

## **Statement of Faith**

The purpose of Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy is to partner with students, their families, and local churches to raise up a generation of well-equipped Christ-followers with a biblical worldview. We understand and appreciate that evangelical Christianity is diverse and robust. However, we consider the following beliefs to be essential Christian doctrines.

### **God**

We believe that there is only one true God (the God of the Bible) who is worthy of all praise, honor, love, and obedience. God is perfect in wisdom, power, love, righteousness, and glory. Though One deity, the God of the Bible eternally subsists of three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

#### **God the Father**

The First Member of the Triune Godhead, the Father is coequally and coeternally God. He was present at and active in the creation of all things (Genesis 1:1 - 3) and thus is not a created Being.

#### **God the Son**

The Second Member of the Triune Godhead, the Son is coequally and coeternally God. He was present at and active in the creation of all things (John 1:1 - 5, Colossians 1:15 - 17) and thus is not a created Being. Though fully God, the Son became flesh and dwelt among mankind as our Emmanuel, God with us, in the Person of Jesus Christ. In His incarnation, Jesus lived a perfect sinless life, taught the gospel of the Kingdom of God, performed miraculous deeds, and laid the foundation for the church. He was crucified in propitiation for the sins of mankind and rose again on the third day. After His resurrection, Jesus ascended back to Heaven into the presence of the Father. One day He will return to Earth to fully redeem His people, punish evil, reign forever, and recreate the heavens and the Earth.

#### **God the Spirit**

The Third Member of the Triune Godhead, the Holy Spirit is coequally and coeternally God. He was present at and active in the creation of all things (Genesis 1:1 - 3) and thus is not a created Being. The Holy Spirit is not merely a force but rather a Spirit with personal attributes. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He is the supernatural agent in regeneration and sanctification. He baptizes all believers into the body of Christ, indwells them equally and permanently. He seals believers and is the guarantee of their eternal inheritance until the Day of the Lord. The Holy Spirit inspired the Scriptures, illuminates its truths, guides, comforts, and convicts believers, and even intercedes on their behalf.

### **The Holy Scriptures**

We believe that the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments are God-breathed, inspired by the Holy Spirit of God to reveal the truth of God to mankind. The biblical writers

were carried along by the Holy Spirit so that both God's eternal wisdom and the personality of the human authors are maintained. The Holy Scriptures are inerrant, in the original writings, concerning spiritual truth as well as historical and scientific fact. The Scriptures have also been preserved by God's sovereignty throughout human history, such that they are reliable and sufficient for faith and practice in the Christian life. Additionally, the Scriptures are infallible regarding morality, ethics, and God's will for mankind. All Christians should study and apply the teachings of the Scriptures to their personal lives. We affirm that the final guide to the interpretation of Scripture is Scripture itself. We also believe that the biblical account of God's creation of the universe and mankind in His image, the fall into sin, the consequences of sin, and man's need of salvation are divine truths. Lastly, the scriptural account of origins in six literal days is a reliable framework for scientific research into the question of the origins and history of life, mankind, earth, and the universe's extent and effects.

## **Mankind**

We believe that God created mankind as male and female in His image for the purpose of having an intimate relationship with them. God created mankind in goodness in a perfect state. However, mankind chose to rebel against God's commands in sin. The penalty of sin is both death spiritually (separation from God) and physically (the end of life). Thus mankind, in its current state, is tainted by sin and incapable of having a harmonious relationship with their creator apart from God's acting in grace and mercy towards them. Though affected by a sin nature, mankind still bears the image of his Creator and therefore is capable of self-awareness, moral culpability and responsibility, creativity, etc.

Mankind is created by God's design as male and female, both in His image. Thus, male and female are equal in value and worth in creation. Additionally, both males and females are equally in need of God's grace in order to be saved and therefore are also equal in redemption. Though God created male and female of equal worth and value He created them with differing purposes and characteristics. Thus, mankind is balanced by the complementary nature of both male and female as equal image-bearers and redeemed people.

## **Salvation**

Because all people have sinned, they are all equally in need of salvation. However, mankind cannot save himself. God, in His perfection, must punish sin but has graciously made salvation possible for any who would seek it. God sent His Son, Jesus, to dwell among sinful mankind. He lived a perfect life yet was unjustly executed through crucifixion as a payment for the sins of others. Three days later, Jesus was resurrected from the dead by the power of God. Those who place their faith in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection as the only means of salvation are granted forgiveness for their sins and life abundant and eternal. Those who believe in Jesus have benefited from a divine exchange: Jesus takes the penalty of their sins, and they receive the blessing of His perfect obedience. Thus, salvation is offered by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus alone, according to the Word of God alone, for the glory of God alone.

Those who have believed in Jesus for salvation are called and commanded to grow in their faith throughout their life, serve the Lord, and advance His Kingdom. The Christian life is to

include holy living, prayer, Bible study, fellowship with other believers, serving the Lord, loving others, and making disciples of others.

### **End Times**

We believe that Jesus Christ will return one day to fully redeem His people, punish evil, and restore all things. Though there are various theological views of the particular timing, events, and purposes of Jesus' return, we affirm that His coming is certain and imminent. As such, Christians should be encouraged to live God-honoring lives with intentional and consistent fervor.

### **Education**

We believe that education of children first is the responsibility of the family. Secondly, we believe in the local church's mandate to make disciples which includes raising up children to know and follow Jesus' commandments. Thus, the Academy is intended to partner both with families and local churches to help students have a biblical worldview, Christ-centered character, and academic excellence.