

AN EPITOME OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE of the RESTORED CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

WE BELIEVE in God the Eternal Father, and in his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

(1 Jn 5:1-15; Mat 28:19 [18 IV]; *Father*: Jer 10:10; Heb 11:6; Isa 5:21. *Son*: Jn 1:12; 1:1-2; 3:16, 18; 11:26; 14:1. *Holy Ghost*: Jn 14:16-17, 15:23, 20:22; 1 Cor 2-11; Eph 1:13; Mat 12:32)

WE BELIEVE that God is unchangeable, the same yesterday, today, and forever.

(Mal 3:6; Heb 13:8; Jas 1:7; Num 23:19; Ps 90:2; 102:27.)

WE BELIEVE in the miracle of God's Creation; that God created all things through Jesus Christ and that Christ is the only mediator between God and man.

(Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1-3; Heb 1:2; 9:15; Col 1:16-17; 1 Tim 2:5-6; 1 Jn 2:1-2)

WE BELIEVE the true church belongs to Christ as his bride and is named of him; and that there is but one true faith and gospel with power to save the repentant believer.

(Mat 16:18; Col 1:18; Isa 54:5; Eph 1:22; 4:5; 5:25-27; Rev 21:2, 9; 19:7-9)

WE BELIEVE that all men will be held accountable for their own sins, and not for Adam's transgression; that children under 8 years old of age are not accountable and therefore do not need baptism, but are "blessed" as taught by Jesus.

(Ezk 18:20; Jas 4:17; Rom 14:10-12; Eccl 12:14; I Cor 3:13; Heb 4:13; Mat 19:13-15; Deu 1:39)

WE BELIEVE that through the atonement of Christ, all men may be saved and that our eternal reward is directly related to our obedience to His laws and ordinances.

(1 Cor 15:3; 2 Tim 1:10; Rom 8:1-6; 1 Jn 2:1-2, 4:8-10; Eph 1:6-7; Rev 20:12-15; 2 Cor 5:10)

WE BELIEVE that these laws, ordinances and commandments are, in part, the six fundamental principles of Christ's doctrine as identified in Hebrews 6:1-3.

1) **Repentance**—Isa 1:16-17; Ezk 18:30-32; Lk 24:45-46; Acts 2:38; 2 Cor 7:9-10.

2) **Faith**—Heb 11:1; 6; Mark 11:22; 1 Pet 1:21; Jn 3: 36; 14:1.

3) **Baptisms** (Water & Spirit)—Jn 3:1-5, 22-23; Acts 2:38; 8:36-39; 19:2-6; 22:16; Rom 6:3-5.

4) **Laying on of hands** (2 Tim 1:6) for:

1. Healing—Lk 4:40; Mk 6:4-6 (IV 6-7); Acts 28:8; Jas 5:14-15

2. Conferring the Holy Ghost—Acts 8:14-17; 19:6; 1 Tim 4:14

3. Ordination—Acts 6:3-7; 13:2-3; Num 27:18-23.

4. Blessing of Children—Mat 19:13-15; Mk 10:13-16 (IV 11-14)

5) **Resurrection of the Dead**—Job 19:25-26; Isa 26:19; Jn 5:28-29; 11:24-26; Acts 17:31, 24:15; 1 Cor 15:20-22, 42-44; Php 3:20-21.

6) **Eternal Judgment**—Eccl 3:17; Mat 16:27; 2 Cor 5:10; Heb 9:27; Rev 20:12.

WE BELIEVE that a man must be called of God, and ordained by "laying on of hands" of those who are in authority to preach the gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

(Acts 1:24-25; 13:2-3, 14:23; Heb 5:1, 4-6, 10; Eph 4:11; Jn 1:6; 3:34; 15:16; 20:21; Rom 10:15)

WE BELIEVE that Christ organized His church, having apostles, prophets, the seventy, evangelists, pastors, teachers, bishops, elders and deacons—a constituted priesthood to teach and represent him on earth; that an apostasy took place and that the church was divinely restored in 1830 through Joseph Smith, Jr.

(I Cor. 12:28; Mat 10:1; Eph 4:11; 2:20; Tit 1:5. Lk. 10:1; Acts 14:23; Eph 4:11; Php 1:1; 1 Pet. 2:5; Amos 8:11-12; Acts 20:28-29; 2 Thes 2:3)

WE BELIEVE in the spiritual gifts such as wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues, preaching, teaching; in angels; in ministering spirits, given to man by God according to his faith.

