

CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

Master's Academy and College

I. OUR STATEMENT OF FAITH

A. INTRODUCTION

Master's Academy and College opened its doors in 1997 as a private Christian school. In 2008, Master's was granted Alternative Program status as a faith based Christian school by Palliser Regional Schools in Alberta. (School Act section 21-RSA 2000)

Our spiritual orientation at Master's Academy & College is based on the Word of God, the Bible, which we hold in its entirety to be the infallible revelation of God. The entirety of the Bible contains an historical and theological description of God's interactions with humankind. As such, it is a consistent narrative of God's past, current and future relationship with humanity. God instructs humanity on how we ought to relate to Him, fellow humans, and every part of His creation. It therefore contains moral teachings on human behaviour, organizational culture, and identity.

The Apostles' Creed and the Bible have been widely followed by Christians for almost two thousand years and have formed the basis of our Statement of Faith.

We hold the following truths to be foundational and self-evident from the Word of God. As a Christian school, we associate with the historical beliefs of the Christian faith as found in the original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments. The Statement of Faith forms the core of Master's beliefs and values.

B. APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

II. OUR BELIEFS and VALUES

A. GOD AND PEOPLE

1. GOD as Father and Creator

- a) God is the holy Trinity – one in essence eternally consisting of three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19; John 10:30; 14:16; 17:21; 2 Corinthians 13:14).
- b) God gives meaning, purpose and identity (Jeremiah 29:11; John 10:10; 14:6).
- c) God is Creator and Designer of our world, both things that are seen and unseen (Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17; Revelation 4:11).
- d) God is everywhere, all powerful and all-knowing (Psalm 139; Jeremiah 32:27; Matthew 19:26; Luke 1:37; 1 John 3:20).
- e) God makes Himself known to us through the Bible, creation, special revelation and through His human incarnation, Jesus Christ (Genesis 1:31; 31:11; Numbers 12:6; Deuteronomy 5:24,27; 1 Kings 3:5; Psalm 19:1; 119; Matthew 1:20; John 1:1,14,18; 6:46; 14:9-11; 20:30-31; Acts 2:17; 8:26-40; Romans 1:20; 15:4; Colossians 1:19; 2 Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12).
- f) God is full of mercy, truth and love and is worthy of our trust and praise (Psalm 86:15; John 1:14; 2 John 1:3).
- g) God is good and just (Psalm 89:14; 1 Timothy 4:4).

2. JESUS as Son of God and Saviour

- a) God, the Son, is one with the Father and the Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26; John 10:30; 14:16; 17:21).
- b) Jesus, both truly God and truly man, was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:18-25).
- c) Jesus, while on earth, was both God and human (John 1:1,14; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:19; Hebrews 2:17).
- d) Jesus taught us what the kingdom of heaven is like (Matthew 13:1-51; 18:1-35; 19:13-15; 20:1-14; 22:1-10; 25:1-29).
- e) Jesus Christ took the punishment for our sin through His sacrificial love for humanity, by dying on the cross (Matthew 20:17-19; Mark 9:31; 10:45; Luke 24:7; John 3:16; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Philippians 2:8; 1 Timothy 2:5-6).
- f) Jesus Christ was resurrected from the grave, and after appearing to many, He ascended into heaven (Matthew 20:17-19; Mark 9:31; 16:14,19; Luke 24:5-7,51-52; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8). His death and resurrection are climactic in history, bringing hope for our future (Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Timothy 1:1).
- g) Through Jesus our Saviour, we have forgiveness, freedom, reconciliation and hope for eternity. When we accept Jesus as the Saviour, we follow a path based on the teachings in the Bible. We are created anew with a fresh start. The old life is gone and a new way of living begins in relationship with God. (Isaiah 43:11; Luke 4:16-21; 24:45-47; Acts 10:43; Romans 6: 6-7; 10:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17-18; Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:9; 2 Peter 1:11; 3:18).

- h) Jesus has promised to return to further establish His kingdom on this earth (Daniel 12:1-2; Acts 1:10-11; Philippians 2:10-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; Revelation 11:17; 21:3-4).
- i) Jesus is our advocate with God the Father (John 14:6; Hebrews 7:25).

3. HOLY SPIRIT as Supernatural Comforter and Helper

- a) God, the Holy Spirit, is one with the Father and the Son (Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19; John 14:16-18; 17:21; Acts 2:33; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6).
- b) The Holy Spirit lives within us to comfort and guide us (John 14:16,26; 16:7-15; 20:22; Acts 2:32-33; 5:32; 8:14-17; 9:31; 10:44; 11:15; 2 Corinthians 13:14).
- c) The Holy Spirit is the sustainer of faith and the giver of love, joy, peace (Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 14:17; 15:13).
- d) The Holy Spirit acts supernaturally in our lives (Acts 1:8; 9:17; Romans 5:5; 8:14-16; 2 Corinthians 3:16-18; Hebrews 2:4; 10:15; 2 Peter 1:21).

