

COAL CREEK CHURCH STATEMENT OF FAITH

Statement of Biblical Authority

At the center of Christian faith and practice stands the belief that God has spoken to the world in the person and work of Jesus Christ, which is accurately and authoritatively revealed in the Christian Bible (“the Bible,” “Scripture” or “Scriptures”). The Bible is the inspired and sufficient Word of God and is thus the ultimate authority for life, faith, truth, and moral decisions. Though the various theological statements of the Church reflect succinct summaries of biblical understanding, it is the Bible itself to which Elders and Members of Coal Creek Church are in ultimate submission.

Basic Statement of Belief

As a Basic statement of belief, Coal Creek Church affirms the orthodox and historical Apostle’s Creed and Nicene Creed. The Apostles Creed has origins in the second century and the Nicene Creed is dated to the fourth century. These Creeds of faith have been used for thousands of years to preserve core truths of Christian doctrine.

The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary, He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.*

**The word “catholic” does not mean Roman Catholic Church, but to the universal church of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Nicene Creed

The Nicene Creed We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets. and we believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Statement on Marriage and Sexuality

It is the biblical position that the church should be loving toward all people as is the command of Christ, yet non-affirming of sexual acts that exists outside of marriage involving the union of one man and one woman in permanent, sacred fidelity. Though various cultures and customs have evolving definitions of marriage, it is God alone who has ultimate authority to prescribe and describe the marital relationship (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:1-9, Mark 10:1-12). Sexual intimacy is only properly enjoyed and pursued within the confines of this marital relationship where it derives its greatest satisfaction. Sexual immorality, defined as any sexual activity outside of the boundaries of the sacred marital relationship between one man and one woman, is clearly prohibited in Scripture (Matthew 15:19, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4). This is for His glory and our joy. Moreover, the Church also regards as idolatrous the practice of surgically, hormonally, or otherwise altering one's biological sex to a different sex. Since the body is a creation of God, the Church holds sexual identity to be biologically determined by God. Disagreement with one's biological sex leads to spiritual confusion and emotional chaos (Genesis 1:27, Romans 1:26-32, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11). Furthermore, we discourage this confusion from being influenced on teenagers, children, adolescents, or anyone under the legal age of 18 who is unable to discern the future consequences of altering their gender and sexual identity. We acknowledge the reality of sexual temptations of all kinds, but we do not celebrate or encourage acting on those temptations, because we believe our deepest happiness is found in God and His design for our human flourishing. Members, employees, volunteers and attendees of Coal Creek Church wrestling with all manner of sexual temptation will find the church ready to point them to Jesus and join with them to fight for their deepest and ultimate joy in obedience to Christ. The church will provide love, prayer, care, & direction (Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16). Furthermore, The Church's Statement on Marriage and Sexuality does not provide grounds for bigotry, bullying or hate. We believe that every person must be treated with compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity, regardless of his or her lifestyle. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual is unacceptable to God and is not in accordance with the Scriptures nor the doctrines of the church. To reinstate, it is the biblical position that the church should be loving toward all people as is the command of Christ.

Statement on Sanctity of Human Life

Human beings are the pinnacle of God's creation; they reflect the image of who God is. In all the universe, humanity is the only part of God's creation made in His image. He is intimately involved in the creation of every human being (Psalm 139) as His own creative and unique design. Therefore, we believe all human life is sacred and of invaluable worth. That worth extends to every human being, including the pre-born babies, the elderly, the physically and mentally challenged, the chronically ill and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all of human life.

Full Statement of Belief:

GOD

There is one and only one living and true God. He is an intelligent, spiritual, and personal Being, the Creator, Redeemer, Preserver, and Ruler of the universe. God is infinite in holiness and all other perfections. God is all powerful and all knowing; and His perfect knowledge extends to all things, past, present, and future, including the future decisions of His free creatures. To Him we owe the highest love, reverence, and obedience.

The eternal triune God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Father

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace. He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men.

Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14; 6:2-3; 15:11.; 20:1.; Leviticus 22:2; Deuteronomy 6:4; 32:6; 1 Chronicles 29:10; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; 64:8; Jeremiah 10:10; 17:13; Matthew 6:9.; 7:11; 23:9; 28:19; Mark 1:9-11; John 4:24; 5:26; 14:6-13; 17:1-8; Acts 1:7; Romans 8:14-15; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 1:15; 1 Timothy 1:17; Hebrews 11:6; 12:9; 1 Peter 1:17; 1 John 5:7.

