

## Doctrinal Statement for Applewood Christian School

### **We believe....**

**1. The Bible** is the complete, infallible, and inspired Word of God and is the final authority for Christian faith and living.

[Psalm 119:105,160; Proverbs 30:5; Matthew 5:17-18; 2 Timothy 1:13, 3:16; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Peter 1:20-21]

**2. God** is one living and true God existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and has revealed Himself to be perfect in love, righteous in all His ways, and Creator of all things.

[Genesis 1:1; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; John 1:3; 1 Peter 1:2]

**3. Jesus Christ** is God's eternal Son. As both true God and true man, He allowed Himself to be born of a virgin, taught men how to live through His sinless life, was crucified as a sacrifice for our sins, arose bodily from the dead, was seen by over 500 persons, and returned to heaven where He acts as our High Priest before the Father.

[Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 1:22-23; John 1:1-5, 10:30; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 4:14-15; I John 5:20]

**4. The Holy Spirit** was sent by Jesus to empower us for His commission. He persuades us to repent of our sins and confess Jesus as Lord. He lives within us, teaches us, gives us discernment, and guides us in the way of wisdom in order to develop spiritual maturity and long-lasting fruit.

[Proverbs 4:11; John 14:16-17, 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:18]

**5. Human beings** were created in God's image, and like Him are triune beings: Eternal spirits, possessing a soul (mind, will, emotions), and living in a temporary earthly body. *As beings created in the image of God, every person is afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Human life is sacred and of inestimable worth from the moment of conception through natural death. We are called to defend, protect and value human life. God has created two distinct, complementary genders – male and female – which together reflect the image and nature of God. To reject one's biological gender is to reject the image of God within that person.* Man was given authority and dominion over all of creation, and free-will to exercise that authority. Tempted by Satan, man rebelled against God, bringing the curse of sin and death to all humanity and creation. Only through personal repentance and faith in Jesus Christ can we be forgiven our sins, reborn to the Holy Spirit, and take our rightful place as sons and daughters of The Most High. Now seated with Christ, who has the power to restore spiritual authority and dominion to us, we are empowered to carry out His commission.

[Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a, 59:1-2; Mark 12:28-31; Mark 16:15-20; Luke 6:31; Romans 3:23, 5:12, 8:17; 2 Cor. 6:16-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:23]

**6. The church** is the living Body of Christ on earth. He is its head and the source of its life. The body is composed of those who have received Him as Savior and Lord. The local church consists of believers baptized and committed to one another, existing to fulfill the great commandment and the great commission by equipping believers to do the work of ministry.

[Matthew 22:37; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12; 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:12; James 5:14-16; 1 Peter 2:1-10]

**7. Eternal life:** Jesus Christ will return to earth to raise the dead, judge the world, and establish His glorious Kingdom. This is the hope of the Church and its encouragement for ministry. We believe in unbroken conscious existence after death. Although God's desire is that none should perish, but have everlasting life with Him - He allows us to make that decision for ourselves. Those who have been reborn will live with God forever. Those who reject Christ will spend eternity in hell, a torturous place away from God's presence that was created and intended for Satan and his demons.

[John 3:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Revelation 20:12-15]

**8. Salvation** involves the redemption of the whole man, 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, sanctification, and glorification. Salvation through Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven.

[John 3:16; Romans 10:8-10; Acts 4:10-12; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Ephesians 2:8-10; John 14:6]

**9. Marriage and Sexuality:** *The term "marriage" has only one meaning – the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. Marriage is God's framework for raising Godly children. God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, sex outside of marriage, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest and the use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God.* [Genesis 2:18-25; Malachi 2:13-16; Matthew 15:18-20; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, 7:2-5; Hebrews 13:4]

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