

Statement of Faith

Last Revised 26 December 2023

The purpose of the Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy ministry is to glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by serving as His instrument in declaring and spreading His Truth. Principles included in God's Truth are:

- a. The Holy Scriptures, consisting of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments, are the verbally inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings concerning historical and scientific facts, and infallible in moral and spiritual teachings. We affirm that the final guide to the interpretation of Scripture is Scripture itself. Furthermore, the special creation of Adam (the first man) and Eve (the first woman), and their subsequent fall into sin, is the cause of death (both physical and spiritual) entering into this world and consequently, man's need for salvation. 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, the earth, and the universe's extent and effects. (2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Genesis 1:1; 2:1-2; Psalms 89:11, 102:25; Isaiah 42:5, 45:18; John 1:1-3; Romans 5:12-19, 6:23)
- b. There is but one Triune God, eternally subsisting in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; John 1:1, 14; Mathew 28:19; Acts 5:3-4)
- c. The Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men. Believers are redeemed by the blood of Christ, who died on the cross as a representative, vicarious, and substitutionary sacrifice. Justification is made sure by His resurrection from the dead. He ascended into heaven and now fulfills the ministry of representative, intercessor, and advocate. (John 1:1-18; Ephesians 1:3-7; Hebrews 7:24-27; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:1)
- d. 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, and seals them unto the day of redemption. He is the Divine Teacher who guides believers into all truth. (John 16:8-15; 1 Corinthians 12; 13; Ephesians 1:13-14)
- e. Man was created in the image of God, but in Adam's sin, the entire race fell, inherited a sinful nature, became alienated from God, and is utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. In addition, God created human persons as either male or female. Therefore, one must accept his or her biological sex. These two distinct, complementary sexes together reflect the image and nature of God. God also created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and woman, the two becoming one flesh. Intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union. Consequently, we affirm one must resist any same-sex sexual attractions and refrain from any same-sex sexual acts or conduct, which are intrinsically disordered. Sin rises from sexual acts outside marriage — including but not limited to adultery, fornication, or same-sex sexual acts. Marriage, celibacy, or faithful singleness are all to be celebrated and affirmed. (Genesis 1:26-28, 2:18-25; Exodus 20:14; Deuteronomy 5:18; Mathew: 5:27-28, 15:19, 19:4-6; Mark 10:5-9; Romans 1:24-32, 3:23; 12:10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 12:12-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4; Gal 5:19; Ephesians 2:1-3, 5:3, 5:21-33; Colossians 3:5; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 3:1-3)
- f. All human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally infirm, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value all human life. Because human life begins at conception, it is against our religious and moral conviction for Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy to formally or materially cooperate in the termination of unborn human life. (Exodus 20:13, 21:22; Numbers 35:33-34; Psalms 139, Jeremiah 1:5; Mathew 18:18; Luke 1:44)

- g. Salvation is the gift of God brought to sinful man by grace and received solely by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who accomplished complete redemption by His precious blood. No repentance, no feeling, no good resolution, no sincere efforts, no submissions to rules and regulations, no degree of reformation however great, no attainments in morality however high, no culture, no Statement of Faith however attractive, no baptism or other ordinance however administered, nor any or all of these together, can add in the very least degree to the merit of the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross. (John 3:5, 18; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-10; Philippians 3:4-9; Titus 3:3-8; 1 Peter 1:18-23)
- h. Because of the eternal purpose of God, the nature of the Word and promise of God, and the immutability of the covenants of God, all believers, once saved (i.e., elected, called, redeemed, baptized into Christ by the Spirit, justified, regenerated, adopted, sanctified, and already looked upon by God as glorified), are kept by God's power, indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit, and interceded for by Jesus Christ, and therefore, are secure in Christ forever.
(John 6:37-40, 10:27-30; Romans 8:1, 29-30, 38-39; 1 Corinthians 1:4-8; 1 Peter 1:5)
- i. Every believer possesses a new nature, with provision made for victory over the flesh through the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. Every believer possesses at least one spiritual gift for the edification of the body of Christ, and should be a faithful steward of all God has entrusted to him or her.
(Romans 6:13-14; 7:18; 1 Corinthians 12; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 9:5-9; Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 4:22-24; 1 John 1:10)
- j. The education of children is the responsibility of parents, rather than the state. God commands parents to teach their children to love God and do all things to His glory. The school is an instrument of God designed to help parents faithfully discharge their responsibility. (Deuteronomy 6:5-7; Proverbs 4; 22:6; Ephesians 6:1-4; 2 John 6-11)
- k. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge. All wisdom and knowledge are His. True knowledge must be consistent with Scripture. Man must learn to discover God's Truth. Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy can assist by providing a God-centered curriculum and encouraging academic excellence.
(Proverbs 1:7; 23:23; Romans 1:16-25; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; 2 Timothy 2:15)

Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy will conduct no activity inconsistent with the above principles included in God's Truth. These principles will be taught as orthodox Christian doctrine. Orthodoxy on "denominational issues" (e.g., the proper mode and subjects of water baptism, the correct form of local church government, the proper manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit today, or the correct eschatological system) will be left to the home and local church. Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy desires to cultivate a spirit of love which will allow students of different denominational backgrounds to discuss doctrinal differences. While we appreciate and encourage thoughtful and vigorous conversations, even disagreements, students should avoid being combative or overly dogmatic about divisive theological issues.

The Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy community strives to live in harmony with the Statement of Faith, mission, and vision of the school. This harmony is necessary to accomplish our school's purpose and is vital to our educational mission. Behavior or counter-witnessing that does otherwise will impede and burden our integrity and mission, will impair Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy's integrity and ability to educate in accordance with its purpose, or invite scandal. For these reasons, participation in Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy requires a tangible commitment to Christian beliefs, purposes, and mission. (Amos 3:3; Mathew 28:19; Mark 16:15; John 15:16; Acts 1:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Hebrews 10:23-25; Colossians 3:16)

This Statement of Faith does not, however, exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of

mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Pleasant Ride Christian Academy's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, the Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy's Board of Director's (BoD) is the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application. The BoD reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to alter, amend, and/or repeal, any policy, or to adopt new policies when it determines it to be in the best interest of Pleasant Ridge Christian Academy, following written notice to staff and/or parents/guardians.

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