

## MCF's Statement of Faith

We believe that God is the creator of everything and that all men are accountable to Him. Man, when first created, was unmarked by sin and at peace with Holy God. Man disobeyed his creator and because of this sin lost his position of peace with his God. Fallen man then passed on this sinful nature to his children so that everyone is born into this world separated from God. God deeply loves man and desires restored peace but sin demands separation.

*Genesis 1-3, Ephesians 2:1-3, II Peter 3:9*

We believe that the only way to be reconciled to God is by faith in what Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has done for us. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a virgin, thus he did not inherit a sinful nature. He lived a sinless life, not losing his peace with God. He shed His blood by dying on a cross, taking on Himself all of mankind's sins and bearing the punishment for those sins. Sin is forgiven, and peace with God is restored when one accepts by faith that Jesus has been punished in place of man. He was buried and then raised to life by the power of God.

*Luke 1:35, Hebrews 4:15, I Peter 2:24, Romans 5:1, Romans 1:4*

We believe that faith in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins means that the forgiven sinner begins to trust Jesus to rule his life. The Christian life then becomes a daily outworking of Jesus lovingly expressing His lordship in a person.

*Acts 26:20, Hebrews 9:14*

We believe that Bible is written revelation of who God is and how He wants His people to live. The lordship of Jesus will always be in agreement with the Bible.

*II Timothy 3:16*

We believe that anyone who has chosen to let Jesus be lord, must be baptized in water. Water baptism, a clear command of Jesus recorded in the Bible, is a visible demonstration of being reconciled to God.

*Matthew 28:19, Romans 6:3-4*

We believe that the baptism and empowering of the Holy Spirit, is God's provision for those people to live powerfully and victoriously. We encourage believers to accept this gift and to earnestly desire the manifestation of the Holy Spirit's gifts.

*Acts 1:8, I Corinthians 14:1*

We believe that God desires to bind all believers together in love. Maturity as a Christian comes as one relates to other believers in small groups, where one can trust and be trusted, and in the larger Sunday morning gathering where we all celebrate together. As we meet, we expect to praise and worship God, we anticipate the expression of the gifts of the Spirit, we will pray, and as God gives understanding, we will learn truth from the Bible.

*Hebrews 10:25, Acts 20:20, I Corinthians 14:26*

We believe God is asking each believer to be a participant in, and not just a spectator of, what He is doing on the earth today.

*Ephesians 2:10*

**Each person at Mechanicsburg Christian Fellowship can be a part of the Church's mission of "helping each other become fully devoted Followers of Jesus Christ."**

**To do that we must:**

**WIN** We must lead people to Jesus Christ and help them understand the good news of forgiveness of sins and a life of victory. This calls for action. We go to them, do acts of kindness for them, and make friends with them. We do this as a lifestyle among the people wherever we live. We want to win those who have never heard about Christ as well as those who have been disillusioned with the church.

**BUILD** Those who come to belief in Christ must be nourished to experience a quality of life that is God-dependent. They must be taught the Bible. They must be given opportunity to share needs and questions and helped to find their answers in the Bible. They must be set free of bondage, produce the fruit of the Spirit. A life of constant change should be the norm.

**SEND** Each of us has the responsibility to encourage the ones who have been won and built to now go and do likewise with others. Each Christian is a minister and the place to minister is one's own backyard, whether in the hometown or another country. The question now is not primarily, are my needs being met, but rather am I serving others? We have received and now we give.