

Vision Statement

To continue steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship in the breaking of bread and prayers. (Acts 2:42)

Mission Statement

To make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things as Jesus has commanded us. (Matthew 28:19, 20)

Members

Statement of Faith

Our 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 Church's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our senior pastor and the board of directors is the Church's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

Every pastor, pastoral assistant, board member, officer, employee, elder, deacon, ministry leader, staff member or regular volunteer (collectively referred to as "**Affiliates**") shall be in submission to the spiritual authority of the senior pastor and board of directors and shall sign a Statement of Faith and Core Values and Biblical Lifestyle Commitments Statement adopted by the board of directors that reflects his or her unequivocal agreement with the sincerely held religious beliefs of the Church. Each Affiliate whose confession of faith or behavior is in conflict with these sincerely held religious beliefs may be subject to Church discipline up to and including removal and separation from employment or service in ministry by the senior pastor and the board of directors (or their designees). Further, the senior pastor and the board of directors (or their designees), may prohibit the fellowship and attendance of any person from Church worship services and meetings as provided in these bylaws.

Our supreme desire is to know Christ and be conformed to His image by the power of the Holy Spirit. We are not a denominational church, nor are we opposed to denominations as such, only to their overemphasis of the doctrinal differences that have led to the division of the body of Christ.

1. We believe that the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God, fully inspired without error in the original manuscripts, and the infallible rule of faith and practice. The Word of God is the foundation upon which this Church operates and is the basis for which this Church is governed. We believe that the Word of God supersedes any earthly law that is contrary to the Holy Scriptures. We believe that translations derived from the Textus Receptus, the Greek Text that stands behind the King James Version, are the most accurate. Thus, the King James Version and the New King James Version of the Bible are preferred. It is from these translations that we establish our doctrine and Statement of Faith (Isaiah 28:13; Nehemiah 8:8; John 17:17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12; 1 Peter 1:23-25; 2 Peter 1:3-4 and 1:21).

2. We believe in the person of God the Father, an infinite, eternal, personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power and love; that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men; that He hears and answers prayer; and that He saves from sin and death all those who come to Him through Jesus Christ (Exodus 34:6; Deuteronomy 33:27; Psalm 90:2; Psalm 102:27; John 3:16 and 4:24; 1 Timothy 1:17; Titus 1:3).

3. We believe in the person of Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His virgin birth, sinless life, miracles and teachings, His substitutionary atoning death as the propitiation for our sins, bodily resurrection, ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people and personal, visible return to earth (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23; Mark 16:19; Luke 1:34-35; John 1:1-2, 8:58 and 11:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; 1 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:8; 1 John 1:2, 2:2; Revelation 1:8).

4. We believe in the person of the Holy Spirit, Who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and empower for ministry all who believe in Christ (Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 3:18; John 16:8-11; Romans 8:26 and 15:13,16; Hebrews 9:14).

5. We believe the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Jesus Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher and guide (John 6:13, 14:16-17 and 16:8-11; Romans 8:26).

6. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and in the exercise of all Biblical gifts of the Spirit according to the instructions given to us in 1 Corinthians 12-14.

7. We believe in the baptism with the Holy Spirit as an experience, which occurs, either subsequent to or simultaneous with salvation. The Holy Spirit's power is necessary to make us bold and effective witnesses. The supreme evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a new dynamic in the life of the believer (Acts 1:8; 4:31; 13:52).

8. We believe that there is one living and true GOD, eternally existing in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, equal in power and glory; that this triune God created all, upholds all, and governs all things (Genesis 1:1; Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 44:8 and 48:16; Matthew 28:19-20; John 10:30; Hebrews 1:3).

9. We believe that all people are sinners by nature and choice, falling short of God's standard and breaking His commandments and therefore are under God's righteous judgment. Yet God saves and gives new life to all who come to Him in repentance and faith, trusting in the Person and work of Jesus Christ. At the cross, Jesus Christ died in our place as our substitute, absorbing God's wrath that should have come upon us. Because Jesus died for the sins of the world the invitation to believe is open to all, and whoever desires may come unto Jesus for new life and the forgiveness of sins (Romans 3:23; Acts 3:19; Acts 20:21; Ephesians 2:1-3; Ephesians 2:8-9; 1 John 2:2, John 3:16; Matthew 11:28; Revelation 22:17).

10. We believe in the pattern and principle of male leadership and responsibility in both the home and the church, according to the sacrificial example of Jesus. We believe this limits the roles of pastoral leadership and doctrinal authority to qualified men (1 Corinthians 11:1-12, 1 Timothy 2:1-15).