God the Son

Christ is the eternal Son of God. In His incarnation as Jesus Christ He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature with its demands and necessities and identifying Himself completely with mankind yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and in His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for the redemption of men from sin. He was raised from the dead with a glorified body and appeared to His disciples as the person who was with them before His crucifixion. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where He is the One Mediator, fully God, fully man, in whose Person is effected the reconciliation between God and man. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and to consummate His redemptive mission. He now dwells in all believers as the living and ever present Lord.

Genesis 18:1.; Psalms 2:7.; 110.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4; 3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-21; 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9; Revelation 1:13-16; 5:9-14; 12:10-11; 13:8; 19:16.

God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine. He inspired holy men of old to write the Scriptures. Through illumination He enables men to understand truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment. He calls men to the Savior, and effects regeneration. At the moment of regeneration He baptizes every believer into the Body of Christ. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His Church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the Church in worship, evangelism, and service. As described in the Scriptures, the Spirit of God is often accompanied by miraculous works, acts of healing, and prophetic words that bring glory to God and good to His people.

Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:5; 4:1,18-19; 11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10

CREATION OF THE WORLD

In the beginning, God created time, space, and the material universe from nothing – *ex nihilo*. There is nothing in all the universe that exists apart from creativity of God, sustaining power of God, and declared will of God. From the stars to the trees to the laws of gravity, everything exists because of him. The universe is God's idea, and as such, the earth is a place that is full of his glory, beauty, and majesty. The sky, the mountains, the seas, the stars, the galaxies, the dust, and the animals that cover the earth never cease to bring him glory. Both animal life and human life are designed by God for his enjoyment and pleasure. The work of science is, therefore, the aim of "thinking God's thought after Him" as we discover the majestic power of His creativity.

Genesis 1, 2 and 3; John 1:3; Psalm 19; Romans 1:20; Psalm 104:24-25; Job 12:7-10; Psalm 33:5; Col. 1:16

HUMAN DIGNITY & HUMAN DEPRAVITY

Humanity is the special creation of God, made in His own image, with full and complete identity, belonging, dignity, value, worth, and significance. The ultimate goal of human existence is to glorify God by enjoying Him forever. He created humanity male and female as the crowning work of His creation with the ultimate mandate of taking dominion of the Earth together while procreating life through generations. The gift of gender is thus part of God's good and creative handiwork. At the inception of humanity, our earliest ancestors were fully innocent and endowed with the freedom of choice. Using that free choice, they sinned against God by rejecting His decree and design, bringing the reality of sin into the human experience. Sin then distorted God's original design of complete human dignity and led to The Fall – a decline into human depravity where the human heart became sinful, deceitful, and inclined towards evils and destructive lusts of all kinds. We then inherited an environment – a fractured creation - inclined toward sin, shame, and suffering without the power in and of ourselves to restore things back to the way they were meant to be. Only by special acts carried out by the power and grace of God can humanity be restored to its dignity and creative purpose in the world.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

REDEMPTION

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who by His own blood obtained eternal redemption for the believer. In its broadest sense, salvation includes regeneration, justification, sanctification, and glorification. Regeneration, or the new birth, is a work of God's grace whereby believers become new creatures in Christ Jesus. It is a change of heart produced by the Holy Spirit through conviction of sin, to which the sinner, upon hearing and understanding the gospel, responds in repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Repentance and faith are inseparable experiences of grace. Repentance is a genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is the acceptance of Jesus Christ and commitment of the entire personality to Him as Lord and Savior. Justification is God's declaration of sinful people becoming righteous by the work of Christ on their behalf. Justification brings the believer unto a relationship of peace and favor with God. Sanctification is the experience, beginning in regeneration, by which the believer is set apart to God's purposes, and is enabled to progress toward moral and spiritual maturity through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit dwelling in him. Glorification is the culmination of salvation and is the final blessed and abiding state of the redeemed.

