

Life Changing Ministries International

Statement of Faith/Doctrine

The Scriptures

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to men, the infallible rule of faith and conduct (2 Tim. 3:15-17; 1 Pet. 1:23-25; Heb. 4:12).

It reveals the principles and laws by which God judges us, and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. All Scripture is a testimony to Christ, who is Himself the focus of divine revelation.

Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalms 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105,140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

One God

There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), who is infinitely perfect (Matthew 5:48), existing eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19). Jesus Christ is the true God and the true man (Philippians 2:6-11). He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:34-38). He died upon the cross, the Just for the unjust (1 Peter 3:18), as a substitutionary sacrifice (Hebrews 2:9), and all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood (Romans 5:9). He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures (Acts 2:23-24). He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on high as our great High Priest (Hebrews 8:1). He will come again to establish His kingdom, righteousness and peace (Matthew 26:64)

Trinity

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There is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. These three are co-equal and co-eternal (1 John 5:7; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 3:16-17, 28:19; Luke 1:35; Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 3:7-11). The Holy Spirit is a divine person (John 14:15-18), sent to indwell, guide, teach, empower the believer (John 16:13; Acts 1:8), and convict and convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment (John 16:7-11).

Man's Fall and Redemption

Man was created good and upright, for God said, "Let us make man in our image and after our likeness." Man, by voluntary transgression, fell from that happy and holy state, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Gen. 1:26-31; Gen. 3:17; Rom. 5:12-21).

Regeneration

For anyone to know God, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential (John 6:44, 65).

Salvation

We are saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ; His death, burial, and resurrection. Salvation is a gift from God, not a result of our good works or of any human efforts (Acts 2:21; Ephesians 2:8-9; Galatians 2:16, 3:8; Titus 3:5; Romans 10:9-10; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 9:22).

Repentance

Repentance is the commitment to turn away from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ, which allows us to receive His redemption and to be regenerated by the Holy Spirit. Thus, through repentance we receive forgiveness of sins and appropriate salvation (Acts 2:21, 38, 3:19; Matthew 3:2, 4:17; 1 John 1:9).

Sanctification

Sanctification is the ongoing process of yielding to God's Word and His Spirit in order to complete the development of Christ's character in us. It is through the present ministry of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God that the Christian is enabled to live a godly life (1Thessalonians 4:3, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 3:18, 6:14-18, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, Romans 8:29, 12:1-2, Hebrews 2:11).

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

Healing Power

Provision is made in the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ for the healing of the mortal body (Matthew 8:16-17). Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil are taught in the Scriptures and are privileges for the Church in this present age (James 5:13-16).

God's Purpose of Grace

Grace is God's unmerited favor. For you have been delivered by grace through trusting, and even this is not your accomplishment but God's gift. Ephesians 2:8

The Church

"Ekklesia" is the called out assembly consisting of a body of disciples (believers, saints) who are headed by, governed by, loved by and subject to Christ who is the Savior of the body and gave Himself for the body. Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 1:22, 4:15; Ephesians 5:23-25, 29; Colossians 1:18, 24; Hebrews 12:23

The church of the firstborn – Hebrews 12:23

A people chosen by God – 1 Peter 2:9; John 15:16; Romans 8:33; Ephesians 1:4; Colossians 3:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; James 2:5; 1 Peter 1:2

A people called by God – Romans 1:6; Acts 2:39; 1 Corinthians 1:2,9; Galatians 1:6; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 2 Timothy 1:9; Jude 1

A people loved by God - 1 Peter 2:10; Ephesians 2:1-5; Titus 3:4-7

God's covenant people – Hebrews 8:8-10; Romans 11:27; Isaiah 59:20-21; Hebrews 10:16; Jeremiah 31:31-33

The Kingdom

The Kingdom of God includes both His general sovereignty over the universe and His particular kingship over men who willfully acknowledge Him as King. Particularly the Kingdom is the realm of salvation into which men enter by being born again with a trustful, childlike commitment to Jesus Christ. Christians ought to pray and to labor that the Kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth. The full consummation of the Kingdom awaits the return of Jesus Christ and the end of this age.

