

“Master Ministries International, Inc. holds with joy to the Christian Faith taught in the Bible and affirmed in the ancient creeds of the Church (the Apostles’ and Nicene). We have no formal Statement of Faith. The following summary describes central Christian convictions held by many fundamental Christian assemblies and organizations. (1)

The Bible - both Old and New Testaments - is the Word of God. Inspired by God, written by people, it is the only perfect rule for real life with God, what to believe, and how to live.

God The one true God, Creator of all things, is perfect in every way. He is worthy of our worship, trust, obedience, and love because he is good, perfect, holy, and love. He exists eternally as three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Creation and Sin God created everything there is. In his creation, he has special love for the earth and human beings (made in his image). Designed to live with him and for him, we are naturally alienated from God and under his condemnation. This is because we rebel against his just rule, substitute other things for God in our lives, and do not live with each other the way he wants us to. Still, he did not give up on us. Out of love, he gave his Son to this world.

Jesus Christ is fully God and fully human. He lived in full obedience to God, demonstrated what life was designed to be, and offered the perfect obedience to God we never could. He died for us on the cross and dealt with the stain, consequences, and penalty of sin. God raised him bodily to new life and gave him ultimate authority at his throne, where Jesus is our Priest and Advocate.

Holy Spirit The Spirit is God’s presence and power in us. He was sent to open our lives to Christ. The Spirit lives in us - teaching, guiding, gifting and enabling us to live the special lives God calls us to.

Salvation - forgiveness of sin, adoption into God’s family, eternal life with him - comes through grace and not our own efforts. To experience real life with God we must turn to Christ and trust him as Savior and Lord. To those who receive him, Jesus gives the right to become God’s children. He is working to make us more like Jesus, and will complete that when Christ comes again.

The Church God’s design for our life includes others. It involves us being in

covenant relationship with his people in a community called Church. Life in this community is part of our experience of and response to Jesus' good news.

The Future Jesus will return to this earth to rule and make all things new. He will be judge of all. Those who live in resistance to God, saying no to Jesus Christ, will be judged to eternal separation from God and his new creation. Those who trust and love Jesus and are changed by his grace, he will take through resurrection into eternal life and the new heavens and new earth.

Freedom God gives us a large measure of freedom, allowing for significant differences of opinion on matters not central or essential to our faith. It is our privilege and responsibility to seek God's will and to live in submission to God's Word. *In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."*

1. First Evangelical Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, MI.