.**
- (3) **The Ascension led to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.**
- (4) **Christ never ceases to pray for our continuance in faith.**

Discussion

The Relationship of the Father to Christ

- 1) Give a difference between the use of the term "Father" applied to God and our human use of the term.
- 2) What is God's relationship with believers?

The Incarnation and Virgin Birth

- 3) When did Christ take on flesh? Was this the beginning of Christ? Explain.
- 4) What was the action of the Holy Spirit in the birth of Christ?

The Cross and Atonement

- 5) What are two major aspects of our salvation?
- 6) Explain the past, present, and future aspects of our salvation.
- 7) What factors make Christ's death different from that of other people?

- 8) What did Christ's death on the Cross do for us?
- 9) Discuss the significance of the Cross as a sacrificial death, as a voluntary death, as a substitutionary death, as a ransom, and as a decisive victory.

The Resurrection

- 10) What does the term "firstborn from the dead" mean?
- 11) Scripture speaks of Christ's Resurrection as "the firstfruits." What significance does this term have for believers?

The Ascension

- 12) What is your understanding of Christ as our Intercessor in heaven? How does this affect our prayer life?
- 13) What was the connection between Christ's Ascension and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer

Glory be to the great God of Heaven! We magnify and praise You for sending Your only Son, Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our humanity.

We worship and praise our Redeemer for His perfect life. His Cross and Resurrection bring us to our knees in gratitude. Our hearts are filled with thanksgiving for His supreme sacrifice and for forgiving our wrongdoings.

O Lamb of God, You who have ascended far above the heavens and sit at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us and give us power to touch the lives of others with Your love.

Amen.

Resources for Additional Study

Arrington, French L. *Christian Doctrine: A Pentecostal Perspective*, Vol. 2. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway, 1992; pp. 23-116.

The Relationship of the Father to Christ

(Please see resources listed under "Article 2" of this document.)

The Incarnation and Virgin Birth

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The Cross and Atonement

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Murray, Andrew. *The Power of the Blood of Jesus*. Springdale, Pa.: Whitaker House, 1993.

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Taylor, Richard Shelley. *God's Integrity and the Cross*. Nappanee, Ind.: Francis Asbury Press of Evangel Pub. House, 1999.

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