11. We believe in the universal church, the living spiritual body, of which Christ is the head and all who are born again are a part of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Ephesians 4:15-16).

12. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances for the church: (a) full immersion water baptism of believers, and (b) the Lord's Supper (Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 2:38; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

13. We believe in a literal Heaven and a literal Hell and that all those who place their faith, hope and trust in Jesus Christ will spend eternity in Heaven with the Lord, while those who reject Jesus' free gift of salvation will spend eternity separated from the Lord (Psalm 9:17; Matthew 5:3, 5:22, 18:9 and 25:31-34; Mark 9:42-49; Luke 12:5; John 3:18; Hebrews 12:23; 1 Peter 1:4; Revelation 14:10-11 and 20:11-15).

14. We believe in the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, which is His personal, visible return to earth and the establishment of His millennial kingdom, in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment and eternal blessing of the righteous and endless separation of the wicked (Matthew 16:27; Acts 1: 11; Revelation 19:11-16, 20:11-15).

15. We believe in the pre-tribulation rapture of the church where all believers will meet the Lord in the air and be taken out of this world prior to the tribulation that will come upon the earth (Isaiah 26:20; Matthew 24:29-31; Luke 21:36; Romans 1:18, 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 1:10, 4:13-16 and 5:9; 2 Peter 2:7-9; Revelation 3:10, 5:7-10 and 7:13-14).

Foundational Family Values

1. **Our Biblical View of the Sanctity of Life.** We believe the Bible teaches that God is the ultimate source and sustainer of all human life (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 31:15; Isaiah 45:12; 1 Timothy 6:13); and that human life begins at the moment of fertilization (*Psalm 51:5, 58:3; Jeremiah 1:5*). As a result, all human life is to be respected and valued as God's sacred work, and should be preserved and protected in a manner consistent with biblical ethics. Moreover, we encourage the body of Christ to speak out on behalf of those whose lives are threatened and are unable to speak out for themselves.

2. **Our Biblical View of Marriage and Parenting.** We believe the Bible sets forth a clear precedent and upholds a consistent description of God's definition of marriage. At the outset of mankind's existence, God established the institution of marriage as the union of a man and a woman (Genesis 1:27, 2:18-23). This model for marriage is exclusively maintained and endorsed throughout the biblical record (Matthew 19:4; Ephesians 5:22-28). Unions beyond the confines of this definition do not constitute biblical marriage. Accordingly, this ministry will not perform any marriage ceremonies between two individuals of the same sex. It will not condone or recognize such same-sex marriages, civil unions, or domestic partnerships even if the state passes laws that provide for recognition of such unions.

3. We believe that God's ordained order for the family unit is for husbands to sacrificially love (Ephesians 5:25) and spiritually lead their wives (Ephesians 5:26), and for wives to sacrificially submit to their husband's spiritual authority (Ephesians 5:22-23). This dynamic is ultimately governed by a mutual submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in both of their lives (Ephesians 5:21). Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them (Deuteronomy 6:4-9), through consistent lifestyle example and consistent, appropriate discipline. (Proverbs 22:6; 15, Hebrews 12:6, Ephesians 6:1-4).

The Bible recognizes that the ideal of male and female parents isn't always possible, and that a single parent household is occasionally necessary due to death, abandonment, or other factors. In such cases, the Bible honors the office of the single parent and acknowledges the provision of God's grace (Genesis 16:11; 1 Kings 17:9).

4. **Our Biblical View of Gender Identity, Sexual Orientation and Sexual Behavior.** We believe that each human being is deliberately born into this world under the providential superintendence of God (Psalm 100:3, Proverbs 22:2), and that their gender at the time of their birth reflects His purpose for their lives (Jeremiah 1:5). Consequently, it is contrary to God's will, and is therefore sinful, to modify one's gender-identity whether physical or psychological. We believe the Bible is also very specific regarding acceptable sexual behavior. Acceptable sexual behavior is exclusively reserved to occur within the confines of a monogamous marriage union of a consenting man and woman (Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 7:2-3; Hebrews 13:4). Any sexual behavior outside of this relationship is considered to be fornication and therefore prohibited within the scope of God's will (Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Hebrews 13:4).

