

## Statements on Faith, Life, and Conduct

### Mission and Community

Harvest Academy is a distinctly Christian community dedicated to fulfilling its mission of:

*Partnering with Christian parents to provide their children with a classical education founded on a Biblical worldview, to form missionally-minded disciples through a lifelong pursuit of knowledge and wisdom in their passionate service of Jesus Christ.*

Harvest is distinguished by its commitment to teaching and practicing the things that the Bible proclaims as noble, good, true, and beautiful, and in doing so, fostering ideals that lead to children flourishing in ways consistent with a Biblical worldview. This commitment informs our moral, ethical, and behavioral standards, which when observed, have a profound impact on our lives - from the meditations of our hearts, to the work of our hands, and the words we speak. It shapes our culture, informing what we pursue, nurture, and celebrate, as well as the ideals we avoid, renounce, and pray deliverance from. It becomes the “how” and “what” of our shared lives as a community seeking to equip families to learn and live out the glorious, historic, and orthodox truths of the Christian faith.

Our desire to be a God-honoring community requires that we develop and affirm mutual understandings. We seek to promote Christian freedoms without becoming libertine and to promote responsibility without encouraging the bondage of legalism. This is a daunting task, but neither the difficulties nor imperfections should deter us from establishing necessary and reasonable expectations. We seek to cultivate the ethos shared by the Lutheran theologian Meldenius, “*In essentials unity, in nonessentials diversity, and in all things charity.*” It is with this heart and mind that we share the following Statements to outline the beliefs, understandings, and expectations for members in the Harvest community.

### Basic Assumptions and Principles

Harvest Academy is unapologetically rooted in its identity as a distinctly Christian community. Therefore, we desire that all members of our community will:

1. Identify as a Christian by virtue of the grace of God and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
2. Desire to grow in both knowledge and wisdom, as well as in loves and habits, because of a deep commitment to live out the work of the Trinity in their life.
3. Recognize that parents are primarily responsible before God for their children’s education and that it is Harvest’s mission to assist in this task.
4. Participate in the ministry of a local Bible-believing church and in personal disciplines of the faith.
5. Embrace that the work at Harvest is a personal calling and that each person - whether staff, teacher, co-teacher, student, or parent - would see themselves as engaged in the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
6. Understand they are part of a non-denominational, orthodox Christian community, in which unity is sought while diversity within orthodoxy is respected and valued.
7. Accept the biblical obligation to submit to governing authorities, whether national, local, or institutional, except in matters that contradict the Word of God.
8. Know that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and that redemption for sin is found only in the person of and sanctifying work of Jesus Christ.

## Harvest Academy Core Beliefs

Faculty, staff, board members, students, and parents of Harvest Academy embrace the historic tenets of Christianity as presented in the following core beliefs. Beyond these primary doctrines, we respect and acknowledge many secondary doctrinal questions exist among the true Body of Christ. We defer to parents and their local churches to clarify these issues.

**The Bible:** We believe the Bible to be the only inerrant, authoritative Word of God, and that it is, therefore, the final authority in matters of faith and practice. We seek to store His Word in our hearts and believe it is the supreme standard by which all of our thoughts, words, and deeds should be formed. (2 Timothy 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21, Exodus 24:4, Deuteronomy 17:19, Psalm 19:7-10, Psalm 119:11, Isaiah 34:16, Isaiah 40:8)

**The Trinity:** We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19; John 1:1; John 10:30; Colossians 2:9; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

**God the Father:** We believe the Father is fully God, and His fatherhood is eternal and personal. He is the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of all who believe in Christ. (Genesis 1:1; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 4:4-6; 2 Corinthians 6:18)

**God the Son:** We believe in the supreme deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His substitutionary and atoning death, salvation through His shed blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His coming return. (Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-2, 14; 3:16-18; Acts 1:9-11; Romans 5:8-11; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Ephesians 1:20-23; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 4:14-15; 7:25; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17)

**God the Holy Spirit:** We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells all believers. He is the promised Helper. He, likewise, convicts of sin, increases desires for righteousness and obedience, leads in truth, brings assurance, empowers, and gives spiritual gifts to the church. (John 3:3-8; 14:16-17; 16:7-11; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 12:11-13; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

