

The Habersham School

Statement of Faith

Creed

The Creedal Statement of Faith must be affirmed by at least one parent of enrolled family as well as all employees of The Habersham School.

As a Statement of Faith, The Habersham School agrees with and holds to the **Apostles' Creed**, a profession affirmed by Jesus-followers for more than 1,800 years:

[We] believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

[We] believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven where he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

[We] believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic [universal] church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Doctrine

The Doctrinal Statement of Faith must be acknowledged by all families and employees of The Habersham School as the official doctrinal position of The Habersham School in all matters of practice and instruction.

The Scriptures (Bible): We believe the Bible, as the special revelation of God, to be the inspired, infallible, divine, inerrant Word of God in the original writings. As the sufficient and final authority for all matters of faith and human conduct, the Word of God provides absolute moral truths and wisdom. We believe the Old and New Testaments are the true and only word of God, and that no other writings can alter, supplement, or replace it. (Psalm 119; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Proverbs 1).

God, the Father: We believe in one true, living, sovereign, holy God, creator and sustainer of all things, infinitely perfect and eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - with each one being a distinct person with a distinct function, but all of one essence and all possessing the same nature, perfection, and attributes. The triune God, expressing His nature relationally, is the source of all truth, and is worthy of worship and obedience.

(Genesis 1:1, 26, 27; Psalms 90:2; Matthew 28:19; II Corinthians 13:14; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Genesis 1:31).

Jesus Christ, the Son: We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, born of the Virgin Mary. We affirm the historical eyewitness reports recorded in the Scriptures of his sinless life, miracles, and ministry. Jesus shed His blood on the cross, dying for our sins as a substitutionary sacrifice, arose bodily from the grave, and ascended into heaven where, as truly God and truly man, He is the only mediator between God and man. Mankind finds salvation only through faith in Jesus as personal Lord and Savior. Jesus will personally and visibly return in glory to raise the dead and bring salvation and judgment to completion.

(Isaiah 9:5-6, John 1:1-5, Matthew 1:22-23; Luke 1:35, John 2:11, John 3:16, John 11:25, John 14:10-30, Acts 1:9-11, Romans 1:3-4, Hebrews 4:14-15; I Corinthians 15:3-4; I Timothy 6:14-15; 2 Timothy 4:1; Ephesians 1:7, Col 1:15-20).

Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, co-equal and co-existent with the Father and the Son. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer from the moment of salvation, convicts them of sin, guides them in understanding scripture, empowers them for godly living, intercedes on their behalf according to God's will, and equips them for service and witness.

(John 16:7-13, 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; Romans 8:5-11, 26-28; II Corinthians 3:17; Ephesians 1:13-14; I Corinthians 2:12, 3:16; Galatians 5:22-25).

Creation/Mankind: We believe that in the beginning, God created the Heavens and the earth *ex nihilo* (out of nothing), and that man was created by a direct act of God in His image, not from previously existing life. We believe that God created each person, from the moment of conception and immutably endowed them with sacred value, as either male or female in accordance with their biological sex.

We believe that God reveals Himself to mankind through His creation, including His glory, power, divine nature, wisdom, and love. The goodness of his properly ordered world is consistent with the goodness of His character. As our trinitarian God is relational, so are we called to a relationship with him, and rightly ordered relationships with each other. As moral agents in God's creation, it is the duty of mankind to pattern our lives so as to be consistent with the created order, in agreement with God's commands. We believe that God has called mankind to "be fruitful, multiply, fill the earth, and subdue it." Therefore, we believe that the institution of marriage is ordained by God to be between a man and a woman, as an image of Christ's relationship with the church, forming a family that is a prepolitical unit and is the foundation of society. We also believe that God has given the parents and the home the responsibility to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We believe that this world is given for the provision of human beings and that it is the responsibility of mankind to steward this world so that it might rightly reflect God's good order.

(Genesis 1:1-31, Psalm 19:1, Psalm 33:4-9, Psalm 104, Isaiah 40:26-28, Romans 1:18-20).

The Fall - Sin: We believe that Adam and Eve, the historical parents of the entire human race, through the temptation of Satan, sinned by disobedience. This act resulted in the fall of all mankind and the decay of the created order. Therefore, all people, born with a sinful nature, have sinned and thus incurred both physical and spiritual death until there is forgiveness and salvation through the grace of God in Jesus Christ. The effects of sin and the power of Satan will continue corrupting the world until Christ's return.

(Genesis 3:1-24; Romans 3:10-23; 5:12-21; 6:23, 8:19-23, 1 John 5:19, Ephesians 6:11-12).

