**Summit’s Faith and Convictions**

Since the very beginning Summit Ministries has focused on applying Christianity’s essential doctrines to understand the times and know what our society ought to do.[[1]](#endnote-1) Summit’s board of directors, employees and volunteers seek to clearly state our faith as well as the convictions that flow from it.

**Statement of Faith**

As a Statement of Faith, **Summit** agrees with and holds to the Apostles’ Creed, an ancient profession affirmed by Jesus-followers for more than 1,500 years:

[We] **believe** in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

[We] **believe** in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

[We] **believe** in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic [universal] church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

**Statement of Convictions**

As an outworking of this Statement of Faith, Summit agrees with and holds to certain convictions describing what we know to be true about the world:

**God.** *God, existing eternally in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is the source of all truth and He expresses His nature relationally*.[[2]](#endnote-2) God has revealed himself both in nature and through the Bible, the only inerrant, inspired, authoritative Word of God.[[3]](#endnote-3) This has implications for the institutions of church, family, commerce and government.[[4]](#endnote-4)

**Humanity.** *All human beings bear God’s image and are thus inherently valuable—beginning at conception—whether or not society regards them as healthy, productive, or useful.*[[5]](#endnote-5) As God’s image bearers, men and women of all races and nationalities have the capacity and the calling to steward creation, create economic and social value, pursue justice, stand against evil, and act in a transforming way in culture.[[6]](#endnote-6)

**Salvation.** *Through sin humanity has departed from God’s way, but through our Lord Jesus Christ God has made a way for us to be reconciled to Him, to be transformed to understand and do His will, and to be ambassadors of His gospel*.[[7]](#endnote-7) Further, God has instituted the Church as a vital means by which His gospel would be proclaimed and practiced.

**Society.** *Citizens of the kingdom of heaven will always be the best citizens of the kingdom of man, because obeying God above all earthly powers is what best secures the blessings of liberty*. Government is God-ordained to punish evil and protect the good. When it oversteps its bounds by failing to recognize the value of each person, or by constraining conscience, or by calling good what God calls evil and calling evil what God calls good, we must call it to account.[[8]](#endnote-8)

**Marriage.** *God made human beings male and female, equal in value but complementary in their relationship to one another* (Gen. 1:26-27). Gender is not a mere social construction, but part of a loving Creator’s design that is lived out in singlehood as well as in marriage, which we believe to have been created by God and intended for one man and one woman, for life (Gen. 2:18-25).[[9]](#endnote-9) Man/woman marriage is the only proper place for intimate sexual relationship and it is the proper place in which to welcome children—by birth or adoption—as a blessing from God.[[10]](#endnote-10) As valuable as marriage is, though, we believe that only God can ultimately meet our need for intimacy, and that our identity is properly placed in Christ rather than in our marital status or our assessment of our feelings of sexual attraction.[[11]](#endnote-11)

**Stewardship.** *Human beings were given charge over God’s creation, and we take seriously our calling to care for it*.[[12]](#endnote-12) We are called to bear God’s image through creativity and industriousness.[[13]](#endnote-13) We support the principles of free exchange, respect for private property, and honesty as being means by which we best care for our planet, serve one another, and alleviate poverty and its effects.[[14]](#endnote-14)

We see these convictions as based on justified true beliefs describing the world as it actually is, not on mere opinion or upbringing. Thus, out of gratitude and commitment to our Lord, we will believe them, act upon them, and seek to persuade others.[[15]](#endnote-15)

1. The following endnotes reference various chapters from the *Understanding the Times book* series to further illustrate and explain our convictions.

 *Understanding the Times*, chapters 1 and 2. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. *Understanding the Faith*, chapter 4. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. *Understanding the Faith*, chapter 3. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. *Understanding the Times*, chapter 15, and *Understanding the Culture*, chapter 12. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. *Understanding the Faith*, chapters 5, 8, and 9, and *Understanding the Culture*, chapter 8. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. *Understanding the Culture*, chapters 15 and 16. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
7. *Understanding the Faith*, chapters 6 and 17. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
8. *Understanding the Culture*, chapter 13. [↑](#endnote-ref-8)
9. *Understanding the Culture*, chapter 10. [↑](#endnote-ref-9)
10. *Understanding the Times*, chapter 13, and *Understanding the Culture*, chapter 10. [↑](#endnote-ref-10)
11. *Understanding the Culture*, chapter 9. [↑](#endnote-ref-11)
12. *Understanding the Culture*, chapter 11. [↑](#endnote-ref-12)
13. *Understanding the Times*, chapter 16, and *Understanding the Culture*, chapters 14. [↑](#endnote-ref-13)
14. *Understanding the Times*, chapter 16, and *Understanding the Culture*, chapters 17. [↑](#endnote-ref-14)
15. *Understanding the Culture*, chapter 1. [↑](#endnote-ref-15)