

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

What We Believe

1. GOD

We believe there is only One, the living and true God. (John 17:3) God is a spirit, whose being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth are infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. (John 4:24) He created all things (Revelation 4:11) and upholds all things by the Word of His power (Hebrews 1:3). In Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). He is Truth and without iniquity.

We believe there are three persons in the one God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, the same in substance and equal in power and glory. (Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 4:3-4)

2. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, who became man. He was and continues to be God and man in two distinct natures and one person forever. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, who gave birth to him; yet he was sinless. (John 1:1, 1:14, 1:18, 14:8-9; I Timothy 3:16)

3. HOLY SPIRIT

We believe the Holy Spirit, the third person, proceeding from the Father and the Son, of the same substance and equal in power and glory is, together with the Father and the Son, to be believed in, loved, obeyed, and worshiped.

The Holy Spirit regenerates individuals by his grace, convicts them of sin, moves them to repentance, and persuades and enables them to embrace Jesus Christ by faith. He unites all believers to Christ, dwells in them as their comforter and sanctifies them, gives to them the spirit of adoption and prayer,

It should be evident that individuals within the body are empowered by the Spirit with various gifts for the “common good” of the corporate body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:4ff and Romans 12:6ff). The practicing of these gifts should always be for the edification of those observing as well as done properly and in an orderly manner and never for the sole benefit or pleasure of the one being gifted (I Corinthians 14:27, 39-40).

4. SCRIPTURES

We believe the Scriptures of the Old Testament and the New Testament are verbally inspired by God and inerrant in their original writings. We believe the 66 books of the Old Testament and the New Testament are God’s complete and sufficient revelation. (Psalm 119:97-104, 119:160; Matthew 5:18; John 5:46-47, 10:35; II Timothy 3:15-16). The Bible speaks authoritatively and so deserves to be believed and obeyed. This authority does not depend on the testimony of any man or church but completely on God, its author, who is himself truth. The Bible therefore is to be accepted as true, because it is the word of God.

The whole purpose of God about everything pertaining to his own glory and to man's salvation, faith, and life is either explicitly stated in the Bible or may be deduced as inevitably and logically following from it. Nothing is at any time to be added to the Bible, either from new revelations of the Spirit or from traditions of men. The infallible standard for the interpretation of the Bible is the Bible itself.

We believe that the very words of Scripture in the original Hebrew, Greek, and Aramaic are inspired by God. Therefore, we believe that the Bible versions, which translate God's Word most literally into commonly understandable English, should be preferred.

5. MANKIND

We believe man was created in innocence under the law of his Maker, but by voluntarily transgressing, fell from his sinless and happy state. Consequently, all mankind is sinful. All people are sinners not only by inheritance, but also by their own choice and therefore are under just condemnation without defense or excuse. We believe that without exception every man and every woman is totally depraved and needs a Savior (Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 1:18, 1:32, 3:10-19).

6. SALVATION

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitute sacrifice. We believe that each person who by faith receives Him as personal Savior is justified on the basis of Jesus Christ's shed blood on the cross. Each person who receives Christ as personal Savior is born again of the Holy Spirit and thereby becomes eternally secure as a child of God.

We believe the Holy Spirit baptizes each believing person into the body of Christ at the moment of salvation (I Corinthians 12:13). Thereafter, believers can and will experience various and tangible "fillings" of the Spirit deemed necessary by the Father to accomplish His purposes on the earth (Acts 2:4, 4:31, 6:3, 11:24, 13:9, 52). In addition, Ephesians 5:18 with proper verb usage would be rendered "Keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit".

7. RESURRECTION

We believe in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord Jesus Christ, His ascension into heaven and His present life for us as High Priest and Advocate (Acts 1:3; Hebrews 7:25-26).

8. HEAVEN, HELL, AND THE RETURN OF CHRIST

We believe in the blessed hope: the personal, bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ. His return has a vital bearing on the personal life and service of the believer

(I Thessalonians 4:13-18). People were created to exist forever. We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. (John 3:16, 14:17; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18)

9. CHURCH

Upon accepting the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, a believer becomes part of His body, which is the Church. There is one Church universal, composed of all those throughout the world who acknowledge Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. The Scriptures command believers to gather in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, observance of the ordinances (baptism and communion), fellowship, service to His body through the development and use of talents and gifts, and outreach to the world in fulfillment of the command of Christ to disciple all believers (Ephesians 5:23; Romans 12:1; Acts 2:42-46; I Corinthians 14:26; Matthew 28:18-20).

Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the church under the oversight of pastors, elders, and other supportive leadership. The church's members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ (Ephesians 4:16).

10. MISSIONS

Realizing that the cause of Christ extends beyond any one local fellowship, we commit ourselves to an ongoing ministry of extending the call of Christ to make disciples around the world. (Matthew 28:19-20).

Mountain View Church has as its goal to support as many Christ honoring ministries as possible, from local to international. We do this both by allowing them time to speak in our services as well as financially with the church's tithe from our weekly offerings.

