

**Agape Schoolhouse Co-op
Statement of Faith**

- 1) ***We believe God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe.*** He has eternally existed in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three are coequal and are one God. (See Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14.)

- 2) ***We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*** He is coequal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus lived a sinless human life and offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of His people by dying on a cross. He arose from the dead after three days to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He ascended to Heaven's glory and will return again someday to earth to reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (See Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-15; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13.)

- 3) ***We believe the Holy Spirit is coequal with God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*** He is present in the world to make men aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for living and understanding of spiritual truth and guidance in doing what is right. He gives every believer spiritual gifts when they are saved. As Christians we seek to live under His control daily. (See 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 14:16-17, 16:7-13; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:16.)

- 4) ***We believe the Bible is God's Word to us.*** It was written by human authors, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian beliefs and living. Because it is inspired by God, it is the absolute truth and is without error. (See 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 12:6, 119:105, 160; Proverbs 30:5.)

- 5) ***We believe people are made in the image of God.*** People are the supreme object of God's creation. Although every person has tremendous potential for good, all of us are marred by an attitude of disobedience toward God called sin. (See Genesis 1:27; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2.)
- a. We believe God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct and complementary genders reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
 - b. We believe that the term marriage has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 2:18-25).
- 6) ***We believe salvation is God's free gift to us, but we must accept it.*** We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ, as God's offer of forgiveness, can anyone be saved from sin's penalty. When we turn from our self-ruled life and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Eternal life begins the moment one receives Jesus Christ into one's life by faith. (See Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 1:12, 14:6; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1.)
- 7) ***We believe God gives us eternal life through Jesus Christ, and the true believer is secure in that salvation for eternity.*** Those who are born again will continue trusting in Christ forever. God, by His own power through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, keeps or preserves the believer forever. The believer is eternally secure because God is eternally faithful. (See John 10:29; 2 Timothy 1:12; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10-14; 1 Peter 1:3-5.)
- 8) ***We believe people were created to exist forever.*** We will either exist eternally separated from God by sin, or eternally with God through forgiveness and salvation. To be eternally separated from God is eternal existence in Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life in Heaven. Heaven and Hell are real places of eternal existence. (See John 3:16, 14:17; Romans 6:23, 8:17-18; Revelation 20:15; 1 Corinthians 2:7-9.)