(I Cor 12:1-11; 14; Acts 2:3; Mk 16:16-18)

WE BELIEVE that in the Bible is contained the word of God, so far as it is translated correctly. Further, we believe that the canon of scripture is not full, but that God by His Spirit, will continue to reveal His word to His people until the end of time. Consequently, we also believe the Book of Mormon contains the word of God.

(Job 32:8; Isa 8:1, 34:16; Mat 4:4; 2 Tim 3:16-17; Jn 5:39; 7:38; Lk 24:45-46; 2 Pet 3:16; Acts 17:11; Rev 21:5. — [BoM] Isa 29:4, 11-12; Eze 37:16-22; 1 Jn 4:1-3)

WE BELIEVE all that God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and that he will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

(Jer 33:3; Job 12:22; Dan 2:23, 28, 47; Mat 16:17; Eph 3:3; Jl 2:28-30; Acts 2:16-18;)

WE BELIEVE that men should worship God in "spirit and in truth"; and we claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

(Jn 4:23-24; 1 Jn 4:5:6; Gal 5:1; 2:4; 2 Cor 3:17; 1 Pet 2:12; Heb 12:28; Ps 29:2; 100:1-5)

WE BELIEVE God is creator and owner of all things, and that we are accountable, as stewards, to use our talents and resources for His purposes and glory.

(Deut 10:14; Ps 24:1; Lk 16:2; Acts 20:28; Gen 1:27-31; Rom 14:11-12; 1 Cor 4:1-2; 1 Pet 4:10)

WE BELIEVE in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; We Believe all things true, we hope for all things good, we have endured many things and hope to be able to do all things necessary to the glory of God. If there is anything virtuous or lovely or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

(Php 4:8; 1 Cor 13:1-10; Gal 5:22-23; 1 Pet 2:12; Rom 12:9-21)

WE BELIEVE that marriage is ordained of God and His Law provides for one companion in wedlock, for either man or woman. In case of death, one is free to marry again, and in case of breach of the marriage covenant, the innocent one may remarry.

(Gen 2:18, 24; 7:13; Prov 18:22; Mal 2:14-16; Mat 19:3-9; Mk 10:6-9; Heb 13:4).

WE BELIEVE that the doctrines of a plurality and a community of wives are opposed to the law of God.

(Gen 7:9; Deut 17:17; 2 Sam 11:27; 1 Ki 11:1, 3-4, 6; 1 Cor 7:2.; 1 Tim 3:2, 12; Tit 1:6)

WE BELIEVE the husband is called to be the spiritual head of the house and to love his wife as Christ loved the church. The wife is to love her husband, and both are to love their children. The children are to obey their parents.

(Eph 5:22-25, 28, 31, 33; 6:1-4; Col 3:18-21)

WE BELIEVE that all men are bound to sustain and uphold the respective governments in which they reside while protected in their inherent rights by the constitutional laws of such governments, and that sedition is unbecoming every citizen so protected.

(1 Pet 2:13-17; Tit 3:1; Mk 12:17; Rom 13:1-14; 1 Tim 2:1-3)

WE BELIEVE that the highest calling from our Creator is to love God with all our heart, might, mind, and strength and to love our neighbor as our self.

(Deut 6:4-6; Lev 19:17-18; Prov 23:26; Isa 58:6-7; Ecl 12:13; Mat 22:35-40)

WE BELIEVE in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes, that Zion, the New Jerusalem, will be built in north America, that Christ will reign personally upon the earth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiac glory.

(Eze 22:15; 34:11-16; Deut 28:64; 30:3; Jer 23:3-4; 31:1-12; 16:14-21; Isa 18:1-3, 8; 2:2-3; 35:10; 43:5-6; 56:8; 59:20; 11:12; Jl 2:32; Job:19:25; Mi 4:1-2; Ps 102:16; Eph 1:10; Rev 3:12; 21:1-10)

*Source: Statement is a combination of the original, "An Epitome of Faith and Doctrine," [Joseph Smith Jr., *Times and Seasons* 3:710]; "An Epitome of Faith and Doctrine," [RLDS Track No. 4 – 3 versions]; and "The Epitome of Faith and Doctrine," [produced by Andrew King]; this combined version was produced by Vim Horn, 2024.*