Kingdom citizens are to live so the Sovereign rulership and governing influence of the King's will, purpose, and intent is manifested in the Earth through their lives.

Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Matthew 3:2; 4:8-10,23; 12:25-28; 13:1-52; 25:31-46; 26:29; Mark 1:14-15; 9:1; Luke 4:43; 8:1; 9:2; 12:31-32; 17:20-21; 23:42; John 3:3; 18:36; Acts 1:6-7; 17:22-31; Romans 5:17; 8:19; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 11:10,16; 12:28; 1 Peter 2:4-10; 4:13; Revelation 1:6,9; 5:10; 11:15; 21-22.

Evangelism and Missions

It is the duty and privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to make disciples of all nations. The new birth of man's spirit by God's Holy Spirit means the birth of love for others. Missionary effort on the part of all rests thus upon a spiritual necessity of the regenerate life, and is expressly and repeatedly commanded in the teachings of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has commanded the preaching of the gospel to all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to win the lost to Christ by verbal witness undergirded by a Christian lifestyle, and by other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ.

Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.

Stewardship

God is the source of all blessings, temporal and spiritual; all that we have and are we owe to Him. Christians have a spiritual debtorship to the whole world, a holy trusteeship in the gospel, and a binding stewardship in their possessions. They are therefore under obligation to serve Him with their time, talents, and material possessions; and should recognize all these as entrusted to them to use for the glory of God and for helping others. According to the Scriptures, Christians should contribute of their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally for the advancement of the Redeemer's cause on earth.

Genesis 14:20; Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 8:18; Malachi 3:8-12; Matthew 6:1-4,19-21; 19:21; 23:23; 25:14-29; Luke 12:16-21,42; 16:1-13; Acts 2:44-47; 5:1-11; 17:24-25; 20:35; Romans 6:6-22; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; 6:19-20; 12; 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8-9; 12:15; Philippians 4:10-19; 1 Peter 1:18-19.

The Christian and the Social Order

All Christians are under obligation to seek to make the will of Christ supreme in their own lives and in human society. Means and methods used for the improvement of society and the establishment of righteousness among men can be truly and permanently helpful only when they are rooted in the regeneration of the individual by the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ. In the spirit of Christ, Christians should oppose racism, every form of greed, selfishness, and vice, and all forms of sexual immorality, including adultery, homosexuality,

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and pornography. We should work to provide for the orphaned, the marginalized (needy), the abused, the aged, the helpless, and the sick. We should speak on behalf of the unborn and contend for the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death. In order to promote these ends Christians should be ready to work with all men of good will in any good cause, always being careful to act in the spirit of love without compromising their loyalty to Christ and His truth.

Exodus 20:3-17; Leviticus 6:2-5; Deuteronomy 10:12; 27:17; Psalm 101:5; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 8:16; Matthew 5:13-16, 43-48; 22:36-40; 25:35; Mark 1:29-34; 2:3ff.; 10:21; Luke 4:18-21; 10:27-37; 20:25; John 15:12; 17:15; Romans 12-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-10; 6:1-7; 7:20-24; 10:23-11:1; Galatians 3:26-28; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:12-17; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; Philemon; James 1:27; 2:8.

Religious Liberty

God alone is Lord of the conscience. He has left it free from the doctrines and commandments of men, which are contrary to His Word or not contained in it. Church and state should be separate. The state owes to every church protection and full freedom in the pursuit of its spiritual ends. In providing for such freedom no ecclesiastical group or denomination should be favored by the state more than others. Civil government being ordained of God, it is the duty of Christians to render loyal obedience thereto in all things not contrary to the revealed will of God. The church should not resort to the civil power to carry on its work. The gospel of Christ contemplates spiritual means alone for the pursuit of its ends. The state has no right to impose penalties for religious opinions of any kind. The state has no right to impose taxes for the support of any form of religion. A free church in a free state is the Christian ideal, and this implies the right of free and unhindered access to God on the part of all men, and the right to form and propagate opinions in the sphere of religion without interference by the civil power.

