

Mission Bible Fellowship Doctrinal Statement

Article 1 – God The Bible declares there is one true and living God, an infinitely perfect, eternal being of indefinite power, wisdom, and goodness, existing in three persons who are of one substance, power, and nature, namely, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. God is the Creator, Preserver and Ruler over all things: all things visible and invisible, temporal and eternal. (Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; John 5:8; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 Timothy 1:17)

Article 2 – God The Father The Bible declares that God as Father creates and reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to His plan and purposes. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 42:5; Ps 145:8-16; Isaiah 46:10; Romans 8:15-16; 2 Corinthians 6:18, 1 John 3:1)

Article 3 - Jesus Christ The Bible declares that Jesus Christ is God incarnate - fully God and fully man, in Whom the divine and human natures are perfectly and inseparably united. Jesus is the eternal Word made flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He is the only Savior for all of humanity. He lived a sinless life and endured death on the cross, and in Him, the payment for sin was fulfilled. He was buried, rose from the dead, and ascended bodily into heaven to be with the Father, from which He shall also return. Faith in His atoning death and victorious resurrection constitute the only ground for salvation. He is the eternal Savior, High Priest and Advocate, who intercedes for us, and who will also judge all. (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; John 1:14; Acts 1:3, 1:9-11, 2:22-24, 4:9-10, 17:2-3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; Hebrews 2:17, 4:14-16, 7:25; Revelation 20:11-15)

Article 4 - The Holy Spirit The Bible declares that the Holy Spirit is God The Spirit - the third person of The Trinity. He proceeds from and is of one Being with the Father and the Son. In all that He does, He glorifies God The Father and The Lord Jesus Christ. The Spirit convicts the world of sin, reveals the Truth (Jesus) to humanity, and leads us to repentance, salvation, and redemption. At salvation, the Holy Spirit baptizes, seals believers as God's own possession, and indwells those who believe and leads them into the fellowship of the Church, teaching, guiding, comforting, sustaining, gifting for the building up of the church, empowering, and sanctifying them for Christ-like living and service. (John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26-27, 16:7-15; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 1:13-14)

Article 5 - The Bible The Bible, in the entirety of both Old and New Testaments, is the inspired, inerrant, written Word of God. It alone contains the will of God as far as we must know it for life and salvation. If it is not found within the Canon of Scripture, understood as the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, it is not to be enjoined to any article of faith or doctrine essential to salvation. The Bible is authoritative and binding to the life of the believer, and reveals the nature of God, the world in which we live, and the plan and invitation of salvation which is offered to every person. Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches, obeyed in all that it requires, and trusted in all that it promises. (Matthew 22:37-40; Galatians 1:8-9, 3:11, 3:23-25,

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4:9-10; Colossians 2:16-17; 1 Timothy 1:5, 2:5; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; James 2:8; 2 Peter 1:19-21; Revelation 22:18-19)

Article 6- Depravity and Prevenient Grace The Bible declares that through the sin of Adam, all humanity has fallen from original righteousness and is entirely destitute of holiness, inclined to continual evil, sinners by nature and by choice. Because of this state, unless a person is born again and regenerated through faith in Jesus Christ, they are not fit to enter the Kingdom of God. No person has the ability in and of themselves to resolve this, not by works or good deeds, but is wholly dependent upon the work of Christ to be saved from this depravity. The Bible further declares that humanity has been created with a free-will and is responsible for its own eternal destiny, yet is enabled to exercise the will to both follow Christ and live a life of obedience through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and the prevenient grace of God. (Genesis 6:5; Psalm 51:5, 58:3; John 3:3-7; Acts 17:24-28; Romans 2:4, 3:10-18, 3:22-23, 5:15-21; Ephesians 2:1-3, 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Titus 2:11-14)

Article 7 - Atonement for Sin The Bible declares that God was, in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself. The offering of the pure and sinless Christ, freely made on the cross through the shedding of His blood, is the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of all of humanity, both original and actual. Because of this, no other payment is required. (John 19:30; Romans 3:21-25a; Hebrews 7:25-27, 9:25-28, 10:12)

