



DESERT CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

ARTICLES OF FAITH

These **Articles of Faith** are based upon the DCS **Faith Statement** that is incorporated in the DCS Bylaws and in the Board of Trustee Policy Manual and attached hereto as **Exhibit D**. Recognizing that all people possess a worldview, a set of fundamental assumptions through which they interpret and respond to life, and recognizing that organizations also operate from a worldview, DCS puts forth the following Faith Statement and Philosophy of Education as part of the school's worldview.

God

We believe in one eternal Supreme Being, God. He is infinite but personal. All His thoughts, motives and actions are morally pure, righteous and good. God is triune, existing as one God in three distinct persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each simultaneously sharing the divine essence and co-equal in nature, power, and glory. God is the all-powerful, all-knowing, sovereign Creator and Sustainer of all that exists apart from Himself. While transcendentally separate from His creation, He is also among it (Deuteronomy 6:1, Isaiah 44:6-8, Genesis 18:25, Exodus 34:6-7, James 1:17, Psalm 25:8-10, Genesis 1:26, II Corinthians 13:14, Daniel 4:34-35, Isaiah 45:5-7, Colossians 1:15-17, Romans 8:28-29, Psalm 139:1-12, Psalm 90:2, Romans 8:15-16).

Scripture

We believe the Bible (the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is God's special revelation to man. Each word in the Bible as originally given is "God-breathed." When rightly interpreted (i.e., using such standards as literary, historical, contextual principles) the Bible addresses truthfully, without error, moral, historical, scientific and spiritual matters. The Bible, though not an exhaustive revelation of truth, is a reliable, sufficient and authoritative source of truth for all of life, because it reveals God's being and His purposes for creation and man (II Timothy 3:15-17, John 17:17, II Timothy 2:15, II Peter 1:20).

Creation

We believe everything that has being, outside of God Himself, was brought into existence and is sustained in existence by God. Everything that exists in the universe was created by God out of nothing, and therefore has meaning as a purposeful creation of God. The creation includes both the spiritual unseen universe and the physical seen universe. The spiritual realm includes angels and other spiritual beings and is a place where God's presence is especially evident. The cosmos, God's complex, orderly physical creation, declares God's existence, majesty, and divine attributes. The truth revealed in God's "Book of Works," the physical cosmos, will never contradict the truth revealed in His "Book of Words," the Bible. The cosmos operates uniformly under laws designed by God but is also open to His divine intervention as He chooses (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 90:2, Colossians 1:15-17, Psalm 33:6-9, Psalm 104:24-32, Jeremiah 10:6-13, Revelation 4:1-11, Romans 1:18-20, Luke 1:36, Exodus 4:1-5).

Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity, is Himself, God. Christ, as God incarnate, possessed a human nature, though sinless, while simultaneously existing as divine. We acknowledge and accept as actual: Christ's entrance into time and space through the virgin birth, His works of power, His sinless life, His death on the cross, the resurrection of His body from the dead and His ascension into heaven. Currently, Christ sits at the right hand of the Father, interceding for His people while awaiting the consummation of His Kingdom (John 1:1-5, 18, John 8:58-59, John 10:31-38, John 14:7-9, Matthew 1:18-25, Colossians 1:15-19, Philippians 2:5-8, John 5:36, John 2:11, Hebrews 4:15, Romans 8:34-39, Hebrews 7:25, Hebrews 9:9-13, I Peter 2:22).

Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit is not just an impersonal "force," but is Himself, God, possessing all of the divine attributes and exercising divine authority. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ and saves people by convicting them of sin and righteousness, regenerating them, indwelling them, and empowering them for a life of service to God (I Corinthians 3:16, II Corinthians 13:14, John 3:5-8, I Corinthians 2:12-13, Titus 3:5-6, John 14:16-18, John 16:7-15, Acts 1:8, I Corinthians 12:1-11, Galatians 5:22-23).

