



JOHN CALVIN SCHOOL

FREE REFORMED SCHOOL ASS. (TAS.) INC.

53 HOWICK STREET
P.O. BOX 89, LAUNCESTON, TAS. 7250
Ph: 6344 3794
Email: admin@jcs.tas.edu.au
www.jcs.tas.edu.au
ABN No 32 415 227 180

Statement of Faith

We are a Christian school association operating a Christian school maintaining the heritage of the Protestant Reformation. As such, our ultimate authority is the written Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit and held to be infallible and inerrant. We hold to the Belgic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, the Canons of Dort, the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed as secondary authorities, believed to be faithful summaries of biblical teaching. This Statement of Faith articulates our understanding of how all the above authoritative documents apply to several important contemporary matters.

The Trinity

We believe that there is only one true God. This one true God eternally exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This one Triune God rules sovereignly over all creation. Our ultimate commitment is exclusively to this God. He alone is worthy of our worship and unconditional allegiance, particularly in view of his saving acts in Jesus Christ.

Biblical references: Deut. 6:4, Matt. 28:19-20, 2 Cor. 13:14, Ps. 103:19, Acts 5:29.

Confessional references: Belgic Confession articles 8-11, Heidelberg Catechism QAs 25, 53, 94.

The Bible

We believe that God has revealed himself in a limited way in the natural world. He has revealed himself more fully in his written Word, the Bible. Everything we need to know for our salvation and for our life as Christians is given to us in the Bible. The Bible is sufficient, clear, authoritative, and necessary for us. The Bible is our ultimate guide for what we believe (doctrine) and for how we live (ethics). We are to reject any teaching or thought conflicting with the Bible.

Biblical references: Rom. 1:20, 1 Cor. 1:18-21, 2 Tim. 3:16-17, 2 Pet. 1:21, Rev. 22:18-19, 2 John 1:10, John 10:35.

Confessional references: Belgic Confession articles 2-7.

Creation

We believe that God created the universe and everything in it in six ordinary days in the order of several thousand years ago. God created Adam and Eve as the first human beings. God created them good and in his image. God directly created Adam from the physical dust of the earth. Eve was directly created by God from a physical rib taken from Adam. All human beings thus are descended from Adam and Eve.

Biblical references: Gen. 1-2.

Confessional references: Belgic Confession articles 12 and 14, Heidelberg Catechism QA 6.

Family, Marriage and Sexual Ethics

We believe that marriage is an institution of God with its roots in creation; it is designed for the welfare of human beings. God created Adam and Eve and brought them together as husband and wife. God designed marriage to be an institution exclusively involving one man and one woman, committed to each other in a covenant of life-long loyalty, reflecting the relationship between Christ and his church. While it is true that polygamy occurred in the Old Testament, it was not commonly practiced. Biblical descriptions also make clear that this practice was contrary to God's original design and therefore it resulted in many troubles and heartaches. According to New Testament teaching, the male-female marriage relationship is to be the exclusive context for any and all sexual relations. Furthermore, this male-female marriage relationship is ordained by God to be the exclusive means by which children are conceived and raised.

Biblical references: Gen. 1-2, Matt. 19:4-5, 1 Cor. 7:2, Heb. 13:4, 1 Thess. 4:3-8, Eph. 5:3, Eph. 5:22-33, Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 6:9-10, Jude 6-7, Lev. 18:22.

Confessional references: Heidelberg Catechism QAs 108 and 109.

Gender

We believe that God has a design for how we regard ourselves as male or female, man or woman, boy or girl. This binary design is integrally based on the differences between male and female reproductive structures. God has thus determined that biological sex and gender ought to be inseparable. We acknowledge that, because of the brokenness of the created order after the fall into sin, some are born with a physical disorder of sexual characteristics. Nevertheless, we affirm their human dignity and worth by virtue of being created in the image of God. God calls such individuals to embrace their biological sex insofar as it may be known.

Biblical references: Gen. 1-2, Deut. 22:5, Matt. 19:12, Rom. 1:26-27, 1 Cor. 11:14-15.

Confessional references: Heidelberg Catechism QA 108 and 109.

Sin and Salvation

We believe that all human beings are conceived and born in sin, consequently bearing both guilt and pollution. This original sin leads to actual sins committed by all people in thought, word, and deed. Both our original sin and our actual sins are under the just judgment of God, deserving of his eternal wrath in hell. But in his grace, God sent his Son to be the Saviour of sinners. Jesus Christ lived a perfect life and died as a sinless sacrifice on the cross. His obedience and suffering were offered in the place of all who believe in him. Anyone who repents from their sin and turns to Jesus Christ with a true faith will be saved from all their sins and the wrath they deserve. It is the responsibility of all Christians to love their neighbours by sharing this good news of salvation whenever and however they can.

Biblical references: Ps. 51:5, Rom. 3:9-26, John 3:16-18, Acts 16:30-31, Matt. 28:19-20.
Confessional references: Belgic Confession articles 15-23, Heidelberg Catechism QAs 3-21, QAs 32, 86, 123, Canons of Dort 2.5.