**Human Nature:** We believe all people are created in the image of God, to be like Him in character. He made us male and female, in His image. Through our own choosing, our sin alienates us from God, makes us liable for His judgment, and ultimately results in eternal death apart from God's salvation. (Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 1:18-23; 3:23; 5:12; 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3, Colossians 1:21-22, 3:9-11)

**Salvation:** We believe it is through Christ's death on the cross, where He took our sin upon Himself, and His resurrection, where He defeated death once and for all, that we can be made right with God on the basis of Christ's righteousness and atoning death. We can never make up for our sin by self-improvement or good works. Only by trusting in Jesus Christ alone can we be forgiven for our sin, overcome our separation from God, and be saved from God's judgment. At salvation, we are justified by God; meaning that we are declared positionally righteous before God because of our identification with Jesus Christ. (John 1:12-13; 6:37-40; 10:28-30; Ephesians 1:7, 13; 2:8-9; 1 John 5:11-13)

**The Christian Life:** We believe it is God's will that through the Holy Spirit, we continually grow in grace, in obedience, and in our love for Him until we get to heaven and are made perfect in Christ. (Romans 6:1-8; 1 Corinthians 6:11; Philippians 1:6, 2:13)

**The Family:** We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons relating to one another through marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one biological man and one biological woman in a covenant commitment for a lifetime. The husband and wife are equally made in God's image, and this family unit is God's design for procreation. From the moment of conception, children are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values, and to lead them well through loving discipline and God's Word. Harvest Academy exists to serve alongside the family unit, to aid in God's plan and purpose for raising His children. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Joshua 24:15; 1 Samuel 1:26-28; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Proverbs 1:8; 5:15-20; 6:20-22; 12:4; 13:24; 14:1; 17:6; 18:22; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 24:3; 29:15,17; 31:10-31; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; 9:9; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Colossians 3:18-21; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.)

**Eternity:** We believe in the bodily resurrection of all people. We believe in a literal heaven and hell, and that all men will either spend eternity under God’s just and holy judgment or in His glorious presence. (Daniel 12:2; Matthew 25:31, 46; John 5:28-29; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; 2 Thessalonians 1:9)

**The Church:** We believe that believers comprise the Church which is the Family of God, the Body of Christ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and that it is expressed in local churches. It was created by God to display His glory on the earth by reaching out to people who do not know Him, lifting up worship to Him, loving one another as His family, growing in maturity to be like Christ, and serving others in His name. (Matthew 26:26-29; 28:18-20; Acts 2:42-47; 1 Corinthians 12:1-27; Ephesians 1:22-23; 3:10; Colossians 1:18; 1 John 3:14-18)

We believe that to preserve the integrity and mission of Harvest Academy as a Christian discipleship school, and to provide a biblical example to those within and outside our community, all Harvest employees, volunteers, co-teachers, and parents agree to and abide by these Statements of Faith, Life, and Conduct.

These statements do not, however, define the boundaries of our fellowship, care, or attention. Nor are they an excuse for indifference or a reason to refuse extending mercy, kindness, compassion, and love - in word and deed- to all who suffer from the brokenness of a fallen world. As fellow sinners, the gospel of Jesus calls us to walk in humility, clinging to the cross of Christ for salvation and not to claims of moral superiority or self-righteousness. These Statements, therefore, are far from rigid standards that demand perfection. Rather, they are intended as a shared set of beliefs, expectations, and ideals to agree upon, proclaim, and pursue. If any member finds themselves out of accord with these beliefs or pursuing practices contrary to these Statements, they should speak with an appropriate member of the faculty, administration, or board to determine whether their beliefs can be reconciled with those of Harvest Academy.

These Statements do not exhaust the extent of our beliefs and standards. 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. However, for the purposes of Harvest Academy’s faith, doctrine, policy, and discipline, the Harvest Academy School Board is the final interpretive authority on the Bible’s meaning and application.

Accepting full responsibility for understanding the Harvest Academy Statements on Faith, Life, and Conduct, we the undersigned commit to our pursuit of upholding these beliefs and standards.

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