5. **Our Biblical Convictions about Foster Care and Adoption.** We believe that it is God's will to bless married couples which live according to these guidelines with children (Genesis 3:16, 4:1). In most instances, this blessing occurs through the natural biological process, but in

some cases adoption is the means by which God blesses a husband and wife with children. The principle of adoption is extolled in scripture and is even identified as being endemic to God's nature (Psalm 68:6; Ephesians 1:5; Galatians 4:5-7). Consequently, the Church supports the principle and process of adoption while requiring all prospective candidates for foster parenting and adoption to agree with and adhere to the aforementioned standards as defined by the Bible.

Any other attitude towards or form of marriage, parenting, gender identity, sexual orientation or sexual behavior is in fundamental conflict with our sincerely held religious beliefs; making these practices something we are unable to support or facilitate in any manner in good conscience.

Calvary Chapel of Merritt Island, Inc.

Biblical Lifestyle Commitments

At Calvary Chapel of Merritt Island, Inc., (the “**Church**”) we believe the Bible is the expression of God’s moral standards for humanity and that these standards apply throughout history and are not subject to change. We also believe that although our society’s values have been largely based upon biblical values, we’ve witnessed an unprecedented cultural shift in this regard in recent years. In an effort to define our biblical values in an increasingly obscure moral landscape, we have defined Biblical Lifestyle Commitments. It is our desire that this serves to establish the lifestyle standards within our Church’s culture, and to honor and glorify God by aligning with them.

Therefore, we believe as follows:

1. **Addiction.** We believe that God has called all Christians to a lifestyle that is free of addiction (1 Corinthians 6:12), which is the engagement in a practice that is psychologically or physically habit-forming and whose cessation results in trauma. If a practice consistently exerts this dominance in a Christian’s life over a period of time whereby they become characterized by it, they are no longer living in conformity to God’s will. This is further affirmed by the fact that the New Testament teaches the believer in Christ is to be continually influenced by the person of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). We also see that self-control is a defining characteristic of the Holy Spirit, and should therefore be a defining characteristic in the Christian’s life (Galatians 5:23). In summary, a Christian filled with God’s Holy Spirit is not to be controlled by their addictions, but rather controlled by God’s leading upon their lives.
2. **Alcohol.** We believe that the Bible does not absolutely condemn the consumption of alcohol, but it does repeatedly warn against being brought under its effects (Proverbs 20:1). The consumption of alcohol to an extent of drunkenness where one’s behavior is influenced is clearly condemned in both Old and New Testaments (Proverbs 23:32; Romans 13:13; 1 Corinthians 5:11). Therefore, the excess consumption of alcohol and being brought under its influence is inconsistent with a biblical lifestyle (Galatians 5:19-21).
3. **Civil Obedience.** We believe the New Testament is undeniably clear and consistent as to the Christian’s responsibility to submit to their civil authorities (Romans 13:1; 1 Peter 2:13). Moreover, Christians are to demonstrate an attitude of honoring their civil authorities (1 Peter 2:17), and to even pray for them on a regular basis (1 Timothy 2:2) regardless of their opinions of their policies. A Christian’s conduct is to be in compliance with the civil laws they uphold except in the rare instance when they are proven to be in direct conflict with an undeniable biblical mandate.
4. **Co-habitation.** We believe that God’s desire is for unmarried Christians to live free of any sexual impurity (1 Thessalonians 4:3-5). God’s standard of purity extends to a Christian’s personal testimony. For this reason, they are to avoid every form or appearance of immorality (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Whether engaged in sexual behavior or not, an unmarried couple that is cohabitating is promoting an appearance of immorality. As a result, their Christian testimony will be compromised and tainted, which falls short of God’s standard for their lives and is therefore sin. Our desire is for those engaged in this practice to pray and take practical steps to conform their lifestyle to the biblical standard on this issue.

5. **Deception/Theft.** We believe that Christians have been called by God to be truthful and transparent in their motives and actions (John 3:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:5). Any disposition or act of deception, which may include but is not limited to: lying (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:9), flattery (Jude 1:16), concealing relevant information (Proverbs 12:17; Ephesians 4:15), fraud (Deuteronomy 27:1; 1 Corinthians 6:8), or theft (Exodus 20:15; Romans 13:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:6), is absolutely inconsistent with the Christian lifestyle. The mature Christian should be truthful in all circumstances, even if it requires personal sacrifice to do so.

