

## **Mercy Hill Church can be described as orthodox, evangelical, reformed and baptist. Our statement of faith is adapted from the Abstract of Principles (1859).**

### **I. THE SCRIPTURES**

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments were given by inspiration of God and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith and obedience. (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21)

### **II. GOD**

There is one God who is the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things. He is perfect and infinite in all things. All creatures owe their highest love, reverence and obedience to Him alone. (Deuteronomy 6:4; 1 Corinthians 8:4-6; 1 Timothy 1:17)

### **III. THE TRINITY**

God is revealed to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each with distinct personal attributes but without division of nature, essence or being. (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

### **IV. PROVIDENCE**

God from eternity decrees or permits all things. He upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet in no way is He the author or approver of sin nor does He destroy the free will and responsibility of man. (Hebrews 1:3; Matthew 10:31-33; Proverbs 16:33)

### **V. ELECTION**

Election is God's eternal choice of some persons unto everlasting life. This is by no foreseen merit in the person but by God's mere mercy in Christ. Through Christ they are called, justified and glorified. (Romans 8:30; Ephesians 1:3-6; Acts 13:48)

### **VI. THE FALL OF MAN**

God originally created Man in His own image. He was free from sin. Through the temptation of Satan, he disobeyed the command of God and fell from his original holiness and righteousness as God had made him. His descendants inherit a nature that is now corrupt and wholly opposed to God and His law. Man is now born condemned with no hope of his own outside of God's grace. (Genesis 1:27, 3:4-7; Romans 5:12-21; Ephesians 2:1-3)

### **VII. THE MEDIATOR**

Jesus Christ, the one and only Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, is the divinely appointed mediator between God and man. Having taken upon Himself human nature, yet without sin, He perfectly fulfilled the law and suffered and died on the cross for the salvation of sinners. He was buried, rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He now lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the Universe. (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 3:17; 1 Corinthians 15:3-7; 1 Timothy 2:5; Romans 5:6-11; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:3)

### **VIII. REGENERATION**

Regeneration is a change of heart, brought about by the Holy Spirit. He gives life to those who are dead in trespasses and sins by opening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the Word of God. He renews their whole nature so that they love and practice holiness. Man, who was once an enemy of God, is now by the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, adopted as children of God and at peace with God. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone and in Christ alone. (John 3:1-8; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3)

### **IX. REPENTANCE**

Repentance is an evangelical grace, wherein a person, being by the Holy Spirit made sensible of the manifold evil of his sin, humbles himself for it with godly sorrow, detestation of it, and self-aborrence with a purpose and endeavor to walk before God so as to please Him in all things. (Mark 1:15; Acts 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:9)



#### X. FAITH

Saving faith is the belief, on God's authority, of whatsoever is revealed in His Word concerning Christ and accepting and resting upon Him alone for justification and eternal life. It is accomplished in the heart by the Holy Spirit, is accompanied by all other saving graces, and leads to a life of holiness. (John 1:12, 5:24; Ephesians 2:8-9)

#### XI. JUSTIFICATION

Justification is God's gracious and full acquittal of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin through the satisfaction that Christ has made. It is not through anything in them or done by them that justification is achieved or earned; only on account of the obedience and satisfaction of Christ, that they receive and rest on Him and His righteousness by faith. (Rom. 3:23-24; Rom. 5:1-2; 18, 19; 2 Cor. 5:21)

#### XII. SANCTIFICATION

Those who have been regenerated are also sanctified by God's word and Spirit dwelling in them. This sanctification is progressive through the supply of Divine strength, which all saints seek to obtain, pressing after a heavenly life in heartfelt obedience to all of Christ's commands. (Jn. 17:17; 2 Thes. 2:13; Heb. 12:14)

#### XIII. PERSEVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

Those whom God has accepted in Christ, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace but shall certainly persevere to the end; and though they may fall through neglect and temptation, into sin, whereby they grieve the Spirit, impair their graces and comforts, bring reproach on the Church, and temporal judgments on themselves, yet they shall be renewed again unto repentance, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation. (Jn. 10:28-29; 1 Jn. 2:19; Rom. 8:30)

#### XIV. THE CHURCH

The Lord Jesus is the head of the Church, which is composed of all His true disciples, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. According to His commandment, Christians are to gather together into local churches, and to each of these churches He has given needful authority for administering that order, discipline and worship which He has appointed. The regular officers of a Church are Elders and Deacons. (Col. 1:18; Mt. 16:18; 18:15-18; 1 Tim. 3:1-15; 1 Pet. 5:1-4)

#### XV. BAPTISM

Baptism is an ordinance of the Lord Jesus, a command to every believer, to be immersed in water, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit as a sign of his fellowship with the death and resurrection of Christ, of remission of sins, and of giving himself up to God to live and walk in newness of life. (Mt. 28:19-20; Rom. 6:3-5; Acts 8:38-39)

#### XVI. THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is an ordinance of Jesus Christ, to be administered with the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, and to be observed by His churches till the end of the world. It is in no sense a sacrifice, but is designed to commemorate His death, to confirm the faith and other graces of Christians, and to be a bond, pledge and renewal of their communion with Him and of their church fellowship. (Mt. 26:26-27; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; 11:23-26)

#### XVII. THE LORD'S DAY

The Lord's Day is a Christian institution for regular observance and should be employed in exercises of worship and spiritual devotion, both public and private. (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2; Col. 2:16; 3:16; Rev 1:10)

#### XVIII. THE RESURRECTION

The bodies of men after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God - the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked, to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised. (1 Cor 15; Jn. 5:28, 29; Phil. 3:21)

#### XIX. THE JUDGMENT

God has appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when every one shall receive according to his deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment, the righteous into everlasting life. (Mt. 25:31-46; 1 Cor. 15:35-58; 2 Cor. 5:10)