

RAPHA BELIEVERS CHURCH CREED

1. WE BELIEVE in the authority and inerrancy of Scripture. The Scriptures (the 66 books of the Holy Bible) are inspired by God and declare His design and plan for mankind and is the only infallible and authoritative written Word of God. This Divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings, as they appear in the original manuscripts. We believe that the whole Holy Bible in the originals is without error (1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16).
2. WE BELIEVE that there is only One True God, eternally existing in three distinct persons—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (commonly known as the Trinity)— with each Person of the Divine Trinity being co-eternal and co-equal (Matt. 28:18–19; 2 Cor. 13:13). This God is holy, true and is Spirit.
3. WE BELIEVE in the creation and fall of man - that man was originally created in the image and after the likeness of God, and that man willingly fell through sin, consequence of sin being man becoming subject to the power of Satan bringing both spiritual (alienation from God) and physical death in to the world. This spiritual death has been transmitted to the entire human race, the man Christ Jesus alone being exempted and hence every child of Adam who is born into the world has a nature (the unregenerate nature) which does not possess true divine life. (Gen. 1:26; Rom. 3:10-19; 8:6-7; Eph. 2:1-3).
4. WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is God and was manifested in the flesh (1 Timothy 3/16 NKJV), born of virgin Mary when the Holy Spirit came upon her and the power of the Highest overshadowed her (Luke 1/35 NKJV). When He dwelt among us, He was fully God, in full human form with an absolutely sinless human nature (Philippians 2/5-8, 1 John 1/2; 3/5; 2 Cor 5/21, Heb 9/26 NKJV). He was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Thus, He became and remained a perfect man, and was sinless throughout His life (Hebrews 4/15, NKJV) We believe in His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to Heaven, His personal return to this Earth in power and glory to rule. (Luke 2:40; John 1:1-2; Phil. 2:5-8, Mathew 1/18,20,23, Hebrews 4/15, Romans 6/3-6, Acts 1/11).

5. WE BELIEVE in the substitutionary atonement and bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ – that according to the Scriptures Jesus Christ died – on our behalf for the remission of our sins and rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He had lived and died, and that His resurrection body is the pattern of the transformed body which all believers will receive upon the return of the Lord Jesus Christ for gathering His own (John 20:20; Phil. 3:20-21).
6. WE BELIEVE in the salvation of the human being by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ.(John 3:7,Eph 2:8-10) and that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again and this new birth of the believer happens only through faith in Jesus Christ. Anyone can attain restored fellowship with God (Salvation or Spiritual reunion with God) through repentance and faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary and at that very moment, his or her spirit is regenerated by the Holy Spirit and the Word and receives a new birth and a new nature. (John 1/12; John 3:7-18; Rom. 5:6-9, Acts 4:12)
7. WE BELIEVE that sanctification work of the Holy Spirit begins at salvation and is a progressive lifelong process of separating believers from evil as they continually draw closer to God and become more like Jesus Christ.
8. We believe that believers are called to be holy, to walk not after the flesh, but after the Holy Spirit, and to live in the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit so that they will not fulfil the lust of the flesh but bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 6:11- 13; 8:2, 4, 12-13; Gal. 5:16-23).
9. WE BELIEVE in the assurance of salvation, a privilege by grace of God for all who are truly born again by the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ to be assured of their salvation from the very moment they believe and receive (John 1/12 NKJV) Him to be their personal Saviour and that this assurance is based wholly upon the testimony of God in His written Word (Luke 10:20; 2 Cor. 5:1, 6-8, 1 John 5/11-15, Mathew 3/8).
10. WE BELIEVE in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit - that all the believers are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ which is the Universal Church of God at the time of their true salvation experience (Romans 6:3-4 ; 1Co 12:13 ;Gal3/27), which is also mentioned as anointing in 1 John 2/27(NKJV).

