

Mount Evelyn Christian School is operated by the Association for Christian Education Mount Evelyn Inc. The Association elects from among its members a Board which is given the responsibility to govern the school. The Board is answerable to the Association and determines the philosophical directions and strategies of the school. The Board delegates the day-to-day operational affairs of the school to the employed staff. A prerequisite for Association membership is subscription to the Educational Creed.

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1. OUR COMMON FAITH

As a community united in Christ for the education of youth WE CONFESS with the Church universal that there is one God, eternal and indivisible, in whom are three Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which three Persons are really, truly, and eternally distinct, each one truly God, yet without in any way destroying the unity of the one and only God, who is one and not three;

That this one God is the creator of all things, visible and invisible;

That people were created in the image of God with dominion over the creation;

That people sinned by disobeying the express command of God, so repudiating their Creator and bringing God's wrath and curse on themselves and on the whole creation over which they rule;

That by the curse of sin justly imposed every person is cut off from communion with God and is dead in sin, wholly corrupt throughout the whole individual, and utterly indisposed, disabled and made opposite to all good and wholly inclined to all evil;

That God in his love for the world, sent his Holy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to be born of the virgin Mary, being conceived by his Holy Spirit, to live and suffer on this earth as a man under the curse of sin although himself without sin, to endure the fullness of God's curse on sin in his death on the cross as a ransom for many, laying down his life for the sheep so that all who believe in him should receive without regard to their works or merit, full and free pardon, the riches of God's favour as his children and heirs, and eternal life in Christ, being renewed by the Holy Spirit in Christ's likeness;

That the Lord Jesus Christ, having died for our sins, rose again the third day by the power of God, ascended to heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty who has put all things in subjection under his feet, appointing him to be Head of all things and of the Church which is his body;

That at the time appointed by God and known to no person, this very same Jesus shall come the second time in power and glory to judge all people, living and dead, and having destroyed this present world, to establish the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness has a permanent home;

That when the Lord Jesus comes again all the dead shall be raised bodily, those who by faith have done well, to eternal life, and those who through unbelief have done evil, to eternal condemnation;

That the risen Christ has sent the Holy Spirit into the world that by him redemption might be effectually applied, the divine purpose of salvation accomplished, and the Church equipped for its mission on earth;

That the redemptive activity and gracious favour of God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is essential for the fulfilment of human life.

2. THE WORD OF GOD

WE CONFESS that the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, acknowledged in the confessions of the Reformation is, in all things, our supreme standard by which all we do is to be judged;

That this Scripture, written by people moved by the Holy Spirit is itself God's Word written, God himself being the author;

That the Scripture is the integral Word by which God, through his Spirit, draws us to and enlightens us in the truth, which is Christ Jesus our Lord, the eternal Word of God;

That the same eternal Word who reveals himself in Scripture, reveals himself in all that he has created so that the revelation of God is one;

That Scripture is indispensable and determinative for our knowledge of God, of ourselves, and of the rest of creation, and also for the whole educational task.

3. HUMAN LIFE

WE CONFESS that people, as God's image-bearers, are given dominion over the creation to rule it, manage it and develop it for God, who is King over Kings and Lord over Lords;

That human life is fulfilled only in a life of free, willing submission to God; a life lived in harmony with the law of God for his creation made known in the integral revelation of the Word of God;

That being now fallen into sin, people can attain this fulfilment only through renewal by the Holy Spirit after the image of their Creator;

That for people to attempt anything at all in independence of God or in ignorance of God's revelation is inherently destructive of humanity and of the creation over which they are given dominion;

That it is a person's glory, as God's image-bearer to do everything so that the glory of God is revealed in their doing;

That the development of the child as the image-bearer of God is a central concern of the educational task.

4. SIN AND EDUCATION

WE CONFESS that human life in its entirety is religion, unfolding itself as service to the one true God or of a God-substitute;

That in sin people have repudiated God in favour of God-substitutes with the result that they are cut off from the knowledge of God, of themselves and of the meaning of the creation, so that the light that they supposedly have is darkness and their wisdom is folly;

That apart from the man Jesus Christ, no person is exempted from this falsifying of knowledge through sin, but all alike grope in darkness, being blinded to the meaning of life, of the world and of people themselves;

That no area of human knowledge is free of this sinful falsifying;

That true education is possible only where the respect of God is re-established by God's grace in the heart of a person as the indispensable foundation of all wisdom and knowledge.

5. REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

WE CONFESS that God in Christ by the Cross has restored the whole creation to harmony with himself, making all things new in Christ;

That, although the fulfilment of this restoration awaits the future revelation of Christ in glory, yet in principle, by the work of the Holy Spirit in the world it is a present reality to be reckoned with in faith in every area of life;

That Christ in his redemption, by his Holy Spirit, is creating a new regenerated humanity bound in covenant community to Christ as Head;

That this covenant community is God's appointed means, through the power of the Holy Spirit within the community for communicating the redemption of Christ to the world;

That although by the grace of God, people who reject the Word of God as the ordering principle of life provide many valuable insights into the common structure of reality, yet the religious direction of their thought remains radically opposed to that of the covenant community in Christ, so that there can be no possibility of a synthesis of their systems of thought with scripturally directed thought which Christ's covenant community is called to pursue.

6. THE HUMAN TASK

WE CONFESS that the whole cosmos is the creation of God remaining under his government, upheld by his power and existing for his glory;

That the cosmos is neither chaotic nor meaningless, but ordered and pregnant with meaning by the creative act of God, graciously preserved and sustained by him in spite of the disruptive effects of human sin, and subject to the law of the Creator on all things;

That it is the human task to unfold the meaning that God, the Creator has given to the creation;

That a person can fulfil this task only as, dependent on the Holy Spirit, they function in subjection to the law by which God orders the creation;

That the law of the Creator finds its coherence and meaning in Christ who is the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End of the Creation of God;

That although by God's grace people who reject the Word of God are not left altogether without understanding of the order of the creation without which fruitful living would be impossible, people cannot truly know the creation in its God-given meaning without an obedient listening to Scripture as God's Word written in the light of which they study the creation;

That true education is the unfolding to the child of the creation in harmony with the order and meaning it has in Christ, so that the child may be prepared and equipped for their office and calling in this world as God's image-bearer and steward.

7. THE SPECIAL TASK OF PARENTS

WE CONFESS that God has given parents the responsibility for the nurture of children by discipline and instruction according to the Word of God;

That to enable them to carry out this responsibility, God has given parents authority over their children to guide and direct them in the way of righteousness and calls on children to honour, respect and obey their parents in the Lord;

That faithful training of children means instructing them in the covenant revealed in Scripture by which God binds his people to himself in whole-hearted love, which covenant is the key to the fulfilment of all human life;

That while parents may invite others to share with them in the nurture of their children, the responsibility for this nurture remains to determine the character and religious direction of the education of their children in every respect.

8. THE SPECIAL TASK OF THE SCHOOL

WE CONFESS that a school where Christ is confessed as Head of the educational task in harmony with Scripture is a valid expression of the life of the covenant community redeemed in Christ;

That the school is only one of several ways in which the covenant community expresses itself in this temporal world, each one displaying in a distinctive manner the rich fullness of Christ's redemption;

That it is the special task of the school to open out to the child the meaning and structure of the creation under the guidance of the Word of God as part of the equipment of the child for his or her calling in life in subjection to Christ as King;

That the school, under Christ and by his Holy Spirit, is to advance the reign of Christ on earth in accordance with its special task so that his kingdom may come to expression here and now, though with much imperfection and weakness, and so that our Lord may find us busy in his garden when he comes in glory.

9. THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

WE CONFESS that parents, with their children, united in Christ for the special task of the school, together with teachers and others who share with them a common confession of faith, constitute a Christian school community that is not in subjection to church, state or other human authority concerning its special task, but is subject to Christ who only rules as King over all;

That while the school is entitled to expect freedom from interference in its special task, it is required to respect and uphold all legitimate authority, in particular the authority of family, church and state and to encourage this respect in the child according to the Word of God;

That the responsibility and corresponding authority of parents for the nurture of their children, including especially their responsibility for those aspects of this nurture that form the special task of the school, is to be fully recognised and safeguarded by the school at all times;

That without diminishing the responsibility or authority of parents, the whole body of Christ, as one body in the Lord, shares responsibility for the task of the school;

That the authority of the teacher, to which the student is subject within the school community and which is to be upheld by the whole school community, is given for the effective nurture of the child within the limits of the special task of the school and is to be used only for this purpose with the recognition that all authority is of God to whom all who exercise authority must give account.

10. THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST

Confessing Christ as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, the redeemer and renewer of all our life, we pursue the educational task together, with confident hope and humble reliance on God, who, for Jesus' sake, sent his Holy Spirit to lead us into the truth, which is Christ, and with glad submission to the Word of God as the guide for all our endeavour, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory and the dominion for ever. Amen.