11. THE "PRIESTHOOD OF EVERY BELIEVER"

We believe every Believer has direct access to God through Jesus Christ. Confession, forgiveness, and intercession are not made through any man or clergy, but to God alone. While at the same time, we believe in the value of confessing our sins to one another in a spirit of accountability and healing. (James 5:16) As "kingdom priests of God" we assume personal responsibility for studying the Bible, prayer, and leading our home. (Revelation 1:6; I Peter 2:9)

Bringing Clarity to Other Topics

12. CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

We believe in the importance of serving the body of Christ by offering clear paths for people to start and develop healthy and growing relationships with others in the church body. We value an intentional plan to help every interested person enjoy godly relationships in the church. Church membership is a byproduct of people who are growing in Christ and who grasp the importance of serving the Lord by using their gifts to serve others in the local church. (John 10:29; II Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10-14; I Peter 1:3-5)

13. BAPTISM AND COMMUNION

Baptism and communion are the two ordinances required in the church. We believe that Christian baptism by immersion in water is a public identification with Jesus Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. Although baptism is not required for salvation, it is commanded of all believers and is for believers only (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41; Acts 18:8). Scripture shows that a person was baptized after personally receiving forgiveness of sin through accepting Jesus Christ. The waters of baptism are a symbol and testimony of our death, burial, and resurrection to newness of life that happens when we become new creations in Christ (Colossians 2:12; II Corinthians 5:17; Romans 6:1-4).

Communion is the commemoration by believers of Christ's death, and a reminder – through the bread and the juice – of the Savior's broken body and shed blood. Communion is to be a time of confession of our sins and should be preceded by careful self-examination according to Acts 4:13; Romans 6:3-6; I Corinthians 11:20-29.

14. ETERNAL SECURITY

It is God's divine decision to save a person and it is God's kindness, forbearance, and patience that lead that person to repentance (Romans 2:4). All glory for the salvation and security of every believer belongs to God alone (Romans 3:21-31; Ephesians 1:7-9, 2:8-9; Jude 1:24-25). We believe that everyone who is born again by the Spirit through Jesus Christ is eternally assured of salvation from the moment of conversion. This assurance relies on God's decisive grace rather than on the works of the Christian. Obedience, good works, and fruit-bearing do not earn or retain the believer's salvation but indicate the reality of the person's love of Christ and profession of faith (Luke 6:46; John 14:21; James 2:17-18).

Eternal security in salvation relies on the Lord's guarantee of each believer's adoption as His son or daughter (Galatians 4:4-7), His seal of the believer by the Holy Spirit (II Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14), and the conviction that God gives the Holy Spirit to each believer as a down payment toward future bliss in heaven (II Corinthians 1:21-22). A person who professes genuine faith in Christ immediately becomes His possession (Luke 23:42-43; Acts 2:40-41, 16:30-34), and nothing can snatch that person out of His hands (John 10:27-29). Having been bought with the price of Jesus Christ's crucifixion as complete payment for sin, Christians are not their own. They are Christ's possession (I Corinthians 6:19-20). This assurance is absolutely certain, reserved in heaven, protected by God's unlimited power (I Peter 1:4-5).

15. CREATION, EVOLUTION, AND GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

God chose to create the universe and all that is in it to reveal His glory, divine nature, eternal power, infinite wisdom, and supreme authority (Isaiah 43:7; Psalm 19:1-2; Jeremiah 10:12; Romans 1:20; Revelation 4:11).

We deny the theory of evolution, which states that nonliving substances gave rise to the first living material, which then reproduced and diversified to produce all living creatures. We believe that all people are descendants of Adam and Eve, whom God created personally and individually and as complete human beings with a free will (Genesis 1:26-27, 2:7, 2:21-22; I Corinthians 11:8-9). The fall of Adam and Eve infected all people with sin and death, but the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ gives the opportunity to receive God's gift of eternal life (Romans 5:18-19; I Corinthians 15:21-22).

God rules over His creation and cares about and is involved in the lives of individual people (Job 12:10; Acts 17:25, 25:28; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:13; Ephesians 4:6).

16. PARA-CHURCH INVOLVEMENTS

We do not prohibit, but we do discourage our members from involvement in any religious oriented group, which does not exalt Jesus Christ as the only way to be saved and enter heaven. Any group whose rules of membership are lacking in transparency, such as Freemasonry or as some call it the Masonic Lodge, is seen as "building on the sand" and discouraged. Our Lord did not sanction any assembly beyond His church and He did nothing in secret (see John 18:20). We can and do, however, welcome these believers to fellowship with us, but with the

desire that they would come to see these organizations as in opposition to the teachings of Christ. It should be understood that until such times these believers have “changed course” in their understanding of Scripture, they would not be given a leadership position in our church. Teaching on these sometimes-controversial subjects is always available to any interested believer.

17. WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Mountain View Church affirms the God-ordained and significant role that women should play in establishing and leading the local church. Every leadership opportunity is open to women except those that are excluded by Scripture. The Scriptures clearly state that men are to serve in the office of Elder and Pastor, and that women are not to serve in church positions in which they exercise authority over men or in which they teach doctrine to men (I Timothy 2:12, 3:1-2; Titus 1:6-9). We do not see this as an issue of inequality for men and women are equal under God. The Bible is clear that men and women do not have the same roles. Qualified women should serve in any leadership position that is not forbidden in the Scriptures.

18. MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

We believe that God wonderfully creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genres together reflect the image and nature of God. (Genesis 1:26-27) Rejection of one’s biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

We believe that the term “marriage” has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, delineated in Scripture. (Genesis 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Corinthians 6:18; 1 Cor. 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.

We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of MountainView Church as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the church members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by the church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matthew 5:16; Philippians 2:14-16; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Thessalonians 5:22)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Mountainview Church.

19. THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. (Psalm 139)