



SHALOM RETREAT CENTER

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

- We believe that the one true God exists eternally in three persons, Father, son, and Holy Spirit, and that these, being one God, are equal in deity, power, and glory. We believe that God not only created the world but also now upholds, sustains, governs, and providentially directs all that exists and that He will bring all things to their proper consummation in Christ Jesus to the glory of His name.
- We believe that only the sixty-six books of the Bible are the inspired, and therefore inerrant, Word of God. It is the final authority for all we believe and how we are to live.
- We believe that Satan, originally a great and good angel, rebelled against God, taking a multitude of angel with him. He was cast out of God's presence and is at work with his demonic hosts to establish his counter-kingdom of darkness and evil on the earth. Satan was judged and defeated at the cross of Christ and will, at the end of the age, be cast forever into the lake of fire which has been prepared for him and his angels.
- We believe God created man in His own image, in a state of original righteousness, from which man subsequently fell by a voluntary revolt, and consequently is guilty, inherently corrupt and subject to divine wrath.
- We believe Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, became man without ceasing to be God by uniting to His divine nature a true human nature in His incarnation, and so continues to be both God and man, in two distinct natures and one person, forever. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, exhibited His deity by manifold miracles, fulfilled the requirements of the Law by His sinless life, shed His blood as a vicarious and propitiatory atonement for man's sin, was resurrected from the dead in the same body, now glorified. He ascended into heaven and now intercedes in glory for His redeemed as our great high priest and advocate, and as the Head of the Church and Lord of individual believers.
- We believe the Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment, through the ministry of regeneration and sanctification applies salvation and places believers into the church, guides and comforts God's children, indwells, directs, gifts and empowers the church in godly living and service in order to fulfill the great commission, and seals and keeps the believer until Christ returns.
- We believe every man, regardless of race or rank, who receives the Lord Jesus Christ by faith is born into the family of God and receives eternal life. This occurs solely because of the grace of God and has no ground in human merit.
- We believe that the church is God's primary instrument through which He is fulfilling His redemptive purposes in the earth. To equip the saints for the work of ministry, God has given the church apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers. We also affirm the priesthood of all believers and the importance of every Christian being joined with and actively involved in a local community of the saints. In addition, God has called the church to preach the Gospel to all nations, and especially to remember the poor and to minister unto their needs through sacrificial giving and practical service. This ministry is an expression of the heart of the Lord Jesus Christ and is an essential part of the Kingdom of God.
- We believe the Lord Jesus Christ will return bodily, visibly and personally to receive His own, to conform believers to His own image. He will judge the quick and the dead and will effect a final separation of the redeemed and the lost, assigning unbelievers to eternal punishment and believers to eternal glory, enjoying conscious fellowship with Him.

SHALOM RETREAT CENTER: AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (CONTINUED)

- We believe man's chief end in life is to honor and glorify Almighty God. Personal salvation is a means to this end.
- Some in our society believe that holding to certain Biblical truths and moral absolutes seems hateful. In contrast, Shalom Retreat Center believes you cannot have truth without a standard, and some absolutes. We as an organization believe the Bible is that standard and there are some time-tested absolutes contained within. Although there are many worth noting, we have chosen a couple to highlight. This has become necessary because of the political climate of our society. People holding to Biblical truths are forced to wade through a legal quagmire due to the nature of the opposition, some of which is hateful. We believe the Bible does contain absolutes, and they are established so that mankind can live their "best lives" as prescribed by God, the Designer of life. These absolutes are to bring life and help all to realize the depths of God's love.
- We believe that every person must be afforded compassion, love, kindness respect, and dignity (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:31). Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with Scripture nor the doctrines of Shalom Retreat Center.
- We also believe hateful, harassing and disrespectful behavior toward those who believe in the following Biblical standard of marriage and sexuality are inappropriate. Due to this type of mentality we are compelled to highlight our beliefs on these subjects.
- We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person a male or female. These two distinct, complementary sides together reflect the image and nature of God (Gen. 1:26-27). Rejection of one's biological sex is a rejection of the image of God within that person.
- We believe the term "marriage" has only one meaning: the uniting of one man and one woman in a single, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture (Gen. 2:18-25). We believe that marriage between one man and one woman, for life uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Eph. 5:21-33). We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other (1Cor. 6:18; 7:2-5; Heb. 13:4). We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman.
- We believe that any form of sexual immorality (including adultery, fornication, homosexual behavior, bisexual conduct, or use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God (Matt. 15:18-20; 1 Cor. 6:9-10).
- We believe that God offers redemption and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through Jesus Christ (Acts 3:19-21; Rom 10:9-13; I Cor. 6:9-11)

SHALOM RETREAT CENTER: STATEMENT OF FINAL AUTHORITY

Our affirmation of faith does not exhaust the extent of our beliefs. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of Shalom Retreat Center's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our staff and board of directors are the final interpretive authority on the Bible's application.