

TRUTHS WE TREASURE

1. The Bible

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired by the Holy Spirit and is God's revelation of Himself to man. It reveals the principles by which God judges us, and is the supreme standard by which all authoritative rules of faith and human conduct should be based upon.

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

2. The Eternal Godhead

We believe that there is but one true and living God; maker of heaven and earth and all that is in them. We also believe that in the unity of the Godhead there are three distinct persons revealed to us as Father (God), Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit who are without division of nature, essence, or being. They are coexistent, coeternal, and equal in divine perfection.

(John 17:1-26, John 14:9-19)

3. Jesus

We believe the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, and is therefore both fully God and fully man *(Mark 2:1-12, John 1:1&14, 8:58, 20:28, Romans 9:5)*. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin *(Matthew 1:20, Luke 1:34-35)*.

We believe in his sinless life, his miracles, and his teaching *(2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15, Acts 2:22)*. We believe Jesus was crucified on the cross and died as the substitute to pay the penalty for our sin *(Matthew 20:28, Romans 5:6-8, Hebrews 9:28, Galatians 3:13)*; that he physically rose from the dead and ascended into heaven *(Matthew 28:1-7, Acts 1:9-11, 2:23-24, 5:30, Romans 1:4, 1 Corinthians 15:3-8)*.

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin, and by his powerful work regenerates spiritually dead sinners, awakening them to repentance and faith. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every person who believes in Jesus, giving them gifts for the building up of the church and empowering them to live a godly life *(John 14:16-17, 16:8, Romans 8:9-11, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 12:1-11, 14:12, Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 4:11-12)*

5. Creation

We believe that "...in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is ..." And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. *(Genesis 1:1; Genesis 2:1-2; Exodus 20:11)*

6. Humanity

A. Creation

Creation - We believe that the first man, Adam, was created by an immediate act of God before whom he walked in holiness and purity, not by a process of evolution. Adam and Eve were created in the image and likeness of God and in their original state Adam and Eve enjoyed sweet fellowship with God. (*Genesis 1:26-31*)

B. The Fall

By his free choice man sinned against God and brought sin into the human race. Because of this voluntary transgression, man fell from perfection and thereby incurred upon themselves and their posterity not only physical death, but spiritual death, which is eternal separation from God. (*Genesis 3:1-20, Romans 5:12-21*)

C. Redemption through the Gospel

We believe that "...While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8) and that by the shedding of His own blood He gives us the only hope of redemption. Salvation is a gracious gift from God to anyone who with repentance and faith believes in Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection from the dead. It is not through any righteousness of our own, but solely through the righteousness of Jesus Christ providing atonement to everyone who believes in and submits to Him. (*1 Timothy 2:3-6, Titus 2:11-14*)

7. Daily Christian Living

We believe that it is the will of God that we are daily growing in divine grace as a result of our commitment to live for Jesus Christ and partake in His holiness by "dying to ourselves" and "living with Christ," in order that we should continually grow stronger in faith, God's power, prayer, love, holiness, and service to others. This will be manifest in us through a vital, living, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. (*Matthew 22:37-40*)

8. The Church, Ordinances, and Spiritual Gifts

The church is the body of Christ. It was initiated and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit and has been given the mission of preaching the gospel to all nations and the responsibility of building believers up in Christ. Believers are baptized into the church by the Holy Spirit at conversion, and are commanded by the Scriptures to regularly fellowship with others in the context of a local church. (*Matthew 28:18-20, Hebrews 10:23-25*)

We believe Jesus has commanded two ordinances for the local church.

A. Baptism

Baptism in water is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized as a declaration to all believers and the world that they have died with Christ and have also been raised with Him. (*Acts 2:38-39, Acts 8:36-39*)

B. The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion

Is to be practiced regularly in fellowship with other believers as a memorial of Christ's suffering, death, atonement, and resurrection until He returns. (*Matthew 26:26-30, 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*)

We believe in the fruit of the Spirit and the Gifts

C. Spiritual Fruit and Gifts

The fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, should be modeled daily as irrefutable evidence of a Spirit-filled life. We believe that the Holy Spirit gives gifts to the believing church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Included in these gifts are prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership, mercy wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation of tongues, and these gifts are divided to every man severally, as He, the Holy Spirit, wills. These gifts are to be earnestly desired in order that they would be most beneficial to the church, and these gifts should be used in connection with the fruit of the Spirit.

(*Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 14:1, Galatians 5:22-23*)

9. Marriage and Family

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders together reflect the image and nature of God. Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person. 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. We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of sexual immorality, including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography, is sinful and offensive to God. We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ. We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accordance with Scripture nor the doctrines of Pleasant Ridge Christian Fellowship. (*Genesis 2:7,20-25, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13*)

10. The Second Coming of Christ and Last Things

We believe that the Second Coming of Christ is personal and imminent. In the near future, Jesus will return to earth as King and Judge of the whole world and will bring about the complete fulfillment of the salvation of all believers and punishment of wickedness. The dead will rise and those who do not believe will be cast into hell and away from God's presence forever. The righteous in Christ will be rewarded and dwell with God forever in the new heavens and new earth. (*Hebrews 9:26-28, 1 Thessalonians 4:15-18*)

11. Heaven and Hell

We believe that Heaven is the glorious eternal home of born-again believers. (*Philippians 3:20-21, John 14:1-3*). We believe that hell is the place of eternal torment for all who reject Christ as Savior. The Bible teaches that just as surely as there is a Heaven that awaits those who have trusted Jesus to be Lord and Savior, there is a Hell that awaits those who reject His free offer of salvation. (*Revelation 20:10,15*)

12. The Sanctity of Human Life

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and have concern for the physical and spiritual needs of all mankind. (*Psalms 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5*)

This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For the purposes of Pleasant Ridge Christian Fellowship faith, doctrine, practice, and policy, our elder/pastors are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Pleasant Ridge Christian Fellowship as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical role model to the Pleasant Ridge Christian Fellowship members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Pleasant Ridge Christian Fellowship in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement of Faith.