



STATEMENT OF FAITH

The following statement of faith, which must be signed annually by the Board of Trustees, faculty, and staff (non-faculty) of Davis College, shall be the basis of faith and doctrine at the College.

Doctrinal Statement

Section I. The Scriptures – We believe that the original writings¹ of the Holy Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments in their entirety, are verbally inspired of God and thus inerrant in what they affirm. These Scriptures constitute our only absolute authority in all matters of faith and practice.² We believe in the historical, grammatical, and contextual interpretation of the Bible.

Section II. The Godhead – We believe in the Trinity: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, being one God eternally existent in three persons, equal in every divine perfection.³

Section III. The Person and Work of Christ – We believe in the deity and humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ, one person possessing two natures, making Him fully God and fully man.⁴ In His deity, He is Creator and Sustainer of the universe. In His humanity, He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died a substitutionary death for sinners, arose bodily from the grave, ascended into heaven, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father.⁵

Section IV. The Holy Spirit – We believe that the Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Godhead, who convicts, regenerates, and indwells every believer in Christ.⁶ We believe that the Holy Spirit baptizes and seals all believers in Christ and fills those who are yielded to Him.⁷ We affirm that the Holy Spirit gives gifts of service to all believers.⁸

¹ That is, in their final canonical form.

² 2 Tim 3:16-17; Ps 119:105. Scriptural affirmations are inerrant when rightly interpreted. Scripture references throughout are representative. They are not “proof” texts; instead, they are evidential texts.

³ Rom 1:7; 9:5; 1 Cor 3:16; Matt 28:19; John 10:30.

⁴ John 1:1, 14; 1 Tim 2:5.

⁵ Col 1:16; Heb 1:3; Luke 1:34-35; 1 Pet 2:22; 1 John 3:5; Rom 5:8; 1 Pet 3:18; 1 Cor 15:1-4; Eph 1:20-21; 1 Pet 3:22.

⁶ John 16:8; Titus 3:5; John 14:16-17.

⁷ 1 Cor 12:13; Eph 1:13; Eph 5:18.

⁸ 1 Cor 12:11.

Section V. Humanity's Creation and Fall – We believe that humankind is a special creation of God, made in His image, male and female; that Adam disobeyed his Creator and incurred spiritual death, total corruption, and divine condemnation; and that because of this every person is a sinner by nature and practice, in need of divine salvation.⁹ We believe that Adam and Eve were historical figures, not merely literary characters.¹⁰ We affirm a historical Fall.

Section VI. Salvation – We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died and shed His blood to make atonement for the sins of all humanity. On the basis of His substitutionary death and resurrection, all who repent and believe receive God's gift of eternal life.¹¹ We believe that salvation is given wholly by grace, so that the believer is eternally secure.¹² We further believe that God's design for believers is to manifest their salvation by a life that is pleasing to God and set apart unto Him, and that for this purpose every believer is provided positional and progressive sanctification in this life, and ultimate or perfective sanctification in the next.¹³

Section VII. The Church – We believe that the universal Church is composed of all who are saved and serves as the body and espoused bride of Christ of which He is the Head. We believe that the local church is God's designated instrument for service in the world.¹⁴ We believe that the universal Church is composed of all who are baptized by the Holy Spirit into one body through saving faith in Jesus Christ.¹⁵ We believe that the local church is an autonomous company of baptized believers that meets regularly to worship God, to observe the ordinances of believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper, to edify itself, and to evangelize the world through the preaching and teaching of the Word.¹⁶ We affirm that the proper mode of water baptism is immersion.¹⁷

Section VIII. Christian Life and Service – We believe that the fulfillment of the Great Commission is the responsibility of every believer, that the believer is to seek the salvation of the lost, and that the believer is to disciple new converts and enlist them in the life of the local church.¹⁸ In the accomplishment of the Great Commission, we affirm that believers must be careful to separate themselves from sin, and to seek fellowship and cooperation only with those who believe and practice the biblical Gospel.¹⁹

Section IX. Eschatology – We believe in the personal, physical, and visible return of

⁹ Gen 1:26-27; 3:1-6; Rom 5:12-19; 3:9-18

¹⁰ Gen 2:7, 21-23.

¹¹ 1 John 2:2; Acts 20:21; John 6:47.

¹² Eph 2:8-10; John 10:28.

¹³ Rom 12:1-2; 1 Cor 1:2; 2 Tim 2:21; Eph 5:25-27.

¹⁴ 1 Cor 12:13, 27; Eph 1:22-23; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 4:15.

¹⁵ Acts 1:5; Acts 11:15.

¹⁶ Acts 2:41-47; 1 Cor 14:26; Eph 4:1-12; Matt 28:18-20.

¹⁷ John 3:23; Acts 8:38-39; cf. Rom 6:3-4.

¹⁸ Matt 28:20; Acts 1:8.

¹⁹ 2 Tim 2:21; 2 Cor 6:14-18; 2 Tim 3:1-5; Rom 16:17; 1 Tim 6:3-5.

Christ to the earth at the end of the age.²⁰ This ultimately results in conscious, everlasting blessedness for the saved, and everlasting punishment for the lost.²¹

Section X. Marriage, Gender, and Sexuality – We believe that God created marriage to be exclusively the union of one man and one woman (as determined by anatomy at birth and not subject to change), and that intimate sexual activity is to occur exclusively within that union.²² We believe that God creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, unchangeable genders together reflect the image and nature of God, and the rejection of one's biological gender is a rejection of the image of God within that person.

Section XI. Sanctity of Life – We believe that all human life, being made in God's image, is sacred. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through natural death. We are therefore called to defend, protect, and value human life. We also believe that an intentional act or omission that facilitates premature death, is assuming a decision that is to be reserved for God. We do not believe that discontinuing medical procedures that are extraordinary or disproportionate to the expected outcome is euthanasia.

Section XII. Limits of Doctrine – This Doctrinal Statement 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 proper conduct, is the sole and final source of all we believe. For purposes of Davis College's faith, doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our Board of Trustees is the College's final interpretive authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

²⁰ "Personal" insists that the one returning is "this same Jesus" (Acts 1:11). "Physical" means bodily or (yet) incarnate. By "visible" we mean not invisible, as if his coming were merely a spiritual presence or powerful influence.

²¹ Titus 2:13; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Rev 4:1-18:24; 19:11-15; 20:6; 20:11-15; 21:1; Matt 25:46.

²² Gen 2:24.