Article 8 - Justification, Regeneration, and Adoption The Bible declares that we are not considered righteous before God through our works or merit, but only through faith in Jesus Christ. Regeneration is the renewal of our whole being through faith in Jesus Christ, being formed into His likeness by the power and work of the Holy Spirit. In this we are made partakers of the divine nature and restored into fellowship with God and His Church. By this new birth, the believer becomes a child of God, adopted into the Kingdom of God, and made an heir of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Spirit and the Word bear witness to this gracious work and assure the regenerate believer that they have passed from death unto life, their sins are forgiven, and that they are members of God's family. (Isaiah 64:6; John 1:12; Romans 4:3-5, 5:1-2, 8:13-16; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 6:18; Galatians 2:15-16, 20, 4:4-7, 5:5-6; Ephesians 2:8-9; Titus 3:4-5; 1 John 3:1-2)

Article 9 - Sanctification The Bible declares that God commands us to love Him supremely and others sacrificially. The work of sanctification empowers this lifestyle. Sanctification begins at salvation and is the ongoing work of God's grace through the Word and the Holy Spirit, by which those who have been born again are enabled to increasingly live in accordance with God's will, honoring Him by pursuing holiness in all aspects of their lives. Sanctification does not deliver us from the infirmities, ignorance, and mistakes common to humanity, nor does it remove from us the possibility of further sin. A person is "set apart" so that they may experience continued growth in divine knowledge, spiritual strength, and good works to the glory of God. The follower of Christ must continue to guard against the temptations of spiritual pride and seek to live victoriously over this and every other temptation to sin. This desire to love and honor Christ above all things empowers a life of holiness, enabling the believer to walk even

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as He walked. (Matthew 22:37; Acts 15:8-9; Romans 6:1-14, 8:1-4, 12:1-2; Galatians 5:22-23; Philippians 2:1-5; Colossians 1:9-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; Hebrews 12:10-15; 1 Peter 1:22; 1 John 1:9, 3:3)

Article 10 - Security of the Believer The Bible declares that believers are secure in Christ and demonstrate true conversion as they walk in surrender and faith. Those who have committed their lives to Christ in faith can have confidence in His completed work, and God's promise to keep them until the end. Also, those who fall into sin, may come to God in genuine repentance, and be confident that the grace and mercy of God is always theirs through the work of Christ on the cross. (John 3:16, 10:27-30; Philippians 1:4-6, 2:12; Hebrews 7:25; Jude 24-25, 1 John 1:9; 1 John 5:11-13)

Article 11 - Love and Obedience The Bible declares that love and obedience are the fruits of faith and regeneration. They do not have the ability to remove sin, nor satisfy the required judgement of sin. Obedience to Christ, from a heart of love, springs from a true and living faith, revealing to the World that a person follows Jesus. (John 15:1-8; Galatians 2:15-16; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 1:9-11; James 2:17-18, 3:10-13)

Article 12 - The Church The Bible declares that the Church comprises all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone, living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is this fellowship of the redeemed by which Christ is Worshiped, the Word of God is preached, and the sacraments are shared. Under the headship of Christ and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Church exists to fulfill the Great Commission by encouraging and enabling Worship, growing and building up believers, and taking the message of the Gospel to the ends of the earth. (Acts 2:41-47; Colossians 1:18-21; 1 John 1:7)

Article 13 - The Sacraments The Bible declares that the sacraments, as ordained by Christ, are not only symbolic of a believer's profession, but they are also signs of God's love and grace toward us. Through these sacraments, the Spirit works in us, quickening, strengthening, and confirming our faith in Him. The two sacraments ordained by Christ are Baptism and Communion.

