



Statement of Faith: Essentials, Convictions, & Matters of Conscience

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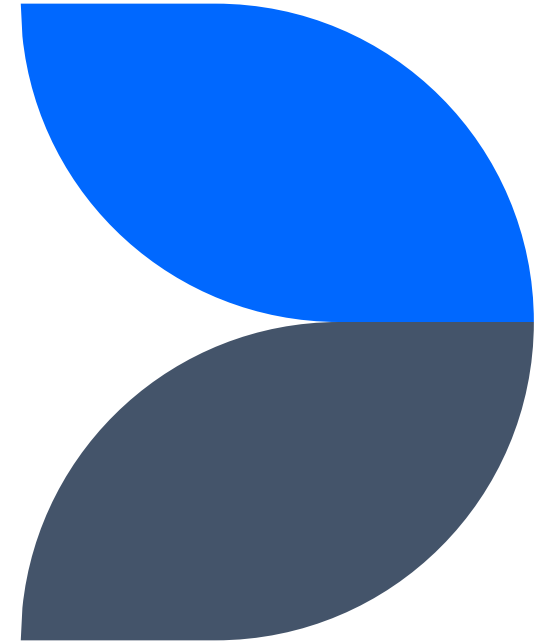
Our Statement of Faith is divided into two sections: essentials and convictions.

Our essentials present clear claims about critical concepts in Christian theology. They identify who God is and what God is doing in the world. They are affirmed by historic and contemporary creeds, and are agreed upon by Christians around the world, regardless of their nation of origin, denominational background, or social location.

Our convictions are biblically-rooted beliefs that shape our preaching and practice. They're positions we've come to embrace through study, prayer, dialogue, and experience.

We know not everyone will see things the way we do. And that's okay. We're proud of our convictions, and we're always excited about opportunities to discuss them.

We think those kinds of conversations happen best face-to-face, so feel free to email JeffMcRN@gmail.com to set up a time to talk!



Essentials

GOD

God is love. He is powerful and perfect - the Creator of all things. He has existed in relationship with Himself for eternity as one God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity possesses equal power and authority.

THE FATHER

The Father is kind and gracious. He is all powerful, all knowing, ever-present, unchanging, completely worthy of our trust, and above all, holy. It is in Him that we live, move and exist. The Father is good, loving, compassionate, and faithful to His children and His promises.

THE SON

Jesus Christ, the Son, is completely human and completely God. He was conceived through the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a perfect life and was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He died on the cross as the all-sufficient sacrifice for human sin. Later, He rose from the dead, defeating death, and ascended into heaven, where He now reigns over all powers and authorities. His victory over death and sin enables us to have eternal life.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit's presence assures us of our relationship with Christ until His return. He guides us into all truth and glorifies Jesus as Lord. He brings conviction of sin, God's righteousness, and the coming judgment. He is with us as our Comforter and gives spiritual gifts that make us more like Christ.

THE BIBLE

The Bible is God's Word to all people. It was composed by human authors under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it was inspired by God, the Bible should be believed in all that it teaches, trusted in all it promises, and obeyed in all it requires.

Essentials *continued*

HUMANS

Humans are made in the image of God and are the supreme object of His creation. Every human is uniquely created, possesses dignity, and is worthy of respect and love. Humans were made to experience relationship with God but became separated from Him through sinful disobedience.

ETERNITY

God has “set eternity in the hearts” of humans. Humans will exist for eternity with God through forgiveness and salvation in Christ or be separated from God for rejecting Him. To be separated from God is Hell. To be with God is Heaven. Both Heaven and Hell are real places of existence. Ultimately, followers of Jesus will spend eternity in a New Heaven & New Earth with the Lord.

SALVATION

The blood of Jesus Christ, shed on the cross after He lived a perfect life in our place, provides the only way of salvation through the forgiveness of sin. Salvation occurs when people place their faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ as sufficient payment for their sin. Salvation is a gift from God, and it cannot be earned through human effort.

THE CHURCH

The Church is a global community of people – past, present, & future – who are unified through faith in Christ. The Church is the body of Christ and is committed to the teachings of Christ, to fellowship with one another, to celebrating the Lord’s supper, and to prayer. It seeks to bring the Gospel to the world. The Church is organized into local churches, where worship, love, sacrifice, and faithfulness are embodied in real human community.

Convictions

BAPTISM

We know that Jesus was baptized, and we believe His present-day disciples should be, as He instructed. The act of baptism does not save though. Christ saves. One who answers the Spirit's call to follow Jesus should then be baptized, as it signifies what Christ has done by cleansing the sinner from sin, bringing union with Christ, and bringing the new believer into the Church.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

On the night He was betrayed, Jesus instituted a practice we know as Communion or the Lord's Supper. We believe the Lord's Supper is a regular commitment Jesus's followers make to remember His death, and also a renewal of our faith that mysteriously encourages us by His presence and joins us to one another.

SEX & MARRIAGE

God designed sex for marriage relationships. God established marriage as a lifelong, exclusive union between one biological man and one biological woman. God calls all His people to honor Him with their sexual activity as taught in the Scriptures.

We believe that marriage before the Lord as modeled in the Bible is different and distinct from legal, governmental marriage.

THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Human life is sacred from conception to its natural end. Therefore, it is imperative that we have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of our fellow human beings during the whole lifespan.

Our conviction on the sacredness of life leads us to advocate for: adoption over abortion, comfort over euthanasia, and healthcare autonomy over forced procedures and/or medications.

Matters of Conscience

END TIMES

The New Testament sets forth a comprehensive two-age scheme in which "this age" of sin and things temporal is succeeded by the "age to come" that will be eternal and without sin. Although it has been inaugurated by Christ's first coming, the "age to come" will be consummated at His actual, real return which will entail resurrection and judgment for all persons, living and dead, and the restoration of all of creation.

MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is our conviction that the Holy Spirit's work has not changed or ceased since Pentecost. We believe God still speaks, heals, and does wonders in all the Earth. We believe that He always acts in accordance with His Word as found in the 66 books of the Bible. God the Holy Spirit's actions, unlike the acts of man, are never contrary to the God of the Word.

WOMEN IN THE CHURCH

In light of our reading of Scripture, we affirm that there are no gender-based distinctions in the distribution of spiritual gifts, that women were the first witnesses of Christ's resurrection, God used women in various ways in the Bible including as prophetesses, and that women can serve in any role in the local church.

ORDINARY MEANS OF GRACE

Though it is mysterious, the Lord has chosen by His mercy to use ordinary means in the Church to graciously build up and encourage His people. These ordinary means are:

- ~ Preaching & Teaching of the Word of God
 - ~ Baptism
 - ~ The Lord's Supper
 - ~ Prayer
- ~ Fellowship with Other Believers