

OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH AND DOCTRINE

What We Believe

Amended November 21, 2021

1. GOD

We believe in the only true God (John 17:3), the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20). 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 the God of truth and without iniquity. He is just and right (Deuteronomy 32:4), and He shall judge the world (Psalm 9:8).

We believe that the Godhead exists eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three are one God, having precisely the same nature, attributes and perfections, and are worthy of precisely the same homage, confidence, and obedience (Mark 12:29; John 1:1-4; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 4:3-4).

2. JESUS CHRIST

We believe in the total deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe He is the manifestation of God in the flesh. We believe He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. We believe Him to be true God and true man (John 1:1, 1:14, 1:18, 14:8-9; I Timothy 3:16).

3. HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:14). The Holy Spirit regenerates the sinner upon belief in Christ, baptizing the believer into one body, of which Christ is the head. The Holy Spirit indwells, guides, instructs, fills, comforts, and empowers the believer for godly living (Mark 13:11; John 14:26, 16:13; Romans 5:5; I Corinthians 3:16).

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 and therefore carry God's authority for the total well-being of mankind (Psalm 119:97-104, 119:160; Matthew 5:18; John 5:46-47, 10:35; II Timothy 3:15-16). We believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures and that they contain all the words of God that we need in order to completely trust and obey Him. We believe they are infallible in their instruction (Proverbs 6:32; II Peter 1:19), eternal in duration (Isaiah 40:8; I Peter 1:23-25), the final authority and the standard for faith and

practice (Matthew 4:4; Psalm 119), and sufficient for counsel in every issue of life (Psalm 19:7-14; II Timothy 3:16). 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, pre-millennial 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).

MountainView 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 time as 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.

17. LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE

God alone is Lord of the conscience (James 4:12; Romans 14:4) and he has left it free from human doctrines and commandments that are in any way contrary to his word or not contained in it. (Acts 4:19, 29; 1 Corinthians 7:23; Matthew 15:9) So, believing such doctrines, or obeying such commands out of conscience, is a betrayal of true liberty of conscience. (Colossians 2:20, 22, 23) Requiring implicit faith or absolute and blind obedience destroys liberty of conscience and reason as well. (1 Corinthians 3:5; 2 Corinthians 1:24)

Those who use Christian liberty as an excuse to practice any sin or nurture any sinful desire pervert the main objective of the grace of the gospel to their own destruction, (Romans 6:1,2) and they destroy the purpose of Christian liberty. This purpose is that we, having been delivered from the hands of all our enemies, may serve the Lord without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our lives. (Galatians 5:13; 2 Peter 2:18, 21)