4. HUMANS as Creations in the Image of God

- a) God made humans as special members of creation because we are created as unique images of God (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7,19; Psalm 8:3-8; Matthew 19:4-5). As a result of human rebellion, sin and death entered the world, distorting the image of God in us and in all of God's good creation (Romans 5:12-19; 7:13-25; 8:20-23; Ephesians 2:1-5). We are entrusted with the care of God's creation as faithful stewards who have a special place in His order (Genesis 2:15).
- b) Our identity is uniquely and purposefully formed in God's image (Genesis 1:26-27; Psalm 139:13-18).
- c) Both male and female are created in God's image. Maleness and femaleness are gifts of God and designed by God to play complementary and equally important roles in creation (Genesis 1:26-27; 5:2; Matthew 19:4-5; 1 Corinthians 11:11-12; Ephesians 5:21-33).
- d) We are created to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and love our neighbours as ourselves (Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Joshua 22:5; Luke 10:27).
- e) We embrace God's wisdom and those practices that align to God's Word (Psalm 14:1; Proverbs 1:2-6; Romans 12:1-2).
- f) We believe Jesus modelled the way for us to live in harmony with God (Luke 2:52; John 5:19; 10:30; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:19).
- g) We live out God's grace by assisting and serving those in need (Psalm 146:7-9; Micah 6:8; Matthew 25:40; Mark 10:45; Luke 10:30-37; 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13).
- h) We believe that each person has been created with unlimited worth and value in God's eyes (Genesis 1:27,31; Jeremiah 31:3; Luke 12:7; John 10:11; 15:13).
- i) We believe that God is personal and can be known, and therefore we can be in relationship with God, and talk with Him and listen to Him (Psalm 139:1-17,23-24; John 3:16; 15:15; 2 Corinthians 5:18; Colossians 1:20).

- j) We live and work to follow the ways of Jesus and we are uniquely gifted to be the light in our world (Matthew 5:14-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11,27-30; Romans 12:4-21; Ephesians 4:11-12).
- k) As followers of Christ we are called to be witnesses of Christ on this earth (Psalm 145:4-7; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
- l) We have a responsibility to serve and care for one other in alignment with God's will (Genesis 4:9; Psalm 15; Micah 6:8; Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 4:18; Romans 12:9; Galatians 6:2; Philippians 2:3-5).

B. INTEGRATION OF BIBLICALLY BASED CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW

1. BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW as the basis of foundational life perspective

- a) We interpret life through the lens of scripture and teach from a biblically-based Christian worldview (2 Timothy 3:16; Acts 17).
- b) We can seek God's wisdom which is available to us for the choices we make (Proverbs 2:1-11; 3:1-26; 9:1-12; James 1:5; 3:17).
- c) We are in a spiritual conflict between two kingdoms – one good and the other evil (Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; 8:44; Ephesians 6:10-13; 1 John 4:8; Revelation 12:9).
- d) We aim to understand and respectfully discuss how alternative worldviews differ from a biblically-based Christian worldview (Acts 17; Colossians 2:8; Hebrews 13:9; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Peter 3:17).
- e) God has designed us with free will. Therefore, students are free to explore and form their own worldview (Joshua 24:15; Revelation 3:20).

2. GOD AS CREATOR & DESIGNER as the basis for understanding purpose

- a) We believe that God is the designer and creator of all things for purposes revealed to us in the Bible (Genesis 1; 2:7; Psalm 139; Colossians 1:15-17).
- b) We believe the universe and its complex life forms cannot be explained solely by natural causes, and therefore we embrace a theistic view as the origin of the universe (Job 38:1-42:6; Psalm 104:1-30).
- c) We believe in the orderliness of the creative design of our universe as revealed in the Bible (Genesis 1; John 17:17; Colossians 1:15-17; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- d) We believe the Bible and science are in harmony and help us understand the world we live in. (John 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17)

3. INTENTIONAL AND SPONTANEOUS EXPERIENCES as the basis for a Christian culture

- a) We nurture a culture of respect through love, grace, hope, joy and freedom in Christ (Romans 12:17; 13:7; 14:17; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 5:13).
- b) Our Christian worldview is modeled and intentionally taught in school programming (Deuteronomy 6:7; Psalm 78:1-7; Philippians 4:9).
- c) Our organizational culture allows us to wrestle with the contemporary issues of the day through respectful interactions (Jeremiah 12:5; Romans 12:1-2; Philippians 4:8; Colossians 2:8; Hebrews 10:24-25).

- d) Our organization creates experiences in which students can find hope through their relationship with Christ, and can find their God-given destiny for their lives (Psalm 62:5; 146:5; Jeremiah 1:5; Colossians 1:19-20).
- e) Our Christian Integration model includes: **Identity** given by God (Genesis 1:26-31), **Wisdom** given by God (Proverbs 2:1-11; 9:10), **Relationships** restored by God (Matthew 5:23-24, 43-44; 18:15; Mark 12:30-31), **Service** to our world (Mark 10:45), having the Biblical **Values** of God (Micah 6:8; Luke 4:18).
- f) We believe that God, through the Holy Spirit, is able to encourage, inspire, comfort, teach and guide students through interaction with the teachers and one another, both inside and outside of the classroom (Deuteronomy 6:7-9; John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13; Luke 2:52; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 John 4:6).
- g) We believe that students need to see practical faith in the lives of the faculty as staff grow in their faith (Luke 6:40; Hebrews 13:7; 3 John 1:11).

C. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT - WHO A STUDENT IS BECOMING

At Master's, personal development of the student is as important as pursuing academic excellence. Our mission is to prepare students to be Future Ready by becoming Master Learners, Imaginal Leaders, and Christ Followers.

1. MASTER LEARNER

- a) Our students can own and direct their learning in their formative years (Luke 6:40).

2. IMAGINAL LEADER

- a) Our students can see and create a future that aligns with God's will (Matthew 6:9-13; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 1:4).

3. CHRIST FOLLOWER

- a) Our students can integrate hope in God and personally experience God's love, forgiveness and destiny (John 4:28-30, 39-42; 8:1-11; 9:15,25; Acts 17:32; 2 Timothy 2:15; Hebrews 11:1-3).