Man

We believe God created mankind in His own image, male and female, a social being uniquely designed to live in relationship with God, and with one another (Genesis 1:17). As a physical being, man is under God's physical laws. We believe the first humans, Adam and Eve, were created male and female respectively to glorify God. As a personal being, man bears the image and likeness of God and possesses the capacities of self-reflection and self-determination. Because of these abilities, man is morally responsible to God to fulfill His purposes in righteousness. While not autonomous, man is free to think and act under God's sovereign rule, and thus can impact his world significantly. Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God, rather than honor, trust, and obey Him. As a spiritual being, man is under God's spiritual and moral laws and, therefore, upon physical death, will receive God's everlasting judgment. Because Adam and Eve defied God's authority, all mankind has inherited a sin nature from birth. Sin impacts man's total being and causes him to be hostile towards God. As a sinner, man is estranged from God, under His just wrath, and incapable of pleasing Him by his efforts alone.

We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one Woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Genesis 18-25). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (I Corinthians 6:18 and 7:2-5, Hebrews 13:4). We believe 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 activity outside of marriage is immoral, sinful, and offensive to God. This includes adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, and the use of pornography (Matthew 15:18-20, I Corinthians 6:9-10).

We believe that in order to uphold our Christian Philosophy of Education and views, and to provide a biblical role model to the students and parents of the Desert Christian Schools community, it is imperative that all persons employed by Desert Christian Schools, in any capacity, or who may serve as volunteers, agree to abide by this statement on man (Matthew 5:16, Philippians 2:14-16, I Thessalonians 5:22).

We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness, and 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 in accord with neither Scripture nor the doctrines of Desert Christian Schools (Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 2:7, Psalm 42:1, Genesis 2:15-17, Psalm 8:3-6, Hebrews 4:12, I Corinthians 3:10-15, Romans 15:1-2, Joshua 24:15, Philippians 4:4-9, Proverbs 21:1, Genesis 2:18-24, Genesis 3:1-24, Romans 5:12-21, Psalm 51:5, Psalm 58:3, Ephesians 4:17-18, Romans 3:10-18, Jeremiah 17:9, Romans 7:14-24, Galatians 6:6-10, Hebrews 9:27-28).

Redemption

We believe God has acted sovereignly to remedy man's hopeless condition. Jesus Christ was sent by God to earth to redeem man from the penalty of his rebellion. Having suffered and died on the cross for sinners, Christ in His atoning death satisfies God's just wrath and brings about reconciliation and redemption for those who trust this work. Just as believers' sins are imputed to Christ, Christ's sinless life on earth is credited to all believers. Both God's love and justice are perfectly revealed in Christ's death on the cross. God's redemption of any person is totally a work of God's grace, received only through faith in Christ and not as a result of human effort, will or merit. This redemptive work has a past, present and future tense. When a person trusts in Christ's salvation, he is redeemed from God's just penalty for sin (justification). As the Christian lives his daily life he experiences God's present redemption related to power over sin's hold (sanctification). The Christian's ultimate hope lies in his final future redemption which will occur at Christ's second coming (glorification). Those who are redeemed will spend eternity with God. Those who do not trust in Christ will be in Hell, separated from God forever. History involves the outworking of God's redemptive purposes for mankind as a whole (Romans 5:1-11, Romans 7:14-25, Ephesians 1:2-12, Ephesians 2:1-10, Philippians 2:12-15, II Thessalonians 2:13-16, Romans 8:29-30, I Corinthians 15:50-54).

The Church

We believe the universal Christian church is a spiritual body made up of all believers in Christ, regardless of denominational differences. Local congregations are physical expressions of the Body of Christ. The purpose of the universal Church is to reveal Christ to a watching world in both word and deed and to proclaim God's redemption in

Christ while building up believers in their faith as they expectantly await His promised return. All believers serve as ministers, who are called to proclaim the message of reconciliation and commissioned by God to go into the world with Christ's saving "good news" (Matthew 16:13-18, Ephesians 2:19-22, Ephesians 4:1-6, I Corinthians 12:12-14, Colossians 1:18, Hebrews 10:23-25, II Peter 3:10-18, II Corinthians 5:20, Romans 9:12-15, John 17:13-26).