6. **Discrimination.** We believe that God loves and values all people equally (John 3:16). God is also impartial towards people regardless of their ethnicity, sex, age, social status, or any other distinguishing factor (Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:11; 1 Peter 1:17). Moreover, God calls His followers to imitate Him in these characteristics (1 John 4:7; Colossians 3:25). Consequently, it is absolutely inconsistent with the Christian life to discriminate against other people or regard them with lesser value.

7. **Divisiveness.** We believe that God desires for Christians to live in peace with all men as much as possible (Romans 12:18), and to promote unity when and where possible (John 17:11; Ephesians 4:3). It is not God's will that His followers be divisive or cause strife within their community of faith (Proverbs 6:19). If a Christian demonstrates a consistent pattern of discord and division among other Christians their lives are not aligned with His standards (Proverbs 6:14). Our hope is that every Christian would appreciate the beauty in the unity of believers as God does (Psalm 133), and practically pursue it by giving preference to one other (Philippians 2).

8. **Divorce & Re-marriage.** We believe that God's plan for marriage to be a sacred and life-lasting union between a husband and wife (Matthew 19:4-6). Divorce is never God's ideal for marriage but is always the result of sin on the part of one or both parties. Pursuit of divorce is biblically sanctioned in only two scenarios; in the instance of adultery the offended party may pursue divorce (Matthew 5:32), and in the instance of spousal abandonment the offended party may pursue divorce after reasonable evidence that reconciliation is not a reasonable option (1 Corinthians 7:15). In cases where the biblical criteria for divorce are met, the provision of re-marriage for the offended party is available, though not necessarily advisable. We also recognize that God permits divorce due to the hardness of our hearts (Matthew 19:8), and encourage all in such circumstances to seek God's specific desire and direction for their lives.

9. **Drug Use.** We believe that the scriptures teach that God desires Christians to live their lives with a sense of self-control that is given to us by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:23). Drugs are not a catalyst for self-control. In fact, they consistently cause people to do things that are actually against their better judgment. In other words, it creates a sense of being out of control. The Bible also spells out a series of things that Christians are to steer clear of, one of which is "sorcery" (Galatians 5:20), which may not appear to have anything to do with drugs, but the original Greek word is *pharmakeia*, from which we get the English word *pharmaceuticals*. There is a strong biblical understanding that there is a connection between supernaturalism and pharmaceuticals, or mind-altering drugs and substances. In many ways, drugs act as a key that opens the door to a realm of supernatural consciousness that is prohibited.

10. **Family Relationships and Responsibilities.** We believe that God's ordained order for the family unit is for husbands to sacrificially love (Ephesians 5:25) and spiritually lead their wives (Ephesians 5:26), and for wives to sacrificially submit to their husband's spiritual authority (Ephesians 5:22-23). This dynamic is ultimately governed by a mutual submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in both of their lives (Ephesians 5:21). Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and

leading them (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) through consistent lifestyle example and consistent, appropriate discipline. (Proverbs 22:6; 15, Hebrews 12:6, Ephesians 6:1-4).

11. Gender Identity. We believe that each human being is deliberately born into this world under the providential superintendence of God (Psalm 100:3, Proverbs 22:2), and that their gender at the time of their birth reflects His purpose for their lives (Jeremiah 1:5). Consequently, it is contrary to God's will, and is therefore sinful, to modify one's gender-identity whether physical or psychological.

12. Harassment and Bullying. We believe that the Christian is to reflect God's kindness towards all people (Galatians 5:22-23; Colossians 3:12), and to seek the best interests of others when and where possible (Galatians 6:9-10; Philippians 2:4). Therefore, it is absolutely inconsistent for a Christian to engage in behavior that qualifies as harassment, which is the willful, and malicious disturbing of others, or bullying, which is the intentional intimidation of smaller or weaker people. Moreover, our hope is that the mature Christian would serve to advocate and defend those who are being harassed whenever possible (Proverbs 31:8-9).

13. Improper Communication/Gossip. We believe that God has established a clear precedent for expressing our views and opinions of others. In instances of serious disagreement, we are to pursue direct and immediate communication with them for the purpose of relational reconciliation (Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15). If this proves ineffective in producing resolution, God's Word mandates a protocol involving objective parties and spiritual leadership (Matthew 18:16-17). Acting apart from or usurping this plan is contrary to God's will and inevitably causes division and hurt. Gossip, the spreading of rumors about others, or slandering someone's character in their absence is clearly identified as sinful behavior (Proverbs 11:13, 20:19; Romans 1:29; 1 Timothy 5:13), and is to have no place in the Christian's life.

