



STATEMENT OF FAITH

There are many precious truths taught in the Bible over which godly men have differed in understanding. Therefore, 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. (Romans 15:7)

1. We believe in one God, externally existent in three persons (Matthew 28:19):
 - a. God the Father, who is holy, eternal, unchangeable, righteous, good, severe, loving, and full of mercy. He is the Creator, Sustainer and Governor of everything that has, is, or will be made. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 21:6; Deut. 6:4; Gen. 17:1; Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8; Ps. 40:2; 1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 115:3; Ex. 3:14; Eph. 1:11; Amos 3:6; Ecc. 7:14; Job 42:2; 1 Jn. 4:8-16; Ex. 34:6-7; Matt. 3:16-17; Matt. 28:18-19; 2 Cor. 13:14; Ps. 90:2; James 1:17)
 - b. God the Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, sinless, who suffered, died and was buried, On the third day He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven where He now lives, sitting at the right hand of God the Father. He shall return literally from heaven to judge the living and the dead. (Luke 1:31-35)
 - c. God the Holy Spirit, sent into the world from the Father and the Son, who inspired the writing of the Scriptures. He convicts the world on sin, righteousness and judgment, He affects spiritual birth. He indwells, enlightens, and empowers believers and the church in worship, evangelism and service.
2. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, authoritative, infallible and inerrant Word of God. (2 Timothy 3:16)
3. We believe that man was created in the image of God, and that Adam, by an act of disobedience, brought sin and its consequences upon the whole human race. Therefore, all people are sinners in need of salvation.
4. We believe in order to preserve the functions and the integrity of RISE and to provide a biblical role model to the members and community, it is imperative that all persons, students and adults, attending RISE agree to and abide by this Statement of Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt. 5:16, Phil. 2:14-16, 1 Thess. 5:22)
 - a. We believe marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment. (Gen. 2:18-25) We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor.

6:18, 7:2-5, Heb. 13:4) We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity occur outside of a marriage.

- b. We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male and female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. (Gen. 1:26-27) Rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
 - c. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:19-21, Romans 10:9-10, 1 Cor. 6:9-11) We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, and kindness. (Mark 12:28-31, Luke 6:31)
5. We believe that salvation is a gift. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)
 6. We believe that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)
 7. We believe that the consequence of rejecting Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Savior is eternal separation from God in hell. Accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is to be justified by His grace with the promise of eternal life in God's presence. We are saved by grace through faith, which is a gift of God, not of our own works. (Ephesians 2:8-9)