

South Ridge Community Church

Statement of Faith & Beliefs

South Ridge deeply desires to **Embrace God's Grace – Extend God's Love**. We strongly desire to follow the example of Jesus who was filled with both 100% grace and 100% truth. Our desire is to offer God's grace and truth to every person whatever their religious beliefs, lifestyle choices, or background might be.

For those directly involved in communicating God's grace and truth as teachers, group leaders, worship leaders, etc. we desire to walk together in step with the truth of God's Word and His Spirit. The following is a summary of the South Ridge Statement of Faith and its Beliefs regarding various issues. If desired, please request the complete Statement of Faith from the church office or any staff person.

About God: We believe in a personal God, the Creator. God has revealed Himself in the Bible and continues to sustain creation and orders the affairs of people and nations by His power and wisdom. God is unchangeable and is complete in holiness, righteousness, justice, love, mercy and grace. *Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:15-17; Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

About the Bible: We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God, without error as originally written. It is true in all that it affirms and teaches and serves as the final authority for our faith and life. Through the Word of God, we come to know God's plan of salvation, and see His vision for our lives and His world. *2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21*

About Jesus Christ: We believe that Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. Even though Jesus was tempted, He lived a sinless life of obedience to His Father. Through offering himself to be crucified on the cross, he satisfied God's justice and made full payment for the sins of all who trust in Him for salvation. He rose from the dead and ascended into heaven where He is enthroned and mediates between God and humanity. *John 1:1; 3:16-18; Acts 1:11; 1 Corinthians 15:1-8*

About the Holy Spirit: We believe that the Holy Spirit is fully God. The Spirit's role is to apply the saving work of Jesus Christ to those who repent of their sin. He provides conviction, assurance of salvation, strength, guidance, comfort, and instruction. At the moment of salvation, believers are permanently indwelt by the Holy Spirit, equipped and empowered for holy living and service to others. *John 16:8-15; Romans 8:2,14; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 5:22-23*

About Human Beings and Sin: We believe that human beings were created in the image of God and designed for relationship with Him. As a result of both Adam's and our personal rebellion against God, every human being is now separated from Him. Humans are inclined toward disobeying God and are unable to please Him apart from His saving grace. *Genesis 1:26-27; 3:1-7; Ephesians 2:1-5; Romans 6:23*

About Salvation: We believe that by receiving Jesus Christ as personal Savior, our relationship with God can be restored. Salvation is deliverance from alienation, guilt, and bondage. It is restoration to fellowship, righteousness, and freedom for all who trust in Jesus Christ. Salvation is freely given by God's grace through the saving work of Jesus. Salvation is received by faith and results in love for God and obedience to Him. *John 1:12; Romans 8; Ephesians 1:13; Ephesians 2:8-9*

About Last Things: We believe that Jesus Christ will return at the close of this age to set things right. He'll raise the dead, justly judge all people (living and dead), consummate His kingdom, and renew His creation. Those who have trusted in Jesus will be raised to eternal life, and will live with Him forever. Those who have not trusted in Jesus will be eternally separated from God. *Matthew 19:28-30; Acts 3:19-21; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15; Revelation 20:11-15; 21:1-5*

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Statement of Faith & Beliefs (Continued)

About Faith and Practice: We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are two ordinances commanded by Christ that should be regularly observed by His people. Baptism, the immersion of a believer in water, demonstrates faith in the crucified, buried, and risen Savior. Baptism symbolizes death to sin and resurrection to a new life in Him. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death for us and is a symbol that our spiritual growth and life is sustained by the work of Christ. *Matthew 3:5-6; Romans 6:4-6; Matthew 26:23-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-30*

South Ridge also has statements of Belief related to several areas. The leadership at South Ridge recognizes there are many complex issues related to daily life, and the day-to-day choices that we make impact our ability to lead others toward God's grace and truth. Rather than being confining, it is the belief of South Ridge that alignment with God's truth and grace allows our lives, relationships, and communities to flourish and reach maximum potential. As a result, the leadership of South Ridge has the following positions:

- We believe that followers of Jesus have great freedom in making decisions and life choices (entertainment, activities, dress, etc). Rather than using personal freedom for self-actualization, we use our freedom to serve one another in love with the purpose of drawing others more deeply into their relationship with God. (Galatians 5:1, 13-18)
- We believe that every human being is created in the image of God and therefore has intrinsic value. We affirm the inherent value of the unborn child, the child or person with disabilities, and the elderly incapacitated person. (Genesis 1:26 & 27)
- We believe that we are to be filled with and under the influence of the Holy Spirit. While there is no biblical mandate that we not consume alcohol or wine, Scripture teaches us to be fully under the control of God's Spirit rather than alcohol. This principle also precludes the use of recreational drugs and the abuse of prescribed drugs. (Ephesians 5:15-20)
- We believe that sexuality is a beautiful gift of God and is to be expressed within the marriage covenant between a man and a woman. This enables the gift of sexuality and human life to flourish. We also believe that while the fallen state of all human beings has resulted in our personal sexual identities being broken and marred, God's individual creation of us as male or female should be honored and valued. (Genesis 1:26 & 27, 2:20-25)
- We believe that our speech and our interactions with one another are to be filled with beauty, love and honesty. Vulgarity, dishonesty and devaluing interactions violate the beauty and wonder of our person and our relationships. (Ephesians 5:15-20, 4:29-32)