

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

## Ministry Resources International Statement of Faith

### Preface

The following Statement of Faith expands on the abbreviated one found on MRI's website, substantiating in depth MRI's beliefs and faith with selected Biblical texts. Both the shorter and expanded statements are not designed to detail every aspect of the primary articles presented, or defend any particular practice or theological preference. Rather, they intend to be succinct and "universal" presentations of foundational, Scriptural truths.

MRI's statements of faith are based on Reconciliation as the overarching theme of Scripture in multiple aspects, including the reconciliation of man to God, reconciliation between human races and ethnicity, reconciliation of the Twelve Tribes of Judah, etc.

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**1. The Triuneness of God:** We emphasize the one true, living God, eternally exhibited as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, equal in power and Deity.

(Limited, selected texts)

**Genesis 1:1-4** *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. <sup>2</sup>The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.<sup>3</sup> And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. <sup>4</sup>And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.*

*(compare also **John 1:1-5** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it )*

**Deuteronomy 6:4** *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

**Matthew 28:19** *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*

**2. Jesus:** We emphasize:

a) That Jesus, as Christ, is the visible incarnation of the living God, and is both true God and true man.

(Limited, selected texts)

**John 1:1-14** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

## b) His virgin birth.

(Limited, selected texts)

**Matthew 1:24-25** *When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife,<sup>25</sup> but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.*

**Luke 1:35**<sup>35</sup> *And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.*

**Luke 2:7** *And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

## c) His teaching and His miracles. (see Matthew chapters 5-7; Luke 6:1-45, etc. regarding His teaching)

(Limited, selected texts)

**Luke 6:46-49** *"Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?"<sup>47</sup> Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like:<sup>48</sup> he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.<sup>49</sup> But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."*

**John 21:25** *Now there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*

## d) That He gave His life on the cross where He, who knew no sin, was made sin for us. Also, that He was buried and rose from the dead, afterward ascended into heaven, from whence He will come again, and serves as the perfect High Priest and Mediator of the new covenant.

(Limited, selected texts)

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures...*

**Hebrews 7:26-28** *For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.<sup>27</sup> He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.<sup>28</sup> For the law appoints men in their weakness as high priests, but the word of the oath, which came later than the law, appoints a Son who has been made perfect forever.*

**Hebrews 9:11-15** *But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation)<sup>12</sup> he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.<sup>13</sup> For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh,<sup>14</sup> how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.<sup>15</sup> Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.*

## e) The Return of Jesus

**Matthew 24:36** *"But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.*

**John 14:1-3** *"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me.<sup>2</sup> In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you?<sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.*

*The return of Jesus; Continued on page 3*

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Titus 2:11-14** For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, <sup>13</sup> waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, <sup>14</sup> who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

**1 Peter 1:13** Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**3. The Bible:** We emphasize the Holy Bible- the sixty six books of the Old and New Testament- to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings. The Holy Bible is the supreme rule of faith and truth. We emphasize the whole counsel of God.

(Limited, selected texts)

**Psalm 19:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure,  
making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure,  
enlightening the eyes;  
<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is clean,  
enduring forever;  
the rules of the LORD are true,  
and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**Matthew 5:17-19** "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup> For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

**Matthew 24:35** "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away."

#### 4. Man:

- a) We emphasize that man is made in the image and likeness of God.

(Limited, selected texts)

**Genesis 1:26-27** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- b) We also highlight all humans, after the fall of Adam (see Genesis 3:1-19), are born with a sin nature, and until reconciled to God through the finished work of Christ, are under everlasting condemnation.

(Limited, selected texts)

**Romans 5:12-21** Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—<sup>13</sup> for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. <sup>16</sup> And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. <sup>17</sup> For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. <sup>19</sup> For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. <sup>20</sup> Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, <sup>21</sup> so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- c) Christ's Spirit convicts man and regenerates all who repent of their sins, confessing Jesus as their Savior and Lord and believing in His resurrection.