Salvation: We believe that Jesus Christ died as a substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of man. Salvation is a gift of grace secured through faith in Jesus Christ and His resurrection. He was resurrected so we could have an eternal relationship with Him. Salvation is totally apart from human merit and produces a new creation in Christ, born again of the Holy Spirit. We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved, and the everlasting punishment of the lost.

(Matthew 25:46, John 3:16, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Romans 3:23, 5:8-9, 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:8-10, John 5:28-29).

Discipleship: In response to the person and work of Jesus Christ, it is the calling and privilege of every Christian to grow as Christ-followers, proclaim the good news of Jesus, and make disciples of all nations. Recognizing that until the return of Christ and the restoration of all things, disciples are a work in progress, wrestling with our sinful nature and seeking to serve God. We rely on the power of the Holy Spirit for our sanctification. As Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God, so the goal of discipleship and sanctification is to produce Christ-likeness, through confession, repentance, forgiveness, and restoration. We acknowledge that the holiness of God is the ultimate standard for life, that God has adequately revealed this standard to us, and that we are held to this standard, with restoration to fellowship with God and others as our goal.

(Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 7:21-8:2; 1 Peter 13-22; 2 Peter 1:5-11; 1 John 1:8-9).

Church: We believe in one holy, universal, and apostolic Church, uniting all believers under the lordship of Jesus Christ, its head. Its purpose is to worship God in community, proclaim the Gospel among all nations, serve the needs of human beings compassionately, and promote righteousness and biblical justice.

(Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 12:12–13, Galatians 3:26–28, Romans 8:9; I Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:26-28).

Morality

The Habersham School (THS) believes that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, but the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to men. All who confess and repent of their sin and believe in the Son of God, who gave himself for us, will be redeemed from all lawlessness and cleansed from all iniquity. As believers, the grace of God instructs us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a righteous and godly way. THS members must treat with respect and compassion all persons, especially those who confess their transgressions and are eager to do good works, as expounded by THS's Statement of Faith.

(Matthew 11:29-30, Romans 3:23, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Titus 2:11-14, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16).

THS does not want to place students, whose parents are not in agreement with or live contrary to THS's Statement of Faith, in the moral dilemma of choosing to believe what the school teaches or what the parents teach and model at home. Families who disagree with THS's Statement of Faith should seek a school that is more aligned with their personal convictions so as to not confuse and disrupt the development of their child. (2 Corinthians 6:14-15)

THS believes that mankind's first and greatest moral obligation is to love the one, true, living God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. This is evidenced by a commitment to grow in worship, faith, and obedience in accordance with Scripture.

(Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 2:52; Luke 10:27).

THS believes each person holds intrinsic value as an image-bearer of God. Any act that violates this inherent dignity is sinful. Such acts include but are not limited to: dishonoring authority, slander/gossip, bullying, disrespect, assault, and abuse.

(Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 2:52; Colossians 3:8-10; James 2:1-7).

THS believes that God created mankind in his image, He made them binary as either male or female, distinct by design, but equal in value and dignity. Therefore, we are to affirm our biological sex and refrain from attempts to alter our appearance in any way, or embrace an identity, that is inconsistent with it. The sexual difference between men and women is essential to the institution of marriage, as it is a Holy covenant intended to picture Jesus' relationship with the church. To this end, God instituted marriage as the exclusive, comprehensive, and conjugal union of one man and one woman, intrinsically ordered to procreation and the biological family.

(Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:18-24, Deuteronomy 2:5, Matthew 19:4-9, Ephesians 5:31-33, Matthew 15:19, Mark 10:5-9).

THS believes that marriage is the only appropriate context for sexual relations. All sexual activities outside the confines of marriage are contrary to God's intention and are therefore sinful. As identified in scripture, these activities include, but are not limited to: adultery, homosexual activity, pre-marital sex, and the use of pornography.

(Exodus 20:14, Leviticus 18:7-23, Leviticus 20:10-21, Deuteronomy 5:18, Matthew 5:27-28 and 19:4-9, Romans 1:26-27, 1 Corinthians 6:9-13, 1Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4, Galatians 5:19, Ephesians 4:17-19, Colossians 3:5).

THS believes that all Christians are obligated to live lives that exemplify integrity, refraining from a dualistic approach to morality. Christians should also seek contentment in God's provision for their lives, avoiding covetousness in their hearts. Actions contrary to these principles include but are not limited to: bearing false witness, cheating, greed, stealing another's property, and plagiarism.

(Exodus 20:1-17, Leviticus 19:11, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Hebrews 13:5).

In summary, believers should live a life which reflects the biblical perspective of integrity in relationships, character, and conduct striving to honor God in all they do. All matters of faith and personal conduct must be evaluated and guided on the basis of the Scriptures and the life principles contained within them. (Philippians 4:8)

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to cleanse for himself a people for his own possession, eager to do good works.” Titus 2:11-14