

Covenant Care Services

3950 Ridge Avenue

Macon, Georgia 31210

(478) 475-4990 (800) 226-5683

Fax (478) 475-0367

www.CovenantCareAdoptions.com

COVENANT CARE ADOPTIONS

STATEMENT OF FAITH

We believe that the sovereign, triune God has revealed Himself to man in His Word, the inerrant, authoritative and infallible Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. In this revelation is given everything man needs to know in order to live all of life to His praise and honor.

God has also revealed Himself to all men in His creation. The heavens and the earth are His handiwork created out of nothing. They reflect His majesty and power.

At the climax of creation week, God created Adam and Eve male and female in His own image as the crown of creation and entrusted them and their descendants with the cultural mandate to subdue and populate the earth. God created the institution of marriage between one man and one woman as His ordained means of filling the earth with His image bearers.¹ God Himself initiates, at the very moment of conception, a new human life bearing His image that will live throughout eternity. Thus conceived, each human being, as the image bearer of God, has meaning, dignity, and value. Therefore, we oppose the elective abortion of all human life.²

Although the creation came from God perfect and complete, sin entered the world when Adam and Eve disobeyed God. As a result, all people are sinful by nature, are estranged from the Holy God, and live in a world thoroughly corrupted by sin. Though sin pervades the totality of man's being and distorts and obscures the image of God, nevertheless, that image remains even in the sinner.

But God in His infinite mercy has left open a way of restoration and forgiveness. The Bible teaches that God has graciously provided full forgiveness through the sacrificial death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who is fully God and fully man. This forgiveness, planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, and actualized by the Holy Spirit results in new life for all who embrace the resurrected Christ as Lord and Savior. These are adopted as the children of God and gathered into God's family, the Church.

The Church, as a covenant community composed of individual Christians, has been established by the Lord Jesus Christ to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth. In the fulfilling of this obligation, the Church calls all men to repentance from sin, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and obedience to God's Holy Word. The Spirit of God has been given to impact spiritual power to Christians to meet this challenge with determination and confidence.

Christ is coming again; His Word will not fail. Thus, there is coming a Day of Judgment for all men. Those who refuse His mercy and despise His reign will hear His awful malediction, "Depart from Me, you who are cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Those who pray and labor by use of their God-given talents for the establishment of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, will hear their Master's glorious benediction, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

¹ See Addendum A, "Statement on Marriage, Gender & Sexuality" which details these beliefs.

² See Addendum B, "Pro-Life Statement" which details these beliefs.

ADDENDUM A

STATEMENT ON MARRIAGE, GENDER, & SEXUALITY

We believe that God wonderfully and immutably creates each person as male or female. These two distinct, complementary genders 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 that 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 God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to each other. (1 Cor 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, bestiality, incest, and use of pornography) is sinful and offensive to God. (Matt 15:18-20; 1 Cor 6:9-10.)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of Covenant Care Services as a Christian ministry, and to provide a biblical role model to the community, it is imperative that all persons who serve on our Board of Directors, who are employed by Covenant Care Services in any capacity, who volunteer in a regular or public capacity, or who seek to adopt a child through Covenant Care Services, share these beliefs. (Matt 5:16; Phil 2:14-16; 1 Thess 5:22.)

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 10:9-10; 1 Cor 6:9-11.)

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 beliefs of Covenant Care Services.

ADDENDUM B

PRO-LIFE STATEMENT

Believing that unborn children are created in the image of God, we affirm that elective abortion is in violation of the sixth commandment (Exodus 20:13). Even in extreme cases where the physical life of the mother or child is in imminent danger everything possible should be done to save the lives of both the mother and the child.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:26-27)

Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. (Genesis 2:18-25)

Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. (1 Corinthians 6:18).

But because of the temptation to sexual immorality, each man should have his own wife and each woman her own husband. The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights, and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. Likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does. Do not deprive one another, except perhaps by agreement for a limited time, that you may devote yourselves to prayer; but then come together again, so that Satan may not tempt you because of your lack of self-control. (1 Corinthians 7:25)

Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (Hebrews 13:4)

But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. But to eat with unwashed hands does not defile anyone." (Matthew 15:18-20)

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-10)

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. (Philippians 2:14-16)

Abstain from every form of evil. (1 Thessalonians 5:22)

Repent therefore, and turn back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago. (Acts 3:19-21)

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

And one of the scribes came up and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, asked him, "Which commandment is the most important of all?" Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:28-31)

And as you wish that others would do to you, do so to them. (Luke 6:31)

You shall not murder. (Exodus 20:13)