14. Integrity. We believe that God calls the Christian to set an exemplary standard of integrity in every aspect of their lives (2 Corinthians 8:21; 1 Peter 3:16). A Christian is to be truthful and transparent in their character (John 3:20-21, 1 Thessalonians 5:5), and to demonstrate the attributes of the Holy Spirit in their character and conduct (Galatians 5:22-23).

15. Lawsuits. We believe that God desires for Christians to live in harmony and at peace with one another (Romans 14:19). Consequently, we believe that Christian believers are prohibited from bringing civil lawsuits against other Christians or the local church in order to resolve personal disputes (1 Corinthians 6:1-6). We believe the church possesses all the resources necessary to resolve personal disputes between members (Matthew 18:15-20). However, we do believe that a Christian may seek compensation for injuries from another Christian's insurance company as long as the claim is pursued without malice or slander (Ephesians 4:1-16), and that they are within their biblical rights to appeal to the civil authorities for justice in matters that do not involve other Christians (Romans 13:3-4).

16. Marriage. We believe the Bible sets forth a clear precedent and upholds a consistent description of God's definition of marriage. At the outset of mankind's existence, God established the institution of marriage as the union of a man and a woman (Genesis 1:27, 2:18-23). This model for marriage is exclusively maintained and endorsed throughout the biblical record (Matthew 19:4; Ephesians 5:22-28). Unions beyond the confines of this definition do not constitute biblical marriage.

17. Modesty. We believe that God has called the believer in Christ, both men and women, to conduct themselves in a manner that is modest. Our hope is that our culture is one where accountability through

Christ-centered relationships is welcomed and active in helping to maintain an appropriate sense of modesty (Hebrews 3:12-14; Romans 14:13).

18. **Profanity.** We believe that the Bible clearly and consistently exhorts followers of Christ to encourage one another (Ephesians 4:29) and to speak in a manner that is gracious (Colossians 4:6). The Bible also condemns the use of words or speech in general that is obscene, coarse, or inappropriate (Ephesians 5:4; Colossians 3:8). Moreover, we believe that this includes the irreverent or careless use of God's name (Exodus 20:7; Ezekiel 36:20). The Bible exhorts the Christian to speak in a manner that is respectful towards others and glorifying to God (Colossians 3:16).

19. **Sanctity of Life.** We believe the Bible teaches that God is the ultimate source and sustainer of all human life (Genesis 1:27; Psalm 31:15; Isaiah 45:12; 1 Timothy 6:13); and that human life begins at the moment of fertilization (Psalm 51:5, 58:3; Jeremiah 1:5). As a result, all human life is to be respected and valued as God's sacred work, and should be preserved and protected in a manner consistent with biblical ethics. Moreover, we encourage the body of Christ to speak out on behalf of those whose lives are threatened and are unable to speak out for themselves.

20. **Sexual Behavior.** We believe the Bible is also very specific regarding acceptable sexual behavior. Acceptable sexual behavior is exclusively reserved to occur within the confines of a monogamous marriage union of a consenting man and woman (Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 7:2-3; Hebrews 13:4). Any sexual behavior outside of this relationship is considered to be fornication and therefore prohibited within the scope of God's will (Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5).

21. **Stewardship.** We believe that God is the ultimate owner of all things (Psalm 24:1), and that everything we possess in this life is graciously given to us by Him (1 Corinthians 4:7). We also recognize that God calls every one of His followers to steward (or manage) the resources He entrusts to them wisely and responsibly. These resources include our spiritual knowledge (1 Corinthians 4:1-2), our spiritual calling in life (1 Corinthians 9:17), the exercise of our spiritual gifts (1 Timothy 4:14), our opportunities in life (Matthew 25:14-30), our influence, as well as our finances (Luke 19:12-27). Moreover, God will require us to give an account of how we steward these resources (Romans 14:12).

22. **Unequally Yoked.** We believe that God's Word presents the Christian believer with a clear prescription to only pursue dating or marriage relationships with other Christians (2 Corinthians 6:14). This prescription is intended to protect us and preserve our Christian witness before the world (2 Corinthians 6:15-17). Believers in Christ who knowingly pursue such a relationship with a non-Christian do so against God's warning and heart for His people.

23. **Social Media Behavior.** As an employee or volunteer of CCMI, you may be seen by our members, attendees, and outside parties as a representative of our organization. That means that while you may view your online presence as a personal project, many readers will associate you and the views you express with us. In light of that, we ask that you ensure that your social media presence also reflect these Biblical lifestyle commitments.