

HARGRAVE DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

The Bible

We believe that all scripture is inspired by God and serves as the final authority in all areas of belief and behavior. Therefore, all Scripture is completely trustworthy and reveals the standard of true morality and virtue by which God judges us, which is Himself. The ultimate purpose of this record is to lead people to a saving relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. (2 Timothy 3:16 & 17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

God/The Father

There is one and only one living and true God who is the creator of the universe (*Genesis 1:1 & Isaiah 45:12*). He is all knowing and all-powerful. He is just and true in his nature and character (*1 John 1:5 and Deuteronomy 32:4*). He has revealed Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence, or being.

God the Son-Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God and God's chosen way of salvation or Christ. He is the full and final revelation of God to the world (*Hebrews 1:1-3 & John 1:14*) who became a human being. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He fully identified with humanity in struggling with the temptations and hardships that we face, but He never sinned. He bought forgiveness for the sin of humankind when He was crucified under the Roman Governor Pontius Pilate. He was crucified and died and was buried paying the just price for our sin which is death. He was buried and on the third day He rose from the dead. He appeared to Peter and the other Apostles and taught them and the other disciples for 40 days until He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father and will one day return to judge the world and rule in glory.

God-The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and is fully divine. The Holy Spirit is the one who inspired the men of old to write the scriptures and He is the one who convicts all people of their sin and reveals to them their need for Christ. At the moment when a person comes to faith in Christ the Holy Spirit comes to reside in that person. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer unto the day of final redemption. His presence in the Christian is the guarantee that God will bring the believer into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

(*Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19;11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38; 4:31;5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27;1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14)*

Mankind/Humankind

Human beings are God's unique and special creation. We are all created in His image and are of equal value in His sight whether male or female. The first man and woman were innocent until they gave into Satan's temptation and sinned against God. The nature of rebellion or sin was passed on to all people through Adam the first man and as a result all people no matter what gender or nationality are sinners by nature, which is revealed in the trespasses/sins that we commit towards God and each other. Despite our imperfections God's love for mankind is demonstrated through the death of Christ for our sin. Therefore, every person of every race possesses full dignity and is worthy of respect and Christian love.

(Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.)

Salvation

Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. There is no salvation apart from personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

(See John 3:3-21, 14:6, Acts 4:12 & 1 Peter 1:2-23)

Evangelism & Discipleship

The Lord in his word has given to the Followers of Christ the service of telling others about the good news of forgiveness and reconciliation with God that comes through Jesus Christ. Though it is the Holy Spirit that convinces a person of the truth and their need to accept and follow Jesus Christ. As a result, we do seek to share the gospel with all faculty, staff and cadets.

The Bible teaches that all who profess their faith in Jesus Christ have become disciples or students of His. Matthew 28:19 Jesus said "Go into all the world and make disciples...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." In light of this teaching, we seek to help those cadets who are followers of Christ to grow in their faith through worship and Bible study which seeks to challenge them to make daily application of Christ's teachings in their lives.

(Genesis 12:1-3; Exodus 19:5-6; Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 9:37-38; 10:5-15; 13:18-30, 37-43; 16:19; 22:9-10; 24:14; 28:18-20; Luke 10:1-18; 24:46-53; John 14:11-12; 15:7-8,16; 17:15; 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2; 8:26-40; 10:42-48; 13:2-3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 3:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 1:8; 2 Timothy 4:5; Hebrews 2:1-3; 11:39-12:2; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Revelation 22:17.)