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Abstracts of Principles
AND
Rules of Decorum
OF
Radical Primitive
Baptist Association

C. F. Clayton's Print, Tarboro, N. C.

ABSTRACTS OF PRINCIPLES.

We believe in one true and living God the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost.

We believe that the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the words of God and the only rule of faith and practice.

We believe in one Superior Eternal God the creator and upholder of all things and the disposer of all events for there are three that bear record in heaven; the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one. 1 John 1:5.

We believe in the total depravity and just condemnation of all the fallen race of Adam.

We believe in original sin and that the punishment of the wicked shall be everlasting and joys of the righteous eternal. We believe that God's elect shall be called, converted, regenerated, sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

We believe that the saints shall always preserve in grace and never finally fall away.

We believe that baptism, the Lord's supper, and the washing of the Saint's feet are ordinances of Jesus Christ and that the true believers in Jesus Christ are the only subjects entitled to these privileges.

We believe the mode of baptism is by immersing in water.

We believe in the resurrection of the dead both of the just and unjust.

We believe that God chose his people in Christ Jesus before the world began.

We believe that no minister has a right to the administration of ordinances only such as are regularly baptized, called and come under the imposition of the hands presbytery.

We believe that none but regularly baptized members have the right to commune at the Lord's Table.

RULES OF DECORUM OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT.

Agreed to and Adopted by the Church of God at Radicue Meeting House, Friday Before the First Sunday in August, 1876.

Being dismissed by letters from Otter's Creek, Sparta, Tyson's Meeting House; having spent the day in fasting and prayer, give ourselves to Christ and to one another.

ARTICLE 1. That members comprising this church shall assemble themselves together at Radicue Meeting House the first Sunday in every month and the Saturday before, unless prevented by unavoidable necessity. Heb. 10:10. "And not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together as the manner of some is."

2. The members of the church shall meet in conference on every Saturday before the first Sunday in each month. Acts 15:6. "And the Apostles and

Elders come together to consider of this matter.”

3. Conference shall be opened and closed with prayer, or praise to Almighty God. 1 Tim. 2:1. “I exhort, therefore, that first of all prayer and intercession and giving of thanks be made for all men.” 1 Thes. 1:17, 18. “Pray without ceasing, and everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

4. The pastor of the church shall be moderator or nominate one who is present, when absent the conference shall appoint one, and after the conference shall be agreed, on motion, visiting brethren from sister churches may be invited to take seats with us. Psalm 138:1. “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity.”

5. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preserve order and harmony in the conference according to these rules or others which may be subsequently adopted. He shall fairly state every question, ascertain the majority and report accordingly. 1 Cor. 14:40. “Let everything be done decently and in order.”

6. The conference shall appoint a clerk whose duty it shall be to record faithfully in a well bound book (purchased by the conference) all of their proceedings and to do and to perform all such other things as usually devolves upon such officers.

7. The members names shall be enrolled distinctly, called over and a significant mark attached to their names which may be absent. Acts 1:15. "The number of their names together were about 120." When any member shall be absent three conferences, it shall be the duty of the clerk to give notice thereof to the church who thereupon, shall order notice to be issued to the delinquent, to be served by one of the deacons, and upon which the conference may take such measures as to them may appear consonant with brotherly love and Gospel order. Heb. 10:25. "Not forsake the assembling together."

8. A door shall be opened for the admission of new members, who before admission shall verbally relate their experience and when unanimous satisfaction is offered the church in conference that God has wrought a work of grace in their souls, it shall be the duty of the Moderator to give them the right hand of fellowship in behalf of the church and said candidates, shall after being baptized by immersion become a member of the church and not before. Peter 3:15. "Be ready always to give an answer to every man that ask you the reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." Mat. 28:19. "Baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

9. If any member of this church shall bring a

complaint of a private trespass having been committed upon him by one of his brethren, before he shall have complied with the requisition of the great head of the church, prescribed in the 8th chapter of Matthew, the church shall disregard it and shall be deemed disorder. "Whereof if thy brother trespass against thee," etc.

10. It shall be deemed disorder in any member of the church who shall speak illiberally of one of his brethren or otherwise than is laid down in the word before the recited chapter (18th of Matthew) and who may join the world calumniating or traducing their character. Rom. 1:39. "Let love be without dissimulation." Gal. 6:12. "Brethren if a man be overtaken in fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, less thou also be temptèd." "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ."

11. All public offenses against morality shall be noticed by the church publicly and the offenders dealt with according to Gospel order. Matt. 5:16. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

12. Every motion made and seconded, shall be taken under consideration of the conference, unless withdrawn by the mover making it and open for

discussion or debate, but one person shall speak at a time, who shall arise from his seat and address the Moderator by the appellation of Brother Moderator, and when two or more shall rise at the same time he shall decide without argument between them. 1 Cor. 14:40. "Let everything be done decently and in order."

13. Every query presented shall be thrice read before it is open for debate, and it shall not be received unless a majority of those present concur in its reception and its decision a majority shall govern.

14. In all cases, except in the admission of members into the church a majority of those present shall govern whose decisions shall be final, except two-thirds of the members at the next conference agree to consider the matter and two-thirds shall so agree the subject matter shall again come before the conference and this decision shall be final.

15. Implicit obedience shall be yielded to the decision of the conference but every member that is dissatisfied with the proceedings of the conference shall express themselves before adjourning of the conference and not thereafter. Rom. 13:1. "Let every soul be subject to the higher power."

16. The minutes of the conference shall be read before it adjourns and all errors corrected.

17. The following are prohibited, whispering or

laughing during time of public speaking, with the appearance of wrath, or in a degrading manner, speaking more than three times without leave.

18. It shall be deemed disorderly in any member who openly and avowedly denies the fundamental doctrines contained in the church covenant and they shall be dealt with accordingly. Jude 1:3. "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Be of one mind. How can two talk together except they be agreed?

19. As intemperance is one of the worst evils which can effect the members of any society, either civil or religious, and more especially the latter, its being in direct violation of the word of God, wounding the cause of Jesus Christ, hurting the feelings of the sober brethren and exposing the individuals to commission of sin of the most abominable cast of character, we do declare and agree that when any member of this church shall so far forget what he owes to the great head of the church, to himself, the feeling of his brethren and to morals and to well being of society generally, as to get drunk and become known to the church, he shall be notified to attend our church conference, and on failing to render entire satisfaction, to be considered as an excommunicant and not entitled to any privilege thereafter until such offender shall bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Mat. 5:16.

“Let your light so shine before men,” etc. The following amendment to the above article was adopted in conference and read thus:—“And we further agree and declare to be the duty of every member of this church, that when he knows of a member of this church getting drunk as above stated in this article to make it known to the church.”

20. If upon issuing a notice to any delinquent member as is required by the 7th Article of this Decorum, the Deacon returns, “not to be found within the limits of the church,” that the conference shall then proceed as if the notice had been served.

21. A majority of the members of this church in conference shall have the power to alter or to amend any of the rules of this Decorum, which they have adopted for their government or to add any new rules which said majority may deem necessary.

22. Motion made and seconded and agreed that we will not have nor hold any member who will not pay their honest debts nor members of secret organizations and Sunday schools.

ELDER A. WOOTEN, Moderator.

H. C. JONES, Clerk.

M. L. MOORE, Asst. Clerk.

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