

MVBC Doctrinal Statement

The Scriptures We believe that the Scriptures of the Old (39) and New (27) Testaments as verbally inspired by God, inerrant, and complete, and that they are of supreme and final authority in faith and life (II Pet. 1:20-21; II Tim. 3:16-17).

The Godhead We believe in one God creator of all things, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – yet who are one in essence and equal in every divine perfection (Gen. 1:1; Deut. 6:4; Matt. 3:13-17; 28:19; John 10:25-31; II Cor. 13:11-14; Phil. 2:5-11).

Jesus Christ We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary and is fully God and fully man (Matt. 1:18-20; Luke 1:26-38; John 1:1-2, 14). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures, as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the basis of His shed blood (Rom 10:9-13; I Cor. 15:3; II Cor. 5:21; Rom. 3:21-26). We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus, in His ascension into Heaven, and His present life there for us as High Priest and Advocate (Matt. 28:1-10; Acts 1:9; 2:33; Heb. 7:25-28; 10:12; I Jn 2:1). We believe in the personal and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ (Acts 1:11; I Thess. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:20-28).

The Holy Spirit We believe in the Holy Spirit, Who convicts the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgement; regenerates all believers; indwells, seals and fills those who are saved. He works in His people to bring comfort, sanctification, and bear fruit (John 3:6; 16:7-11; Rom. 8:9; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:30; 5:18). We believe that the Holy Spirit gives each believer gifts according to and through the power of God for the expansion of Christ's Kingdom. God expects His people to use these gifts for the benefit of all believers and their communities (I Cor. 12:7-11; 27-31; Rom. 12:3-8; I Pet. 4:10-11).

Humanity We believe that humanity was created male and female in the image of God; that they sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God; and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature and in practice become sinners in thought, word, and deed (Gen. 1:26-27; 3:1-24; Rom. 3:23; 5:12-21; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-6).

Salvation We believe that salvation is the gift of God, given by grace and received through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose blood was shed on the cross for the forgiveness of sins. Salvation is solely by grace through faith in Jesus Christ's atoning work and apart from human merit. Salvation consists of regeneration, justification, sanctification and glorification. (Rom. 5:8-11; I Cor. 1:18; 6:11; Eph. 2:8-9; John 1:12; 3:5-7). We believe that all the people of God are kept by God's power and are secure in Christ forever (John 10:27-30; Rom. 8:30-39).

Church We believe that the Church – a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the Head, and all regenerated people in this age are a part. We believe that a local church is comprised of believers in Jesus Christ, immersed upon a credible confession of faith, and associated together for worship, service, and fellowship. We believe that the church is the center of God's program in this age, and that every Christian is called to participate in a local church. We believe that God, in accord with His own will, does hear and answer the prayer for the sick and afflicted (Matt. 16:16-18; I Cor. 12:12-17; Acts 2:42-47; I Tim. 3:15-16; Jam. 5:14-16).

The Ordinances We believe that the ordinances of the Church are Baptism and the Lord's Supper; that Baptism, by immersion, should be administered to believers only, and that the Lord's Supper should be partaken of by believers (Matt. 28:19; Acts 8:36-39; Rom 6:3-5; I Cor. 11:23-32).

The Great Commission We believe in the spreading of the Gospel and making disciples as Jesus said (Mark 16:15; Matt. 28:19-20; Luke 24:44-53; John 20:21-23; Acts 1:8).

Marriage and the Family Marriage is the union of one man and one woman in lifetime commitment (Gen. 1:26-28; 2:15-25; I Cor. 7:1-16; Heb. 13:4). Parents are to teach and demonstrate spiritual and moral values, consistent lifestyle, and loving discipline to their children (Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 78:1-8; 127; Prov. 13:24; 22:6).

Last Things We believe that God, in His time and according to His will, will make all things right. We believe in the return of Jesus and the culmination of His Kingdom. We believe in the New Heaven and the New Earth where all who know Jesus will live for eternity. We believe in Hell and the Lake of Fire, where all who reject Jesus will exist for eternity in the second death (John 14:3; Rev. 19:11-16; 20:11-15; Rev. 21-22; Is. 65:17-25; 66:22-24; I Thess. 4:13-18).