

“SHUCKING US DOWN TO THE COB VI”

(Our Statement of Faith)
MCC Distinctives

I. Today we review our Statement of Faith.

1) Perhaps it was Augustine who first uttered the phrase: **In essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, love.** (*Today we look at our essentials...*)

2) We believe the Bible to be God’s Word, inspired, inerrant, infallible, and completely relevant for our lives today. (*We covered this last Sunday...*)

3) We also embrace the objective truths, (vs subjective truths, conventional wisdom, cultural/relative truths, or even spiritual experiences) **first found in scripture, and summarized in the Apostle’s Creed and the Nicene Creed.** (Creed: Latin: Credo: I believe) **Therefore:**

4) We believe in one God in three persons, **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Trinity: Matthew 3:16-19; Mark 1:10-11; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2) who is: Almighty,** (Genesis 17:1; Psalm 89:8; Isaiah 6:1-3; **Revelation 4:8; Revelation 19:6.) sovereign,** (Psalm 135:6; Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 45:9-12; **Romans 9:14-21.) all knowing (Omniscient--see 1 John 3:20) all powerful (Omnipotent--see Job 42:2; Luke 1:37) and all present (Omnipresent--see Psalm 90:2; Jeremiah 23:23-24; 1 Kings 8:27.) (3 Big O’s: Psalm 139) Creator of the Heavens and Earth, all things seen and unseen. (Scriptures: Genesis 1 & 2; Genesis 14:19, 22; Isaiah 44:24; **Romans 1:20-25; Colossians 1:15-20.)****

5) We believe in God the Son, **Jesus Christ: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary (Luke 1:26-38) who was fully God and fully man (John 1:14; Romans 1:1-4; Philipians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:15-20; 2 Timothy 2:8; Titus 2:13.) who performed countless miracles, suffered under Pontius Pilate (Jesus lived in a specific time in history at a time ordained by God) was crucified for our sins, died on the cross, was buried in a tomb, descended to the dead, rose from the dead on the third day, made numerous appearances to His followers, ascended to the Father, and is presently enthroned at His Father’s right hand where He rules, intercedes, and awaits His physical return to earth to judge the living and the dead.** (We believe in the physical return of Jesus just as He foretold.) **His Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom.** (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Epistles, OT Prophets, all 66 books of the Bible...)

6) We believe in God, the Holy Spirit, **The Giver of Life (John 6:63; 2 Corinthians 3:6.): Who dwells in those who have professed faith and are born anew; He comforts, convicts, guides, and sanctifies; He empowers us with His character, gifts, and graces, and conforms us into the image of Jesus Christ. (Scriptures: John 14:16-17,26; John 16:7-15; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2; Romans 8:5-9, 26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:6-17; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; 2 Corinthians 3:18; Galatians 5:16-26; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:13.)**

7) We believe in the holy catholic (universal) church, **comprised of all who have confessed Jesus as Savior and Lord. (Scriptures: Acts 2:42-47; Acts 4:32-35; Acts 9:31; 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 2:19-22; 2 Timothy 2:19; 1 Peter 2:9-10.)**

8) We believe in the communion of saints (all true believers) **who are joined together in fellowship (koinonia) for the purpose of worship, service, and mutual love, who seek to embody the Great Commandment (Deuteronomy 6:4 & Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:29-31; Luke 10:25-37; John 13:34-25; John 15:9-13, 17; Romans 12:9-13; Romans 13:8-10; Galatians 5:13-14; 1 Peter 2:17; 1 Peter 3:8--12; 1 Peter 4:8-11; 1 John 3:11-18; 1 John 4:7-21.) and who eagerly engage in the Great Commission. (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 8:4; Romans 10:8-17; 1 Peter 3:15-16.)**

9) We believe in the forgiveness of sins: **That Jesus has completely forgiven those who have embraced His atoning sacrifice for their sins; that He remembers their sins no more. (Scriptures: Psalm 103:11-12; Micah 7:18-19; John 3:16-18; Romans 3:21-26; Romans 5:6-11; Romans 6:23; Hebrews 2:17-18; Hebrews 9:27-28; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:1-2; 1 John 4:9-10.)**

10) We believe in the resurrection of the body: **That we, like Christ, will experience a bodily resurrection. (Scriptures: Matthew 22:30-31; Mark 12:24-27; Luke 20:12:34-38; John 11:25-26; Acts 17:18, 32; Acts 24:15, 21; Romans 6:5; 1 Corinthians 15; Philipians 3:10-11; Hebrews 6:1-2; Hebrews 11:35.)**

11) We believe in the life everlasting: **Eternal life in the presence of God for believers and eternal separation from God for those who have rejected His merciful saving grace. (Scriptures: John 3:1-21; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12; Hebrews 10:19-31.)**

*** Let’s affirm our faith today with Communion...**

Sermon Scriptures & Illustrations

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV) *A simple but profound Trinitarian scripture:*

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Revelation 4:8 (NIV) *An awesome verse on God almighty:*

8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Romans 9:14-21 (NIV) *Powerful verses on God's sovereignty:*

14 What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! **15** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **16** It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. **17** For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth." **18** Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden. **19** One of you will say to me: "Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?" **20** But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?' " **21** Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?

Psalms 139 (NIV) *On God's Omniscience, Omnipresence, & Omnipotence:*

1 O LORD, you have searched me and you know me. **2** You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. **3** You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. **4** Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O LORD. **5** You hem me in--behind and before; you have laid your hand upon me. **6** Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. **7** Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? **8** If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. **9** If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, **10** even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. **11** If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," **12** even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. **13** For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. **14** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. **15** My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, **16** your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be. **17** How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! **18** Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you. **19** If only you would slay the wicked, O God! Away from me, you bloodthirsty men! **20** They speak of you with evil intent; your adversaries misuse your name. **21** Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD, and abhor those who rise up against you? **22** I have nothing but hatred for them; I count them my enemies. **23** Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. **24** See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

Romans 1:20-25 (NIV) *Paul on God as Creator:*

20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities--his eternal power and divine nature--have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. **21** For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22** Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **23** and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. **24** Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. **25** They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator--who is forever praised. Amen.

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV) & Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV)

Two powerful revelations with respect to Jesus Christ our Lord:

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV) **5** Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: **6** Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, **7** but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! **9** Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, **10** that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:15-20 (NIV) **15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. **16** For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. **17** He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. **19** For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, **20** and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

John 16:7-15 (NIV) & Romans 8:5-9 (NIV)
Two great verses on the work of the Holy Spirit:

John 16:7-15 (NIV) **7** But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **8** When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: **9** in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; **10** in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; **11** and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. **12** "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. **13** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. **14** He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. **15** All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

Romans 8:5-9 (NIV) **5** Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. **6** The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; **7** the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. **8** Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. **9** You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

1 Peter 2:9-10 (NIV) ***With respect to the church, Peter says it well:***

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. **10** Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Mark 12:29-31 (NIV) & Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)
The Great Commandment & Great Commission:

Mark 12:29-31 (NIV) **29** "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. **30** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' **31** The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV) **18** Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

1 John 4:9-10 (NIV) ***On Jesus' love, forgiveness, & atonement:***

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. **10** This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.

John 11:25-26 (NIV) & 1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NIV) *The promise of Resurrection:*

John 11:25-26 (NIV) 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; **26** and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 (NIV) 42 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

2 Thessalonians 1:3-12 (NIV) *Regarding Jesus' return:*

3 We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. **4** Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. **5** All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. **6** God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you **7** and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. **8** He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. **9** They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power **10** on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you. **11** With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. **12** We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.