1. Baptism - Baptism signifies the entrance of a believer into the household of faith and is symbolic of surrender, repentance, and cleansing. It is a representation of the new birth in Christ Jesus and a mark of Christian discipleship. All believers should endeavor to be baptized, as the sacrament of Baptism is established for and administered to only those who have received Christ Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38-41, 8:36-39; 16:30-33)

2. Communion - Communion is a representation of our redemption, a memorial of the sufferings and death of Christ, and a token of love and union that believers have with Christ and one another. Believers are exhorted to rightly and worthily eat the broken bread and drink the blessed cup in remembrance of Christ's broken body and shed blood. In so doing, the Church proclaims the Lord's death until He comes. (Luke 22:19-22; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29)

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Article 14 - Healing The Bible declares that God is able to heal and that we ought to pray for those who are sick. Although healing cannot be demanded of God, it may be sought in accordance with the instructions in Scripture. We believe that God heals in three ways: (1) through the natural processes of the human body, which may be aided by medical help, (2) through the instantaneous intervention of God bringing healing to the body, and (3) through the death and resurrection of the body to a glorified state. (James 5:13-16)

Article 15 - The Lord's Day (Sabbath) The Bible declares that ultimately, Jesus is our sabbath. It is He Who makes us lie down in green pastures, leads us to quiet waters and restores our souls. However, it is in our nature and given by God's example that we must take time to regularly rest from unnecessary labor, and be devoted to spiritual renewal, growth, Christian fellowship, and service. Sunday is a good day to observe this. (Psalm 23:1-3; Matthew 28:1; Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Colossians 2:16-17; Hebrews 10:24-25; Revelation 1:10)

Article 16 - Public Worship The Bible declares that God-focused worship is the duty and privilege of every person, who, in the presence of God, bows in adoration, humility, and dedication. This assembling of believers is essential to the life of the Church and vital to the life of the individual believer. The Scriptures further reveal that the order of public worship need not be the same in all places but may be modified by the Church according to circumstances and the needs of the body. All things should be done in a manner consistent with the Scriptures and for the purpose of building up those who believe, and glorifying God. (Psalm 95:1-7; Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:1-7, chapters 12-14; Ephesians 4:11-16, 5:19-20; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Article 17 - The Return of Christ The Bible declares the personal, bodily and glorious return of Our Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and that He will ultimately fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over all evil. Faith in the imminent return of Jesus is both rational and a hope to those who believe and demands constant expectancy, and as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and joyful participation in God's mission to reach the ends of the earth with The Gospel. (Matthew 25:1-13, 14-30; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Titus 2:11-15)

Article 18 - Resurrection, Judgement and the Future State The Bible declares that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the unrighteous and that all will stand before God, the righteous and just Judge. Those who have trusted Christ by faith shall receive the promise of eternal life in heaven, however those who have rejected God's free gift of salvation shall receive endless punishment apart from God, in hell. (Ecclesiastes 12:14; Isaiah 35:8-10; Matthew 25:41-46; John 5:22-24; Acts 17:31; 2 Corinthians 5:8-10; 1 John 5:11-12; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8, 21:22-27)

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Moral Values and Position Statements

1. Position on the SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE: We believe that God allows conception and is the Creator of all human life. Because of this, human life is of inestimable worth and significance in all its dimensions, including the unborn, the aged, the widowed, the mentally impaired, the physically challenged and every other condition in which humanness is expressed from conception to death. We believe that every human life should be both preserved and protected. Consequently, we are opposed to abortion, euthanasia, assisted suicide, and any other act that would terminate life for the sake of convenience.

2. Position on HUMAN VALUE: We believe that God has created every human life in His image, and therefore the Church must respect the uniqueness of God's creative design, inherent in every race, nation, creed and gender (male and female). We believe that the Bible teaches that Humanity's value is found in our Creator and that there is no reason whatsoever for the belief in the superiority or inferiority of any people. A disciple, following the example of Christ, should reflect this value in the way they think, communicate, and act toward every person. Because of this, we oppose all prejudice or segregation based upon differences of race or national origin, as well as any action that exploits and destroys the created value of a person, such as slavery, prostitution, human trafficking, drug and alcohol abuse.

3. We Value MARRIAGE: We believe that the institution of marriage was created by God and intended to be a permanent, life-long, growing, and life-giving relationship only between one man and one woman. This covenant is not dependent upon life's circumstances nor diminished by difficulties or trials, but should reflect the enduring nature of God's faithfulness to His promises.

