



## FCM STATEMENT OF CORE BELIEFS

November 6, 2013

**THE SCRIPTURES:** We believe that the entire Holy Bible, all 66 books are the inspired Word of God; and inerrant in the original writings. We affirm that the Bible is completely true, reliable, and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness. The Word of God has been preserved through the generations and is the only infallible and authoritative rule of faith and practice. It is the litmus test and ultimate guide regarding everything we believe and do as an organization. -2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Psalm 119:11, 89, 105.

**THE TRINITY:** We believe there is only One, true God, eternally existent in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each member of the Trinity possesses equally all the attributes of Deity, yet are uniquely distinct in personality. -Deut. 6:4-5; Genesis 1:31, Luke 3:21-22; Matthew 28:18-20, Rev. 4:11.

**GOD, THE FATHER:** We believe in God the Father who reigns as Sovereign Creator and Sustainer of the universe. He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present, all-loving, and all-wise. He becomes the eternal Heavenly Father of those who place their faith in His Son, Jesus Christ, and He providentially cares for His children, protects, and delivers us from evil, and reveals His will through His Word and Holy Spirit. *Gen. 1:1; 2:7; Ps. 19:1-3; Is. 43:3,15; 64:8; Mt. 6:9; 7:11; Jn 1:12, 17:1-8; Rom. 8:14-15; 1 Tim. 1:17; 1 Pet. 1:17; 1 Jn. 3:1; 5:7.*

**JESUS CHRIST:** We believe that Jesus Christ is God, the Son of God, and Lord of all. All things were made by Him, through Him, and for Him. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, performed miracles, shed His blood and died on a Roman cross to completely pay the debt for the sins of mankind, was buried, bodily resurrected on the third day, ascended to the right hand of the Father, and will return literally and visibly in glory and power to reign for all eternity. He is the Head of the church, has all authority in Heaven and on earth, is the only Mediator between God and man, and ever lives to make intercession for His own. -Jn 1:1-3,14; 14:6, Mt. 1:18-25; Phil. 2:5-9; Col. 1; 1 Cor. 15:1-8; Acts 1:11, 1 Tim. 2:5.

**HOLY SPIRIT:** We believe that the Holy Spirit is God, eternally co-equal and co-existent with the Father and the Son. He reveals truth, convicts of sin, draws individuals to Christ, imparts new life to them, continually indwells believers from the moment of spiritual birth, and seals them until the day of redemption. He exalts Christ and comforts and encourages God's children. His indwelling power is necessary for sanctification, the revelation of the Scriptures, and for fruitful

obedience to live out the Christian life. -John 14:16-19; 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 8:9,11; Titus 3:5.

**SALVATION:** We believe salvation is a free gift of God's grace apart from human works, personal goodness, or religious ceremony. Salvation is based solely upon Christ's atoning death on the cross, received only through faith in Jesus Christ. We believe that God completely forgives of sin, justifies, regenerates, adopts, and imputes His righteousness to those who place their faith in Christ alone for their salvation. -Eph. 2:8-10; 2 Cor. 5:21.

**THE CHURCH:** We love and support the body of Christ, the church. We believe the church is the beloved, family of God. It is made up of all saved believers, across denominational lines, who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ alone for salvation. We believe God admonishes all believers to be baptized, obey the Word of God, assemble and fellowship together regularly for worship, participate in ordinances, make disciples of all nations, walk in holiness before God, edify one another through the Scriptures, and be zealous of good works. We, as an organization are committed to the growth, health, and edification of the church. -Mt. 16:18; I Cor. 12:12-14; Heb. 10:25.

**DISCIPLESHIP:** We believe that it is the responsibility and privilege of every Christian to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ and to seek to make growing disciples. We believe that becoming a truly successful father in the eyes of God requires a man to surrender his life to Jesus Christ, to know God as Father, and to grow in grace and knowledge of God in an obedient relationship with Him. - Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8, Eph. 3, *Jn 1:12, 8:31-32, 17:1-8*

**MAN:** We believe that man was created in the image of God, but sinned by disobeying God; thus he spiritually died and fell under the condemnation of God. He was alienated from his Creator and is in need of salvation and redemption. Since God created man in His own image, loves the world, sent Christ to die for all mankind, and commands us to love our neighbor as ourselves, we believe that every person of every race possesses equal value, full dignity, and is worthy of respect and Christian love. *Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3: 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29.*

**THE FAMILY:** We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. 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. Though distinct in their roles and responsibilities, the husband and wife are of equal worth before God. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. 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; 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; Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 5:31-32; 18:2-5; 19:3-9; Mark 10:6-12; Romans 1:18-32; 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.

**FATHERHOOD:** We believe that the role of father was created by God, is irreplaceable, and of equal value and necessity to the role of mother. Since the glory of children are their fathers (Proverbs 17:6), and God commands His church to care for the fatherless (James 1:27), that every child needs a loving and active father in his or her life. Fathers are responsible before God to lead their families and spiritually train their children in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. We believe that since fatherhood on earth is a representation of the eternal Fatherhood of God, that each father is called by God to be a faithful provider (Matthew 7:11, 1 Tim. 5:8), a strong protector (Matthew 2:13-14, Luke 11:21), a loving leader (Eph. 6:1-4), a respectable authority (Heb. 12:4-11), a truthful teacher (Deut. 6:7, Prov. 4:1-4), a living example (John 5:19-23, 1 Cor. 11:1), and a compassionate friend (Psalm 103:13, John 15:15) to his children. It is for these reasons that the Fatherhood CoMission is committed to championing the role of father and desires to the turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers (Malachi 4:6).