



HESPERIA COMMUNITY CHURCH DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Article One—The Bible

We believe that the Bible as originally given (the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is the inspired and inerrant Word of God. The translations we have are trustworthy and preserved to the degree that they reflect the originals. The Bible is the final authority for the Christian and the foundation of the teaching and preaching ministry of HCC. Scriptural Basis: 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21; Matthew 24:35; John 5:39, John 14:21-26, John 17:17.

Article Two—The Trinity

We believe that there is one God and only one, who is self-existent, infinite in every excellence, and has revealed Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, eternally existing in a loving unity of three equally divine Persons, the same in essence though distinct in person. Scriptural Basis: Genesis 1:1 & 1:26; Isaiah 9:6; Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1:1-14; 1 Timothy 3:16; John 10:30; John 14:15-17; 1 Corinthians 3:16 & 12:4-6; Matthew 3:13-17 & 28:18-20.

Article Three—Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. Jesus is fully man and fully God, born of the virgin Mary. Jesus came into the world to save men from the guilt and condemnation of sin. Jesus died on the cross, was buried, and rose again offering His blood as the basis for our reconciliation to God. Jesus made eternal life available to everyone who places faith in Him. He now sits at the right hand of God and continues to make intercession for believers. Scriptural Basis: John 1:1-14, 29; Hebrews 1:3; Luke 1:26-35; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:20-26 & 8:34; John 3:14-16; Galatians 6:14; Matthew 26:26-29; Acts 16:25-34; John 6:53; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Hebrews 7:22-25.

Article Four—Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity who dwells within believers from the moment genuine salvation takes place. The Holy Spirit convicts believers regarding sin and enables believers to live Godly lives. The Holy Spirit also provides believers with spiritual gifts to build the church and empowers them to testify about Jesus. God has sent the Holy Spirit as the guarantee of salvation for believers. Scriptural Basis: John 3:5-8; Romans 8:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 John 2:20-27; Acts 2:1-13; John 16:7-11; 1 John 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16.

Article Five—Humanity

We believe that humanity was created in the image of God and designed to live in relationship with Him. However, our relationship with God was broken by the sin of Adam, which is now inherent in all of humanity. As a consequence of sin, all humanity deserves death and eternal separation from God. We are unable to remedy that guilt through our actions. Scriptural Basis: Genesis 1:27-31; Genesis 3; Psalms 14:1-3; Isaiah 53:1-6; Jeremiah 17:9; Ezekiel 18:19-20; Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 1:18-2:16.

Article Six—Salvation

We believe that only Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided the means by which humanity can be saved. To receive salvation, humans must trust in Jesus's finished work on the cross alone to bring forgiveness of sins. We are justified through the blood of Jesus, declared righteous, and brought into a state of peace and favor with God. Scriptural Basis: John 3:16-18; Ephesians 1:3-14; Romans 3:21-26; Galatians 2:15-21.

Article Seven—Faith

We believe that the means by which humans receive salvation is by faith alone in Jesus Christ alone. By faith we turn to God with a repentant heart and receive Jesus Christ as our all-sufficient Savior. Scriptural Basis: John 5:24; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:8-11; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11.

Article Eight—God's Plan

We believe that God's purpose in making salvation of humans possible is so that He may have a people of His own, a purchased possession, who are being conformed to the image of His Son. God accomplished His purpose by sending Jesus as a sacrifice for sin by providing the Holy Spirit to be our Counselor and to remind believers of what Jesus accomplished. However, this purpose does not void free will nor nullify Jesus's command to proclaim the gospel to all people. Scriptural Basis: Ephesians 1:3-10; John 3:6-8, John 1:12-13; Colossians 1:24-28; 1 Peter 1:2, 2:4-10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Philippians 2:12-13; Romans 8:28-29; Matthew 28:18-20.

Article Nine—Security

We believe that the security of genuine believers is resident in the person of Jesus Christ. Believers are "kept by the power of God, through faith, unto salvation." Thus, genuine believers can never lose their salvation. The sure evidence of a believer's salvation is patient continuance and progress in righteousness and true holiness. Scriptural Basis: Romans 8:35-39; 1 Peter 1:3-5; John 10:27-29; Hebrews 3:12-19; 1 John 5:11-15.

Article Ten—The Ordinances

We believe that Jesus established two practices (or ordinances) for His church to participate in: Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is a public declaration of faith in Jesus. To be baptized, a believer is immersed in water to symbolize the fact of our death with Christ on the cross and our resurrection with Him into newness of life. Baptism is done "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The Lord's Supper (or Communion) is a commemoration of His dying love and symbolizes the fact that the believer is continuously spiritually fed and nourished by Christ. Communion is the act of partaking of bread and juice, which symbolizes Jesus's broken body and shed blood to provide the forgiveness of sin. Scriptural Basis: Matthew 3:13-17, Matthew 28: 19-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 8:36-38; Romans 6:1-4; Matthew 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20; John 6:51-58, 63; Acts 2:41-44; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29.