Because of this, Disciples should: a. Understand the sacred nature of marriage and maintain a reverent posture toward marriage in thought and practice. b. Practice prayerful deliberation and wisdom in every step leading toward marriage, including not being unequally yoked with those who do not follow Jesus, and seeking God-honoring counsel and guidance in preparation for marriage. c. Endeavor to faithfully reflect the character of Christ in their marriage, following the Biblical guidance of roles and responsibilities of Husbands and Wives.

Because marriage is a Divine covenant before God, when human failure results in placing the marriage in jeopardy, the Church strongly urges the persons involved to seek counsel in order to effect reconciliation and restoration, that the marriage may be preserved. Every effort should be made to seek reconciliation, even in the most dire of circumstances, knowing that "God hates divorce" and calls those who follow him to walk in faithfulness, grace, forgiveness, and humility toward each other. Because of this Biblical view of the Marriage covenant, we oppose such things that would devalue or corrupt that union, including same-sex unions or marriages, polygamy, or divorce (except on the grounds of adultery or abandonment). We also believe that abuse of any form within a marriage fails to honor God and the covenant entered into.

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4. We Value the FAMILY: We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is built upon a marriage of one man and one woman, in a covenant commitment for a lifetime, which reflects the union of Christ and His Church. It is in the context of this relationship that God provides a framework for companionship, sexual expression, and reproduction.

Husbands and wives are of equal worth before God as both are created in His image and God shows no partiality among persons. The posture of relationships within a family is one of mutual respect, honor, and submission. Husbands are to love their wives as Christ loves the Church, and wives are to submit to their husbands, as to the Lord. Each should seek to reflect an attitude of humility, not insisting on their own rights but rather, seeking the best for the other in love. Husbands have the God-given responsibility to lead, love and honor his wife. Wives have the God-given responsibility to follow, love, and respect her husband.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to set an example of Godliness for their children, as well as to be a model of God's pattern for marriage. They are to lead their children into the fear and admonition of the Lord, calling them to surrender to Christ in faith, as well as to teach them how to walk as faithful disciples, following the spiritual and moral values as set forth in the Bible. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

5. We Value BIBLICAL SEXUALITY: We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that humanity possesses a God-created sexuality that is designed for heterosexual expression within a monogamous Biblical marriage. Any deviation from this is sin and a forsaking of God's purposeful and blessed intention, expression and experience of human sexuality. For those who have fallen into sin in this area, God's grace and forgiveness is given to those who repent and return to Him, and they can experience perfect healing, deliverance, and restoration to a life of personal dignity and human sexuality as set forth in the Scripture.

6. We Value CITIZENSHIP: We believe that the Bible has called believers to, first and foremost, live as citizens of the Kingdom of God who live as "aliens and strangers" in this present world. However, God has also called us to seek the welfare and peace of the land in which he has placed us. This means we must take seriously our privileges and responsibilities under any such God-ordained human government in which we live. Disciples of Christ are called to pray for those in governmental leadership, obey the laws established by government (unless they conflict with God's laws), and to reflect the heart and values of Christ through informed voting and influence.

7. We Value THE HUMAN BODY: We believe that the Bible clearly teaches that God created all people either male or female. Each person was designed by God and assigned the gender that He planned for them at conception. There are no mistakes by God and no possibility of transitioning from one gender to another. Each human is created with great skill and care by God as He designed and intended.

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Additionally, through Christ's redeeming work, the believer's body has become the temple and dwelling place of God. Therefore, the believer should endeavor to take proper care of their body so that they might honor God's creation and have the strength and vitality to serve Him to the fullest potential. Any practice, including the use of harmful substances that harm the body and diminish its "strength to serve" is dishonoring to the Lord and we encourage believers to abstain from them. The Bible also clearly warns about the dangers of alcohol and other non-medically prescribed substances, and believers are strongly urged to wisely heed these Biblical warnings.

8. We Value THE HUMAN MIND: We believe that the Bible teaches that as Disciples, we are to think on the positive and God-honoring things of life. We are to seek to have "the mind of Christ" and to purposefully grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, we encourage every believer to consistently fill their minds with the Truth, daily reading and meditating on God's Word, and to guard their minds, "taking every thought captive" and staying away from materials/content that corrupt and undermine the transforming work of Truth in our minds.