



A. STATEMENT OF FAITH

SCRIPTURE

The sole basis of our beliefs is the Bible, the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. It was uniquely, verbally, and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit and was written without error in the original manuscript. It is the supreme and final authority in faith and life.

GOD

There is but one God, infinite in power, wisdom, goodness and love, the Creator of the universe eternally existing in three persons — Father, Son & Holy Spirit — each of whom possesses all the attributes of deity.

MAN

God created man in His own image. Man, as he was originally created, was innocent before God. But, man chose to sin by disobeying God and therefore was alienated from his Creator and came under divine condemnation. Thus, all human beings are born with a corrupt nature and without spiritual life, and are totally incapable of pleasing God in and of themselves.

JESUS CHRIST

God the Father, by His own choice and out of love for sinful men and women, sent Jesus Christ into the world to reconcile sinners to Himself. Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. He was God in the flesh, both fully God and fully man. Jesus Christ lived a sinless life and voluntarily suffered and died as our substitute to pay the penalty for our sins, thus satisfying God's justice and accomplishing salvation for all those who trust in Him alone. He rose from the dead in the same body (though glorified) in which He lived and died. He bodily ascended into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where He — the only mediator between God and man — makes intercession for His own. He will return to earth personally, visibly and bodily to judge all men and forever establish His eternal kingdom.

SALVATION

Men and women are freed from the penalty for their sins not as a result of their own works, goodness or religious ceremony — in whole or in part — but by the undeserved favor of God alone. God declares righteous all who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ, to convict men and women of their sins, and to impart new life to all who place their faith in Christ. He indwells believers from the moment of spiritual birth, seals them until the day of redemption, and empowers them to live a life pleasing to God.

ASSURANCE

All who are born again of the Spirit can be fully assured of their eternal life from the very moment they place their faith in Christ. This assurance is not based on any kind of human merit, but upon the fact of God's election, upon Christ's complete payment for our sins, and upon the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, who is the deposit guaranteeing their inheritance.

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

At physical death, the believer immediately enters into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his or her body to everlasting glory and blessing. At physical death, the unbeliever immediately enters into eternal, conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of his or her body to everlasting suffering, judgment and condemnation.

BAPTISM AND THE LORD’S SUPPER

Jesus Christ has instructed those who believe in Him to be baptized in water as a symbol of their new birth in Christ. Our practice is to baptize by immersion, and it is only for those who have personally believed in Christ. The Lord also instituted the Lord’s Supper as a remembrance of His suffering, death and resurrection. Neither baptism nor the Lord’s Supper has any merit in helping a person obtain eternal life.

THE CHURCH

All true believers make up the church worldwide and should assemble together in local churches for worship, prayer, fellowship and teaching. They will become conformed to the image of Christ and become equipped to carry out the Great Commission that Christ gave His followers in Matthew 28:19-20.

MARRIAGE POLICY

Because God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself, The Rock Church will only recognize marriages between a biological man and a biological woman. Further, the pastors and staff of The Rock Church shall only participate in weddings and solemnize marriages between one man and one woman. Finally, the facilities and property of The Rock Church shall only host weddings between one man and one woman.

MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

Though He is gracious, God is also holy and 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. 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 Biblically married to each other. We believe that outside of this any form of sexual activity (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. For a full statement, please read section B.

FINAL AUTHORITY FOR MATTERS OF BELIEF AND CONDUCT

The 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 purposes of The Rock Church’s faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our pastors will strive to apply proper and historical Biblical hermeneutic principles and methods of interpreting the text of the Bible. We believe that 2 Timothy 2:15 commands believers – especially church leaders – to be involved in hermeneutics: “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who . . . correctly handles the word of truth.”

B. STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

Though He is gracious, God is also holy and 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. (Gen 1:26-27.) 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. (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 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. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of The Rock Church, as the local Body of Christ, and to provide a Biblical role model to The Rock Church’s members and the community, it is imperative that all persons employed by The Rock Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

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; Rom 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, respect, and dignity. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31.) Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of The Rock Church.

C. STATEMENT ON CHURCH DISCIPLINE

The threefold purpose of church discipline is to glorify God by maintaining purity in the local church (1 Cor 5:6), to edify believers by deterring sin and promoting purity (1 Tim 5:20), and to promote the spiritual welfare of the offending believer by calling him or her to return to a Biblical standard of doctrine and conduct (Gal 6:1).

The Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted the local church with the authority and responsibility to discipline members for flagrant sin or serious doctrinal error, with the goal of the restoration of the offender. This discipline is entrusted to the Pastoral Staff [Board or similar body] and is to follow the Biblical pattern as set forth in Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 5; 2 Corinthians 2:7-8; Galatians 6:1; 2 Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10-11; and 2 John 7-11. Any member of this church who practices or affirms a doctrine or conduct that, in the judgment of the Pastoral Staff [Board or similar body], is opposed to the teaching of the Word of God, or is threatening to the testimony of this church, or is divisive to the body, shall be subject to church discipline.

Discipline will follow the said Biblical pattern, and is an effort to bring the individual to repentance and protect the church from unrepentant sin. Discipline may involve exclusion from participation in ministry and communion, as well as dismissal from the fellowship of this church. An individual may be disciplined by the Pastoral Staff [Board or similar body] short of dismissal from the fellowship, as they deem appropriate for the specific circumstance (for example, an individual may remain in certain circumstances a member of this church but be denied the privilege of serving in a particular ministry). The Pastoral Staff [Board or similar body], as is required by Scripture, may report to the congregation the names of those who have lost membership by reason of church discipline, and the reason for that discipline, as described in Matthew 18:15-20.

The members of this church knowingly and voluntarily agree that they can withdraw their membership at any time - the only exception being, if they are currently in the midst of the church discipline process (which is for purposes of restoration and reconciliation). In this case, they must wait until after the disciplinary process, of which they are the subjects, has been concluded as determined by the Pastoral Staff.

D. STATEMENT ON MEDIATION

Members of the church agree to submit any legal dispute with the church for mediation before a mutually agreed upon mediator, or if none can be agreed upon, one selected by Peacemaker Ministries. Lawsuits between believers, or threats of lawsuits between believers, are a matter of grave concern for the church, are contrary to Biblical and church teaching, and mediation is an effort to resolve disputes in a Biblical fashion. (1 Cor 6: 1-7.)

Mediation will be governed by the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation (ICC Rules), unless modified as stipulated by the parties. (Visit: http://www.peacemaker.net/site/c.nuIWL7MOJtE/b.5335917/k.D8A2/Rules_of_Procedure.htm to access the ICC Rules.) In particular, subject to the more detailed provisions of the ICC Rules, mediator(s) will attempt to assist us in reaching a voluntary settlement of any disputes through mediation. The confidentiality of the mediation process will be protected and these matters will not be discussed with people who do not have a necessary interest in them. If settlement can be agreed upon, the conciliators may, at their discretion, issue an advisory opinion. Neither the opinion, nor any communications exchanged in the mediation process, will be admissible for any purpose in any subsequent legal proceeding.

E. STATEMENT 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.