

Encouragers Co-op Statement of Faith

Encouragers Co-op is an organization designed to offer fellowship, to encourage and equip one another in effectively raising, developing, and teaching our children. Our statement of faith includes those truths upon which all true Christians agree. It concerns the Person and Work of Jesus Christ (the Gospel) as revealed in Scripture. It is the faith once delivered to the saints (1) which distinguishes believers from non-believers. This is not a statement of all that is important to believe, but of all that is essential to believe for Christian fellowship and unity (2).
(1 Jude 1:3, Ephesians 4:5) (2 Romans 15:7)

In accordance with Encouragers Co-op members shall believe, agree with, and affirm by signature the Encouragers Co-op Statement of Faith. Encouragers Co-op members shall refrain from propagating any beliefs or ideas in contradiction to this Statement of Faith. Members must sign the Statement of Faith without amendment, additions or alterations to be eligible for membership.

This Statement of Faith, resolutely bound to scripture (as evidenced below by reference to book, chapter and verse) is provided to each family interested in becoming members.

-We believe the Bible, comprised of the Old and New Testaments, to be the one true and correct (1), inspired (2), inerrant and infallible word of God (3), and to be the complete and final authority in faith and life (4). (1 Psalm 119:160) (2 2 Tim. 3:16) (3 Matt. 5:17-18) (4 Proverbs 30:5-6)

We believe that there is one living and true God (1); an infinite (2), intelligent Spirit (3), perfect in all His attributes (4), one in essence but eternally subsistent in three Persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit (5).
(1 Deuteronomy 6:4 Isaiah 43:10) (2 Job 11:7) (3 Isaiah 40:28, John 4:24) (4 Deuteronomy 32:4) (5 2 Corinthians 13:14, Matthew 28:19)

We believe in the fall of man (1), although originally created in the image of God, through the disobedience of Adam (2), man fell into a sinful (3) and spiritually impotent state (4), totally unable to justify himself before God (5).
(1 Genesis 3, Romans 5:12, 1 Corinthians 15:21-22) (2 Genesis 3:17-19) (3 Psalm 51:5) (4 Ephesians 2:1-3) (5 Romans 3:10-12)

We believe that Jesus Christ is the express image of the invisible God, which is to say He is God (1); that He became man (2), yet without sin (3), being conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (4); that He died on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice for sin (5); that He arose from the dead in the body in which He was crucified (6); that He ascended into heaven in that body glorified (7), where He is now, our interceding High Priest (8); and that He will return again personally, visibly, and gloriously (9).

(1 John 1:1) (2 John 1:14) (3 Hebrews 4:15) (4 Matthew 1:18-23) (5 Isaiah 53:5-6, 1 John 2:2) (6 John 20:27) (7 Acts 1:9, 1 Corinthians 15:42-53) (8 Hebrews 7:25, 1 Timothy 2:5) (9 Acts 1:11, Matthew 24:30-31)

We believe that salvation is wholly of God, by grace, through faith (1); that God in love gave His only Son to die on the cross for sin, thus procuring the redemption of those who come to Him (2); that this salvation is not merited in any way by man (3); that God commands men everywhere to repent of sin and believe in Christ (4); and that this salvation is eternal in its duration (5) and results in good works (6).

We believe salvation is offered as a free gift and must be accepted by faith, not trusting in any personal work but in the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ alone. (1 Ephesians 2:8-9) (2 John 3:16) (3 Romans 11:6) (4 Acts 16:31, 17:30-31) (5 1 John 5:13) (6 Matthew 5:16)

We believe the ministry of the Holy Spirit is to convict individuals; and to indwell, guide, instruct and empower the believer for godly living and service.
(1 John 2:20-27; John 14:26)

We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord, Jesus Christ.
(1 Peter 3:8; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:3 & 11-13; Psalms 133:1; Galatians 3:26-28)

We believe that marriage is a divinely ordained institution between one man and one woman.
(Genesis 2:22-24; Ephesians 5:22-33; Matthew 19:4-6)

We believe that gender identity is determined by God at conception in a child's DNA.
(Jeremiah 1:5; Psalms 139:13-16; Isaiah 44:24)

We believe that sexual relations are to be expressed only inside a committed marriage.
(1 Corinthians 7:1-5; Hebrews 13:4-7)

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith but rather is the basis for our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teaching of the Bible, and therefore, is binding upon all members.