11. WE BELIEVE in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Born again Christian from the moment of their born again experience. (Romans 6:3-4, 1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:27)
12. WE BELIEVE in the Filling of the Holy Spirit – that a believer is commanded to “be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18) constantly and the indwelling Holy Spirit will provide all necessary help as the believer yields to the Holy Spirit and that such believer will be used by the Lord to glory Him in life and ministry.
13. We BELIEVE in the enabling and empowering (ANOINTING) ministry of the Holy Spirit; that by the sovereign will of the Holy Spirit, He may specially empower or anoint a believer to be His powerful witnesses and/or for any specific ministry which will bring glory to God. It is the sovereign will of our God to decide the time, place and method of such anointing and God will provide all the necessary spiritual gifts necessary for effective and fruitful ministry and witness in accordance with His sovereign will (Acts 1/8) on all such specific occasions.
14. WE BELIEVE in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit - that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are operational even today. However, special gifts related to the inscripturation and authentication of the Word of God ceased to exist after the fulfilment of the purpose (Rev. 22/18, 19). Manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit for common good in the church and bearing the fruit of the Spirit in daily life of a member of the church are of paramount importance. Use of spiritual gifts in the church shall be in accordance with the specific instructions given in 1 Corinthians 14. We believe that though the true speaking in tongues has not ceased in the church age, it is not the necessary sign neither of the baptism nor of the filling or the anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 4/8,31; Romans 8/23, 1 Cor 13/8, 1Cor 12/29-31). Though it is scriptural to desire, pray for or wait on the Lord for the various spiritual gifts, it is solely the discretion of the Holy Spirit to decide as to which spiritual gift or gifts has to be granted to the individual believer. (1 Cor 12-14, 1 John 2/20, 27, Acts 1/8). However bearing the fruit of the Spirit is (Gal 5/22, 23) is of equal and paramount importance for a believer.

15. WE BELIEVE that God performs miracles and healing even today, spontaneously or in answer to the prayers of His servants, irrespective of the geographical boundaries and entirely under the Sovereignty of God. (James 5/14-20).
16. WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit guides believers primarily through the written Word of God which is the ultimate source of guidance and authority in all matters of life, doctrine and conduct. Yet God may choose to guide His children in His sovereignty and power, in miraculous and mysterious ways beyond the reasoning of man. (2 Timothy 3/16, Joel 2/15-21)
17. WE BELIEVE in one Universal and many Local Churches - that all who accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior are immediately placed by the Holy Spirit into one united spiritual Body, the church (1 Cor12:12-13). Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church (Eph 4:15; Col 1:18). The formation of this church began on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21, 38-47) and will be completed at the coming of Christ for His own at the rapture (1 Cor.15:51-52; 1 Thess 4:13-18). The church is thus a unique spiritual organism, made up of all born-again believers in this present age (Eph 2:11-3:6). We believe that the believers are directed to associate themselves together in local churches (Acts 14:23,27; 20:17, 28; Gal1:2; Phil 1:1; 1 Thes 1:1; 2 Thes 1:1; 1 Cor 11:18-20; Heb10:25), to glorify God (Eph 3:21) by building up themselves in the faith (Eph 4:13-16), by instruction in the Word (2 Tim 2:2, 15; 3:16-17), by fellowship (Acts 2:47; 1 John 1:3) and by keeping the ordinances (Luke 22:19; Acts 2:38- 42). The believers whether man, woman or children are called to and are free to worship the Triune God or pray openly in any church meeting.
18. WE BELIEVE that a divinely called and scripturally ordained leadership “serves” the Church. We Believe that Christ is the Head of the church (1 Cor 11:3; Eph 1:22; Col1:18).The biblically designated offices serving under Christ and over the congregation are the elders (or bishops or pastors or overseers) and deacons (Acts 20:28 ; 1 Tim3:1-13; Tit 1:5-9; 1 Pet 5:1-5, 1 Tim 5:17-22, Heb13:7, 17).

19. WE BELIEVE and practice two ordinances—(1) Water Baptism by Immersion after truly repenting of one's sins and receiving Christ's gift of salvation and (2) Holy Communion (the Lord's Supper) as a symbolic remembrance of Christ's suffering and death.
20. We believe 'the Church' is the Body of Christ and consists of the people who, throughout time, have accepted God's offer of redemption (regardless of religious denomination) through the sacrificial death of His son Jesus Christ. It is the mandate of the church to proclaim the gospel throughout the world,(Math 29:19), baptize the believers in the name of the triune God and teach them so that they will reach maturity in Christ.
21. WE BELIEVE in the pre-millennial, physical return of Christ, that the present age will be climaxed by the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth as He went and (Deut. 30:1-10; Ezek. 37:21-28; Matt. 24:15-25; Rev. 20:1-3) will rapture His Church prior to His return to earth. At this future moment in time, all who died in Christ will rise from their graves and will meet the Lord in the air, and believers in Christ who are alive will be caught up with them, to be with the Lord forever. (1 Thess 4/17).
22. WE BELIEVE in the millennial reign of Christ when Jesus returns with His saints at His second coming and begins His benevolent rule over earth for 1,000 years and that a final Judgment will take place for those who have rejected Christ. They will be judged for their sin and consigned to eternal punishment in a punishing lake of fire and we look forward to the perfect new heavens and a new earth that Christ is preparing for all believers of all time, who have believed and received Him. We believe that such believers will live and dwell with Him there forever following His millennial reign on Earth. 'And so shall we forever be with the Lord' (1 Thess 4/17).