A CONFESSION FOR THE CHURCH

The Galatian Declaration

Against the Judaizing of the Gospel and the Idolatry of an Earthly Zion

EXPANDED EDITION, WITH SCRIPTURE

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Why a declaration now

For nearly two thousand years the Church did not need to say this. The apostles taught it, the fathers assumed it, and the Church militant confessed it without dispute: one covenant, one people of God, one Israel in Christ.

The Church has never written creeds to invent doctrine, only to guard it when a new error arose. The Council of Nicaea (AD 325) answered Arius, who taught that the Son was a created being. The Council of Chalcedon (AD 451) answered those who divided or confused the two natures of Christ.

In the nineteenth century a new teaching arose that divides the people of God in two and sets an earthly nation and city beside the Body of Christ. It is now preached from countless pulpits. Paul marveled that the Galatians were so soon removed "unto another gospel: Which is not another" (Galatians 1:6-9). This declaration adds nothing to the faith once delivered to the saints. It sets down plainly what the Church has always believed, so that no one is left in doubt about where we stand.

THE DECLARATION

The Galatian Declaration

Against the Judaizing of the Gospel and the Idolatry of an Earthly Zion

Article I

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, who before the foundation of the world ordained one eternal covenant of grace, sealed in the blood of His Son, by which He gathers to Himself one people from every tribe and tongue and nation.

> SCRIPTURE
>
> *"According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:"*
> Ephesians 1:4
>
> *"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,"*
> Hebrews 13:20
>
> *"And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;"*
> Revelation 5:9

Article II

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, true Seed of Abraham and true Israel, in whom every promise of God is Yes and Amen. He is the substance of which the Law was the shadow, the temple not made with hands, the circumcision of the heart, the Passover Lamb, and the true and final High Priest. There is no covenant apart from Him, no people of God apart from Him, no inheritance, no land, no city, and no kingdom apart from Him. He alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and no one comes to the Father except through Him.

> SCRIPTURE
>
> *"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ."*
> Galatians 3:16
>
> *"For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."*
> 2 Corinthians 1:20
>
> *"Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ."*
> Colossians 2:17

"But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building;"
Hebrews 9:11

"But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God."
Romans 2:29

"Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us:"
1 Corinthians 5:7

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
John 14:6

Article III

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who by the preaching of the Gospel grafts believing Jew and Gentile alike into the one olive tree, making the two one new man, breaking down every wall of partition, and building one holy temple to the Lord.

SCRIPTURE

"And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert graffed in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;"
Romans 11:17

"For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;"
Ephesians 2:14-15

"In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."
Ephesians 2:21-22

Article IV

I confess that the Most High, when He divided to the nations their inheritance and set the boundaries of the peoples, ordained the families of the earth according to His good pleasure, that they should seek the Lord and find Him. The Gospel does not abolish the nations, but calls them; it does not dissolve the peoples, but redeems them; and at the last, every tribe and tongue and people shall stand before the throne, not as a formless multitude, but as nations gathered in their fullness to the praise of His glory.

SCRIPTURE

"When the Most High divided the nations, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the nations according to the number of the angels of God."
Deuteronomy 32:8

"And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:"
Acts 17:26-27

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;"
Revelation 7:9

Article V

I confess one holy, Christian, and apostolic Church, which is the true Israel of God, the commonwealth of the redeemed, the Bride of Christ, and the heir of every promise made to the fathers.

SCRIPTURE

"And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God."
Galatians 6:16

"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;"
Ephesians 2:19

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."
Revelation 21:9

"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
Galatians 3:29

And I renounce, with sorrow and with steadfastness, the errors that arise in the latter days and deceive many who bear the name of Christ:

Article VI

I renounce the doctrine that severs the covenant in two, as though God has two peoples, two brides, two kingdoms, and two ways of salvation; for there is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, and no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.

SCRIPTURE

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"
1 Timothy 2:5

> *"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."*
> Acts 4:12

Article VII

I renounce the doctrine that exalts an earthly nation, a city of stone, a tract of soil, or a temple of brick above the Body of Christ; for the Jerusalem above is free, and she is the mother of us all, and the saints look for a better country, that is, a heavenly one.

> SCRIPTURE
>
> *"But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all."*
> Galatians 4:26
>
> *"But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city."*
> Hebrews 11:16
>
> *"Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father."*
> John 4:21

> THE TWO COVENANTS, GALATIANS 4:21-31
>
> *"Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free."*
> Galatians 4:21-31

Article VIII

I renounce the doctrine that would rebuild what Christ has fulfilled, restore what Christ has ended, and pour out the blood of bulls and goats upon altars He has forever closed by His one offering; for to do so is to count the blood of the covenant an unholy thing, and to crucify the Son of God all over again.

> SCRIPTURE

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins."
Hebrews 10:4

"But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;"
Hebrews 10:12

"Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?"
Hebrews 10:29

"If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame."
Hebrews 6:6

Article IX

I renounce the doctrine that blesses the enemies of the Gospel for their flesh, and curses the brethren of Christ for their faith; for God shows no partiality, and the true children of Abraham are those who are of faith.

SCRIPTURE

"For there is no respect of persons with God."
Romans 2:11

"Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham."
Galatians 3:7

Article X

I renounce the doctrine that turns Galatians into a sword against the ordinances of creation, as though oneness in Christ abolished the nations God has made, or as though the Gospel were a leveler of all distinction and a herald of one earthly city built by the hands of men. For he who is one in Christ is still a son of his people, and the heavenly Jerusalem shall be peopled by the nations, not emptied of them.

SCRIPTURE

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."
Galatians 3:28

"And they said, Come, let us build to ourselves a city and tower, whose top shall be to heaven, and let us make to ourselves a name, before we are scattered abroad upon the face of all the earth."
Genesis 11:4

"And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it."
Revelation 21:24

Article XI

I renounce all alliance of the Church with the sword of princes, the gold of merchants, and the policies of nations, when such alliance is purchased at the price of the Gospel and makes merchandise of the souls of men.

SCRIPTURE

"Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence."
John 18:36

"And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."
2 Peter 2:3

"And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble, And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men."
Revelation 18:11-13

Article XII

I confess that the Lord Jesus Christ shall come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, to gather His one Church to Himself, and to establish the new heavens and the new earth in which righteousness dwells; and His kingdom shall have no end.

SCRIPTURE

"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;"
2 Timothy 4:1

"Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."
2 Peter 3:13

> *“And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”*
> Luke 1:33

To Him, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, be ascribed all honor, dominion, and praise, world without end. Amen.

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Old Testament scripture is quoted from the Septuagint and New Testament scripture from the King James Version, word for word as printed.

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