

# Articles of Faith StudyMaps

The foundational doctrines of the Church of the Nazarene are collectively called "the Articles of Faith." These 16 statements are the basis of our theological identity. The Articles of Faith Study Map is a simple way to memorize them and understand how they relate to each other. It is an easy way to share them with others who want to know what Nazarenes believe. For additional resources, visit [studymaps.org](http://studymaps.org).

## The first three articles describe the God we believe in.

1. **The Triune God** — We believe in one eternal and infinite God. This article is illustrated by a triangle.
2. **Jesus Christ** — We believe in Jesus Christ. He is shown kneeling in prayerful obedience because He came as a servant, to teach us how much God loves humanity.
3. **The Holy Spirit** — We believe in the Holy Spirit. The image represents the Holy Spirit as a dove with fire.
4. **The Holy Scriptures** — We believe in the Holy Scriptures. The image of a book represents the written Word of God.

## Article Four acts as a bridge between the first three articles about God and Articles five to 10, which show the journey of humanity from sin to a perfect relationship with God.

5. **Sin: Original and Personal** — We believe in sin: original and personal. The apple eaten on both sides reminds us of Adam's original sin and our own personal sin.
6. **Atonement** — We believe in atonement through Jesus' death on a cross. The picture of the cross is on top of the eaten apple, because the cross crushed sin.
7. **Prevenient Grace** — We believe in prevenient grace, God's gift. The picture represents a gift in a box, ready to be opened.
8. **Repentance** — We believe in repentance. The image of a bent arrow shows the turn away from sin that leads to our new life. Repentance involves a real change of attitude with the humble hope of God's mercy.
9. **Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption** — We believe in justification, regeneration, and adoption.
  - *Justification* — The judge's gavel represents the judgment of God that graciously forgives us, recognizes us as righteous, and acquits us (Romans 3:21-26).
  - *Regeneration or New Birth* — The picture of the baby shows that, by the grace of God, we become a new creation (John 3:2, Corinthians 5:17).
  - *Adoption as a Child of God* — The picture of a father welcoming his child reminds us of God's grace as He adopts us into His family (Romans 8:15-17).

10. **Entire Sanctification** — We believe in entire sanctification. The picture of the dove within a heart symbolizes that entire sanctification is the purification of the heart (white dove) and the power (fire) to walk with God, listening to Him and doing His will. This implies loving God with all our heart, mind, and soul and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

## Articles 11 to 14 describe the church and three expressions of its faith.

11. **The Church** — We believe in the Church. The picture shows the exterior of a building even though the Church is a community of believers, united with God through Jesus, not a building. Each brick has a person in it, expressing that Church members are connected and that we welcome God to reign among us and shine through us. Yet, a brick is missing on the left side, reminding us that the Church is not "someone else." It is important that we become part of the Church, filling the gap and bringing our gifts to the service of God in the Christian community.
12. **Baptism** — We believe in Christian baptism. The picture of someone being immersed into water by a servant of God shows one way someone could be baptized.
13. **Lord's Supper** — We believe in the Lord's Supper. The picture shows bread and a cup, the two parts of the Lord's Supper.
14. **Divine Healing** — We believe in divine healing. The picture of someone praying to God near a sick person stresses that prayer is a key element in divine healing.

## The last two articles speak of the future: Christ's return and our final destiny.

15. **Second Coming of Christ** — We believe that Jesus will come again. The picture shows Jesus coming from heaven with clouds under His feet.
16. **Resurrection, Judgment, and Destiny** — We believe that the dead will be resurrected and judged; those who have done good will inherit eternal life and those who have done evil will be condemned. The bottom picture shows someone rising from the dead, the picture of the gavel represents judgment, and the top pictures illustrate the two destinies: hell (fire) for those condemned for having done evil and an angel at the gates of heaven welcoming those who believed in Jesus and have done the will of God.

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

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