

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

There is one God, who is infinitely perfect, existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Acts 5:3-4; I Corinthians 12:4-6; II Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:1-14)

Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust, as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. He rose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest. (Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-18; Romans 3:21-26; Hebrews 1:1-3, 2:7; I Peter 3:18)

The Holy Spirit is a divine person, sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer, and convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. (John 14:16-26; 16:5-11)

The Old and New Testaments, inerrant as originally given, were verbally inspired by God and are the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men. They constitute the divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice. (Matthew 5:17-20; John 10:35; II Timothy 3:16)

Man was originally created in the image and likeness of God; he fell through disobedience, incurring both physical and spiritual death. All men are born with a sinful nature, are separated from the life of God, and can be saved only through the atoning work of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Genesis 1:26-27; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:18-3:20)

Salvation has been provided through Jesus Christ for all men; and those who repent and believe in Him, receiving Him as personal Savior and Lord, are born again of the Holy Spirit, receive the gift of eternal life, and become the children of God. (Acts 2:38; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 10:9-10; Titus 3:5-6; I Peter 1:3-5) *We believe that this salvation process comes by grace, through faith alone. Works of any kind are a result of salvation, not in any way a means to it. (Ephesians 2:8-9)*

The church consists of all those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, are redeemed through His blood, and are born again of the Holy Spirit. Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church, which has been commissioned by Him to go into all the world as a witness, preaching the gospel to all nations. (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 1:4; I Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 1:22-23) *Part of our witness is found in how we respond in society. Civil governments are of divine appointment for the interests and good order of human society. Those in civil authority are to be prayed for and conscientiously honored. (Romans 13:1-7; II Samuel 23-3; Exodus 18:21-22; Acts 4:19-20, 5:20, 23-5; Matthew 22:21; Daniel 3:17-18)*

The local church is a body of believers in Christ who are joined together for the local worship of God, for edification through the Word of God, for prayer, fellowship, the proclamation of the gospel, and observance of the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. (Acts 2:42-47; Acts 10:47-48; Luke 22:17-20; I Corinthians 11:23-32)

There shall be a bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust; for the former a resurrection unto life, for the latter, a resurrection unto judgment. (Matthew 25:31-46; Hebrews 9:27)

The second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is imminent and will be personal and visible. This is the believer's blessed hope and is vital truth which is an incentive to holy living and faithful service. (Acts 1:9-11; Titus 2:13; I Peter 1:13; II Peter 3:11)

God wonderfully creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Marriage was designed by God to be the lifelong union of one genetic man and one genetic woman, and only within the context of such a marriage does sexual intimacy have God's blessing. (Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:20-24; Mark 10:2-9; Hebrews 13:4) *This principle, as applicable, shall govern all matters of Morning Star Christian Schools.*

*The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and proper conduct, is the sole and final source of what we believe. With regard to faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Board of Directors of Morning Star Christian School is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's application for Morning Star Christian Schools.*

## CORE VALUES

As a school that exists to serve God, our core values reflect His character (Ex. 34:6). They provide the context in which day-to-day decisions are made.

GRACE - We believe that our very existence depends on the unmerited favor bestowed on us by God through the death of Christ on the cross (Col. 2:13-14; Titus 3:4-7). Therefore, we:

- Develop an environment where people are loved, not because of what they do, but because we choose to love them (Dt. 7:7-8; Rom. 12:9; 2 Tim. 1:9)
- Cultivate an environment where forgiveness is practiced and encouraged (Eph. 4:30-5:2)
- Endeavor to keep rules to a minimum (Gal. 2:16; Col. 2:20-23).
- Strive to encourage success rather than focusing on preventing failure (Phil. 3:12-14)
- Encourage students to develop the resilience of a maturing faith that enables them to persevere through difficult circumstances (Rom. 5:1-5; James 1:2-4)

TRUTH - We believe that the Bible is God's Word (John 10:35; 2 Cor. 4:2; 2 Tim. 3:16), that God's Word is truth (Ps. 119:160; John 17:17), and that knowledge of it is key to unleashing its transformational power (John 8:31-32). Therefore, we:

- Teach that Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6).
- Endeavor to teach truth in all academic subjects (Ps. 19:1; Ps. 25; Eph. 4:25; Col. 1:16-17).
- Evaluate all truth claims against Scripture (Ps. 119:105; Acts 17:11).

- Encourage our students to embrace truth and live according to it (John 8:31-32; 3 John 1:4).
- Strive for growth, learning, and improvement according to God's Word as individuals and as an organization (1 Cor. 9:24-27; Phil. 3:12-14; Col. 3:23; 1 Thes. 4:1).

LOVE - We believe that we are each called to love God with all our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love our neighbor as ourselves (Luke 10:27). Therefore, we:

- Cultivate an outward focus by encouraging students to serve others (Heb. 13:16).
- Provide encouragement and assistance to other Christian schools (2 Cor. 8:3-5; Phil. 2:3-4).
- Endeavor to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15).
- Diligently preserve unity (Eph. 4:3; Phil. 2:2) while valuing each other's unique giftedness (Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12:12-27).
- Monitor the effect of our behavior on others so that we do not hinder someone's relationship with the Lord (Rom. 14; 2 Tim. 2:23-26).