Genesis 1:27; 2:7; Matthew 6:6-7, 24; 16:26; 22:21; John 8:36; Acts 4:19-20; Romans 6:1-2; 13:1-7; Galatians 5:1, 13; Philippians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; James 4:12; 1 Peter 2:12-17; 3:11-17; 4:12-19.

The Family – (Scriptures by each section)

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, as defined in our bylaws and Statements of Faith, blood, or adoption.

God created marriage. Marriage is a covenant made between a man and a woman that makes them one (Gen 2: 22,24; Matt 19: 5-6). It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race. Marriage should be described as sacred. The wedding ceremony must be described as a religious ceremony. Marriage ceremonies at the church or properties of the church are limited only to those that align with the church's doctrinal view.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents.

Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Leviticus 18:22-30; 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; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7.

Ordinances

Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Immersion of a believer in water, symbolizing the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ: to show forth our faith in the risen Savior, with its effect in our death to sin and resurrection to a new life. It is an outward sign of an inward change.

The Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of obedience whereby members of the church, through partaking of the bread and the fruit of the vine, memorialize the death of the Redeemer, Jesus, and anticipate His second coming.

Matthew 3:13-17; 26:26-30; 28:19-20; Mark 1:9-11; 14:22-26; Luke 3:21-22; 22:19-20; John 3:23; Acts 2:41-42; 8:35-39; 16:30-33; 20:7; Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 10:16,21; 11:23-29; Colossians 2:12.

Foot Washing

This ordinance demonstrates an act of submission one to another as Jesus washed the disciples' feet, we are to observe the same as enjoined in the Scriptures (John 13:1-17; Luke 7:36-50).

Sabbath and the Feasts

It is our institution for Sabbath observance.

Genesis 2:2-3; Exodus 20:8-11; 31:13-17; Leviticus 23:1-3; Deuteronomy 5:12-14

The feast of the LORD are holy convocations and are observed as listed:

Festival	What It Celebrates	Its Importance	Fulfillment
Spring Feast			
Passover (Pesach)– One day Exodus 12: 1-14; Leviticus 23:5	When God spared the lives of Israel's firstborn children in Egypt and freed the Hebrews from slavery	Reminded the people of G-d's deliverance	Jesus shed His precious blood on the cross. Fulfilled John 19:31-34; 1 Corinthians 11:25
Unleavened Bread – Seven Days Exodus 12:15-20; 13:3; Leviticus 23:6-8	The Exodus from Egypt	Reminded the people they were leaving the old life behind and entering a new way of living	Jesus's body was holy and without sin. Fulfilled 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

First Fruits (Harvest) – One day Leviticus 23:9-14	The first crops of the barley harvest	Reminded the people how God provided for them	Jesus is the 1 st resurrection from the dead (to never die again). Romans 6:9; 1 Corinthians 15:20-28
Harvest (Pentecost), Shavu'ot, Weeks – One day Leviticus 23:15-22; Exodus 34:22; Numbers 28:26-31; Deuteronomy 16:9-10	The end of the barley harvest and beginning of the wheat harvest	Showed joy and thanksgiving over the bountiful harvest. Two loaves waved in the temple (symbolic of Jew and Gentile as one family)	The Holy Ghost dwelling within us. Fulfilled Acts 2:1-4
Autumn Feast			
Trumpets – One day Leviticus 23:23-25; Numbers 29:1-6	The beginning of the seventh month (civil new year)	Expressed joy and thanksgiving to God. (Trumpet call of assembly, call to war, call to move to new location)	Event yet to come – read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur)- One day – Leviticus 23:26-32; Numbers 29:7-11	The removal of sin from the people and the nation	Restored fellowship with God. Call to eternally secure salvation	Event yet to come read Revelation 20:11-15
Tabernacles (Shelters) Sukkot - Seven Days Leviticus 23:33-43; Numbers 29:12-40; Deuteronomy 16:13-17	God's protection and guidance in the wilderness	Renewed Israel's commitment to God and trust in His guidance and protection	Event yet to come– read Zechariah 14:16-19; Revelation 21:1-3