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 13:11-14; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20;15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1ff.; 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

THE GOSPEL

The gospel is the good news that although we all fall short, Jesus Christ fulfilled the life we could never live, and by faith in him, any person – no matter their story - can have the perfect life of Christ credited to their life as though they were as flawless as he is. Christ's death is a substitutionary and propitiatory sacrifice to God for our sins. It satisfies the demands of God's holy justice and demonstrates his mysterious love while revealing his amazing grace. Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and man. There is no other name by which humans must be saved. At the heart of all sound doctrine is the cross of Jesus Christ and the infinite privilege that redeemed sinners have of glorifying God because of what he has accomplished. Human response to the gospel is rooted and grounded in the free and unconditional election of God for his own pleasure and glory. It is also true that the message of the gospel is only effectual to those who genuinely repent of their sins and, by God's grace, put saving faith in Christ. This gospel of grace is to be sincerely preached to all men in all nations. Biblical repentance is characterized by a changed life, and saving faith is evidenced by kingdom service or works. While neither repentance nor works save, unless a person is willing to deny himself, pick up his cross, and follow Christ, he cannot become his disciple. Salvation, the free gift of God, is provided by grace alone, through faith alone, because of Christ alone, for the glory of God alone. Anyone turning from sin in repentance and looking to Christ and his substitutionary death receives the gift of eternal life and is declared righteous by God as a free gift. The righteousness of Christ is imputed to him. He is justified and fully accepted by God. Through Christ's atonement for sin an individual is reconciled to God as Father and becomes his child.

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

THE SCRIPTURES

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. Therefore, all Scripture is totally true and trustworthy. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

THE CHURCH

A New Testament church is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers, associated by faith in Christ and fellowship of the gospel, observing the two ordinances, governed by His laws, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth. In such a congregation each member is responsible and accountable to Christ as Lord. It is led by elders and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of elder is limited to men as qualified by Scripture, while both men and women are encouraged to serve as deacons. The elders are the ruling body of the church to whom God has entrusted decision making authority on behalf of the church which includes but is not limited to, spiritual leadership, financial decisions, organizational decisions, etc. The elders will, at their discretion, exercise church discipline towards members which may include reproof, rebuke, and even removal from fellowship. The New Testament speaks also of the church as the Body of Christ which includes all of the redeemed of all the ages, believers from every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation.

Matthew 16:15-19; 18:15-20; Acts 2:41-42,47; 5:11-14; 6:3-6; 13:1-3; 14:23,27; 15:1-30; 16:5; 20:28; Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 3:16; 5:4-5; 7:17; 9:13-14; 12; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:19-22; 3:8-11,21; 5:22-32; Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:18; 1 Timothy 2:9-14; 3:1-15; 4:14; Hebrews 11:39-40; 1 Peter 5:1-4; Revelation 2:3; 21:2-3. Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-8; 1 Samuel 8:4-7,19-22; Isaiah 5:1-7; Jeremiah 31:31.; Matthew 16:18-19; 21:28-45; 24:22,31; 25:34; Luke 1:68-79; 2:29-32; 19:41-44; 24:44-48; John 1:12-14; 3:16; 5:24; 6:44-45,65; 10:27-29; 15:16; 17:6,12,17-18; Acts 20:32; Romans 5:9-10; 8:28-39; 10:12-15; 11:5-7,26-36; 1 Corinthians 1:1-2; 15:24-28; Ephesians 1:4-23; 2:1-10; 3:1-11; Colossians 1:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 2:10,19; Hebrews 11:39-12:2; James 1:12; 1 Peter 1:2-5,13; 2:4-10; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:19; 3:2.

Baptism & the Lord's Supper

Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water whereby a believer is publicly identified with Christ and His Church. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members memorialize the death of the Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

RESTORATION OF THE WORLD

The restoration of the world – or the end of history as we know it - occurs with the personal return of Jesus Christ to the Earth, upon which there will be a resurrection of the dead, a judgment of all people according to their actions, conscience, and secrets, and then there will be a fulfillment of Christ's kingdom as the Heavenly City of God comes to restore the Earth by fully and unequivocally uniting Heaven and Earth into one. Satan, his demons, and all of those who have rejected God will be forever separated from the benevolent presence of God and given over to eternal destruction, but those made righteous by faith in God - in glorious bodies - shall live and reign with him forever. Married to Christ as his Bride, the Church will then remain in the presence of God forever, enjoying him along with the fellowship of all believers throughout time from the beginning of history, and giving him unending praise and glory in the restored Earth, and partaking in civilized life in the eternal and holy city of God. In the new Earth, there will be no pain, and in exchange, it will be filled with an eternal and infinitely increasing joy flowing from the direct presence of God dwelling with His people forever.

Revelation 20, 2 Peter 3:13, Revelation 21, Revelation 22, Isaiah 66:22, 2 Peter 3:10, Revelation 3:12, Hebrews 11:10, Hebrews 11:16, 1 Peter 1:4, 2 Thessalonians 1:9, 1 Corinthians 2:9, Hebrews 13:14, John 5:29