PENN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Statement of Faith

Penn Christian Academy's Statement of Faith is intended to express those central Christian beliefs which are clearly taught in the Bible and which are held in common by the broad-based Christian community. The Statement of Faith is intended to provide an inclusive rather than exclusive basis for support and participation by the total Christian community.

The Bible

The basis of our belief is the Bible, composed of the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments. We believe that the Bible in its entirety originated with God, and it was given through the instrumentality of chosen men. The Bible thus one and the same time speaks with the authority of God and reflects the backgrounds, styles and vocabularies of the human authors. We hold that the Bible is the unique, full and final authority on all matters on which it speaks, and that there are no other writings of equal authority.

God

We believe that there is one true God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, each of Whom possesses equally all the attributes of Deity and the characteristics of personality. In the beginning God created out of nothing the world and all the things therein; thus manifesting the glory of His power, wisdom and goodness. By His sovereign power He continues to sustain His creation, according to His own wise, eternal plan.

Salvation

The central purpose of God's revelation in the Bible is to call men into fellowship with Himself. Originally created to have fellow-ship with God, man chose to go his own independent way, and was thus alienated from God and suffered the corruption of his nature, rendering him unable to please God. The fall took place at the beginning of human history and all men since have suffered these consequences and are thus in need of the saving grace of God. The salvation of men is the work of God's free grace, not the result of human works or goodness, and is appropriated by faith.

Jesus Christ

The saving object of faith is Jesus Christ, the eternal second Person of the Trinity Who was united forever with a true human nature by a miraculous conception and virgin birth. He lived a life of perfect obedience to the Father and voluntarily atoned for the sins of men by dying on the cross as their substitute thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He lived and died. He ascended bodily into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of the Father, where He, the only Mediator between God and man continually makes intercession for His own. He shall come again to earth, personally and visibly, to consummate history and the eternal man of God.

The Holy Spirit

The essential accompaniment of a genuine saving relation with Jesus Christ is a life of holiness, obedience, and service, wrought in the believer by the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity. He was sent into the world by the Father and the Son to apply to men the saving work of Christ. He enlightens their minds, awakens in them a recognition of their need of a Savior, regenerates them and at the point of salvation indwells every believer to become the source of assurance, strength, wisdom, guidance, and ministry.

Human Destiny

The consummation of God's saving work embraces the whole man - body, soul, and spirit. For all men there is a life to come, a resurrection of the body and a future judgment. There are two aspects of the righteous judgment of God: the judgment of believers reveals the quality of works done in the body for the purpose of bestowing rewards, there being no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus; the judgment of unbelievers reveals the depth of sin and the justice of God in allowing men to perpetuate in eternity their rejection of God.

The Church

The corollary of union with Jesus Christ is that all believers become members one with another. There is one true universal Church, which is composed of all people everywhere, living and dead, who have trusted in Christ for salvation, without regard to organizational affiliation. God commands us to assemble together for the purposes of worship, edification and mutual encouragement, and wherever God's people meet in obedience to this command there is a local expression of the Church. It is the responsibility of each of member to keep the unity of the Spirit for the up-building of the Body, and to work with other members of the fellowship to show Christian concern for the needs of people everywhere - especially to the poor - and to fulfill our Lord's final command to His Church - to spread the Good News of redemption throughout the world.

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