(Limited, selected texts)

**John 15:22** If I had not come and spoken to them, they would not have been guilty of sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin.

**John 16:7-11** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

- d) We emphasize humans are saved by grace through faith, apart from works, that all sinners who repent and personally accept the finished work of Jesus on the cross and His subsequent resurrection become children of God; they are new creatures in Christ and have the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit. (see John 3:1-15)

(Limited, selected texts)

**Ephesians 2:1-18** And you were dead in the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— <sup>3</sup> among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. <sup>11</sup> Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called "the uncircumcision" by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— <sup>12</sup> remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

*Ephesians 2:1-18; Continued on page 5*

*Ephesians 2:1-18; Continued from page 4*

<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility <sup>15</sup> by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, <sup>16</sup> and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. <sup>17</sup> And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

**Colossians 3:10** ...and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

## 5. The Church:

- a) We emphasize that the church is the bride of Christ and consists of all Believers.

(Limited, selected texts)

### **Revelation 19:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out,

“Hallelujah!

For the Lord our God

the Almighty reigns.

<sup>7</sup>Let us rejoice and exult

and give him the glory,

for the marriage of the Lamb has come,

and his Bride has made herself ready;

<sup>8</sup>it was granted her to clothe herself

with fine linen, bright and pure”—

for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-14** For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup>For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

- b) We emphasize that Jesus as Christ is the Head of the Church

(Limited, selected texts)

**Ephesian 1:22-23** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**Ephesians 4:1-6** I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

<sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—<sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**Colossians 1:13-18** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup>in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. <sup>15</sup>He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. <sup>16</sup>For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup>And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

- c) We emphasize worship as the central element of the church carried out through preaching, teaching, prayer, music, discipleship, evangelism and ministering to the needs of others since our love for God and our neighbor are inextricably linked. 1 Peter 1:13-25, Matt. 25:35-40.

(Limited, selected texts)

**Ephesians 4:11-13** And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,

**Colossians 1:28** Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

**Ephesians 3:10-11** ...so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord...

**Matthew 35-40** For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’ <sup>38</sup>And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you?’ <sup>39</sup>And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’

**6. Mission and Discipleship:** We emphasize three primary, New Testament directives of Christ:

**1) In Christ, make and develop disciples of all nations. Matthew 28:19a, 20a**

**Matthew 28:19, 20** ...Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

**2) Baptize disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.**

**Matthew 28:19b** ...baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...

**Acts 2:38** And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**3) Participate in Communion.**

**1 Corinthians 10:16-17** The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?<sup>17</sup> Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

**1 Corinthians 11:23-26** For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread,<sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."<sup>25</sup> In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."<sup>26</sup> For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**7. Salvation:** We emphasize that salvation is offered as a gift by the grace of God, and cannot be attained or lost by human works.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**Romans 10:9-10** If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

**1 Peter 2:24** "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

**Romans 3:23** For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

**Romans 8:38-39** For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Ephesians 2:4-9** But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us,<sup>5</sup> even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,<sup>7</sup> so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Hebrews 7:25** Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

## MRI Abbreviated Statement of Faith

**The Triuneness of God:** We emphasize the Triuneness of God exhibited as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Jesus:** We emphasize Jesus as both True God & True Man, and believe in His finished work on the Cross & subsequent Resurrection.

**The Bible:** We emphasize the Bible as the Perfect and Inspired Word of God.

**Man:** We emphasize that Man is made in the image of God, is born into sin since Adam, and saved only by the Grace of God.

**The Church:** We emphasize that the Church is the Bride of Christ and must be a mechanism of Reconciliation and an expression of God's love on Earth.

**Mission and Discipleship:** We endeavor to fulfill Christ's Commission through the Development, Baptism, and Communion of and by disciples.

**Salvation:** We emphasize that Salvation is offered as a gift by the Grace of God, and cannot be attained or lost by human works.