Article Eleven—The Church

We believe that the Global Church includes every genuine believer everywhere. The Local Church is an assembly of believers observing the ordinances, principles, and practices which are described in the New Testament. Scriptural Basis: Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 1:22-23 & 2:19-21; 1 Corinthians 1:2 & 12:12-27.

Article Twelve —Civil Government

We believe that Civil Government is appointed by God for the interests and good order of human society. We believe that governmental officials are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored, and obeyed. Consequently, civil disobedience is rebellion against God except when government requires believers to sin and disobey God's authoritative word. Scriptural Basis: Romans 13:1-7, Romans 14:1-23; Matthew 22:15-22; Acts 4:13-22 & 5:27-32; Ephesians 1:20-23.

Article Thirteen—End Times

We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of our Lord Jesus Christ. The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God, demands constant expectancy and, as our blessed hope, motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service, and energetic mission. We teach a pre-tribulational rapture of the Church when the Lord will gather genuine believers and rescue them from the coming tribulation. However, we acknowledge that there are many views regarding end times theology. We do not believe that beliefs regarding the timing and order of end times events should be a point of division or an issue which determines one's salvation. Scriptural Basis: John 14:1-3; 1 Corinthians 15:51-53; Matthew 24:25-51; Acts 1:11; Matthew 25:31-46; Revelation 1:7-8 & 21:1-27; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Article Fourteen—The Resurrection

We believe that there will be a resurrection of the righteous and the unrighteous; the righteous for blessedness and reward in Heaven; the unrighteous for judgment and eternal punishment in Hell. Scriptural Basis: 2 Corinthians 5:10 & 5:21; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Revelation 20:11-15; Mark 9:44-48; Daniel 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:22-24; Romans 3-4.

Article Fifteen—Spiritual Realities

We believe that Satan is a created being who rebelled against God and became the active enemy of God and His purposes. Satan and his demons wage war against God and His angels in a spiritual battle, which profoundly affects humanity. Both angels and demons have limited powers given to them as God sees fit. This spiritual battle will continue until Jesus returns and renews all things. Scriptural Basis: Genesis 3; Job 1-2; Luke 15:10; Hebrews 1:1-14 & 2:5-9; Revelation 7:11-12; Isaiah 14:12-17; Ezekiel 28:11-19; 2 Peter 2:4; Jude 6; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 & 11:13-15; Ephesians 6:10-18; Revelation 20:1-10; 1 Peter 5:8.

Article Sixteen-- Gender, Sexuality, and Marriage

Introduction

The Bible is inspired, inerrant, and infallible as originally given is God's Word and the only rule for faith and practice. In order to understand the application of Biblical principles in our context, the leaders of Hesperia Community Church and Christian School apply their God-given gifts and, by the power of the Holy Spirit, make interpretations of the Bible which are reflected in our Doctrinal Statement. These leaders have the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application at Hesperia Community Church and Christian School.

We believe that God offers forgiveness, redemption, and restoration to all who repent of sin of all kinds, including the topics discussed in this statement. Our ministry stands ready to walk alongside any repentant person who decides to battle against sin. (Romans 7:7-24, 1 John 1:9)

Statement on Gender

We believe that God created humanity with two distinct genders: male and female. Both genders are equal in value but different in role. All of humanity is created in the image of God and therefore has innate value and worth. We believe that when someone chooses to reject their biological gender, they are rejecting the Image of God placed within them. (Genesis 1-2, Psalm 139:13-14)

Statement on Marriage

We believe that God created and ordained the marriage union and set its parameters within the structure of a monogamous union between one man and one woman. (Genesis 2, Matthew 19:3-9, Ephesians 5:21-33)

Statement on Sexual Practices

We believe that any and all forms of sexual expression outside the bounds of marriage are considered sexual immorality and therefore are sinful practices. This includes, but is not limited to, adultery, fornication, homosexual practices, bisexual practices, transvestitism, bestiality, incest, and pornography. (1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Hebrews 13:4)

Conclusion

We believe that in order to preserve the integrity and mission of each respective organization as the body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical picture of God's design and plan for mankind in the areas of gender and sexual activity, it is imperative that all employees and all volunteers agree to abide by this statement of gender, marriage, and sexual practice.

Those who attend Hesperia Community Church, or its ministries, will be taught these truths in age-appropriate, grace-filled ways as such topics arise in the normal course of ministry.