



STATEMENT OF FAITH

PREAMBLE

Members of the Board of Trustees and faculty and staff of Waymaker Institute recognize any doctrinal statement is a fallible human attempt to summarize and systematize the riches of an infallible divine revelation. However, this in no way detracts from the importance of such a statement. The affirmations which follow carefully specify our teaching position with regard to the major biblical doctrines, and thus provide a framework for curriculum and instruction at the Institute. They also provide an anchor to protect the institution against theological drift. For this reason, members of the Board of Trustees and faculty members are annually required to sign a statement affirming agreement with this Statement of Faith.

GOD

WE BELIEVE there is one God, revealed through Scripture as the living and true God, the creator, who is active in the world today. This God is infinite and all knowing, perfect in all His attributes, eternally existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and that these three are one God, having precisely the same nature and attributes, and worthy of precisely the same worship and obedience.

WE AFFIRM the Apostles, Athanasian, and Nicene Creeds in their description of the nature and doctrine of the Godhead.

SCRIPTURE

WE BELIEVE God, who discloses himself to humankind through His creation, has spoken in the words and events of redemptive history. This history is fulfilled in Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word, who is made known to us by the Holy Spirit in sacred Scripture. Scripture is an essential part and trustworthy record of this divine self-disclosure.

WE BELIEVE "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," by which we understand the whole Bible is inspired in the sense that holy men of God "were moved by the Holy Spirit" to write the very words of Scripture. We believe that this divine inspiration extends equally and fully to all parts of the writings; historical, poetical, doctrinal, and prophetic, as appeared in the original manuscripts. As such, we believe that the whole Bible in the originals is therefore without error.



WE BELIEVE Scripture is to be understood by all through the illumination of the Holy Spirit, its meaning determined by the historical, grammatical, and literary use of the author's language, comparing Scripture with Scripture.

WE BELIEVE Scripture defines the normative practices and ethics of God's covenant people. We believe Scripture is the primary revelation of God's purpose and character and is therefore historically accurate, authoritative, and profitable in the life of both the believer and unbeliever for "doctrine, correction, reproof, and training in righteousness."

HUMANITY

WE BELIEVE God, by His word and for His glory, freely created the world and called it "good." He made humanity as male and female, in His own image, as the crown of creation, that they might care for and steward creation and live in relationship with Him.

WE BELIEVE through disobedience humanity fell from their sinless state at the suggestion of Satan. This fall plunged humanity into a state of sin and spiritual death and brought upon the entire race the sentence of eternal death.

WE BELIEVE that as a result of the fall, all creation was marred and corrupted by humanity's rebellion, and now suffers and groans under the curse of sin.

SALVATION

WE BELIEVE each person can be saved from this condition of eternal death only by the grace of God, through faith, on the basis of the work of Christ, and by the agency of the Holy Spirit, through repentance of sin and by faith alone in Him as Savior and resurrected Lord.

WE BELIEVE upon placing their faith, trust and allegiance in Jesus Christ, the individual immediately passes from spiritual death to life, and is indwelt with the Holy Spirit. Though the individual will continue to grow in maturity and conformity to Christ, we believe that that the moment of salvation, the individual is "complete in Christ" and therefore does not need to seek a second baptism, blessing, or act of grace.

WE BELIEVE upon deciding to believe in and follow Jesus Christ, the individual is assured of their status as a member of the family of Christ through the inward witness of the Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. Once redeemed, the individual is secure in their salvation, and cannot in any way lose their status as a member of God's Kingdom.



THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

WE BELIEVE every individual professing faith in Jesus Christ is responsible to live under the authority of and in obedience to the word of God in separation from sin. While still marred by the indwelling sin caused by living in a fallen and corrupted world, believers are charged to grow into greater conformity with the character and nature of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

WE BELIEVE it is the responsibility, purpose and duty of the believer to contribute by word and deed to the growth of the Kingdom of God through service to others and the proclamation of the good news in all relationships and structures in society.

WE BELIEVE God has created humanity in two genders, and that these genders are not social constructs, but divine gifts woven into the nature of creation and assigned at birth. Human gender is birthed from the relational nature of the Triune Godhead, and reflects both the Father's created order, and the Son's redemption of the Church.

WE BELIEVE human sexuality is a gift from God that reflects this gendered order of creation. Human sexuality is therefore designed to be practiced within the bounds of monogamous marriage between a man or a woman, or celibacy. All other sexual acts outside these boundaries are in violation of God's design and therefore sinful.

WE BELIEVE that as a result of God's design of gender and sexuality that marriage is a lifelong covenant between one man and one woman designed to demonstrate and reflect the unity of both the Godhead and Christ's relationship with the Church.

THE CHURCH

WE BELIEVE the church is the people of God and is made up of all those who have placed their faith and trust in Jesus as the resurrected king. From the entirety of humanity, God has gathered and redeemed a special people to be a signpost and beacon pointing towards His future restoration of all creation. Entry into this people is not limited by gender, race, or nationality, and the outward sign of entry into this people is baptism of the believer by immersion.

WE BELIEVE the mission and purpose of the Church is to fulfill the Great Commission in obedience to Christ's command, and that this is done through evangelism, discipleship, and service to the community and individual.

WE BELIEVE the Church was given two ordinances by Jesus, consisting of Baptism and Communion. While these ordinances visibly and tangibly express the



gospel, they are not means of salvation, but when celebrated by the Church confirm and grow the faith of the believer.

WE BELIEVE the local church is an organized assembly of believers, united under the authority of Christ and the leadership of a pastor. We believe that each local church has a unique mission and role in the larger calling of the Great Commission, and that church structure, government, leadership and culture serve as tools to accomplish the unique mission of the local body.

THE LAST DAYS

WE BELIEVE in the last days, God will consummate His plan of redemption with the physical return of Jesus Christ to the earth, the establishment of His Kingdom, and the restoration and renewal of His good creation through the removal of the curse of sin. At the return of Christ, the power of sin, death, and evil, including Satan himself will be permanently cast down and defeated.

WE BELIEVE the return of Christ and the bodily resurrection of the believer into the renewed creation is the hope that motivates the believer into godly living, redemptive mission, and selfless service.

WE BELIEVE at the return of Christ, God will judge both the living and the dead. Those who have rejected the good news of Jesus will suffer eternal death, but those who placed their faith and trust in Jesus will be resurrected into new bodies and will worship for eternity in the presence of Jesus Christ their Lord, who lives and reigns with the Father and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**