

International Graduate School of Leadership Statement of Faith

The Statement of Faith of IGSL serves to unify the faculty and guides all teaching at the school. The doctrine of inspiration is the foundation for all Christian theology. Our strong statement concerning verbal-plenary inspiration, inerrancy, and the final authority of Scripture is given without apology.

We allow for differences in areas not covered by the Statement of Faith. However, there are several principles that govern the faculty in expressing these differences and those concerning the interpretation of Scripture not addressed by the Statement of Faith. For example, if a doctrinal position were presented in such a way that it seemed to oppose evangelism and discipleship—and, thus, the fulfillment of the Great Commission—it would not be allowed. Here are the principles faculty will follow:

1. The particular doctrinal position held must be compatible with the Statement of Faith and with the basic teaching of Scripture.

2. The particular doctrine or interpretation must be held in love and not allowed to become a divisive issue among the faculty, staff, or the student body. Any teaching that would create a divisive issue will not be allowed. The person holding a particular doctrinal emphasis must be open to discussing the issue in a spirit of love and tolerance with those who do not hold the same view.

The foundation of our beliefs is the Bible, God's infallible written word, the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testament. We believe that it was uniquely, verbally and fully inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that it was written without error (inerrant) in the original manuscripts. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters on which it speaks.

We accept those large areas of doctrinal teaching on which, historically, there has been general agreement among all true Christians. Because of the specialized calling of our ministry, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us.

We explicitly affirm our belief in the following teachings of Scripture:

1. There is one true God, eternally existing in three persons--Father, Son and Holy Spirit--each of Whom possesses equally all the attributes of Deity and the characteristics of personality.

2. Jesus Christ is God, the living Word, Who became flesh through His miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit and His virgin birth. Hence, He is the perfect Deity and true humanity united in one person forever.

3. He lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for human sins by dying on the cross as a substitute, thus satisfying divine justice and accomplishing salvation for all who trust in Him alone.
4. He rose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He had lived and died.
5. He ascended bodily into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father where He, the only Mediator between God and humanity, continually makes intercession for His own.
6. Adam and Eve were originally created in the image of God. They sinned by disobeying God; thus, they were alienated from their Creator. That historic fall brought all people under divine condemnation.
7. Human nature is corrupted. As a result, all people are unable to please God. Everyone is in need of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.
8. Salvation is wholly a work of God's free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony. God imputes His righteousness to those who put their faith in Christ alone for their salvation, and thereby justified them in His sight.
9. It is the privilege of all who are born again of the Spirit to be assured of their salvation from the very moment in which they trust Christ as their Savior. This assurance is not based upon any kind of human merit, but is produced by the witness of the Holy Spirit, Who confirms in the believer the testimony of God in His written Word.
10. The Holy Spirit has come into the world to reveal and glorify Christ and to apply the saving work of Christ to individuals. He convicts and draws sinners to Christ, imparts new life to them, continually indwells them from the moment of spiritual birth, and seals them until the day of redemption. His fullness, power and control are appropriated in the believer's life by faith.
11. Believers are called to live so in the power of the indwelling Spirit that they will not fulfill the lust of the flesh but will bear fruit to the glory of God.
12. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, His body, which is composed of all people, living and dead, who have been joined to Him through saving faith.
13. God admonishes His people to assemble together regularly for worship, for participation in the ordinances, for edification through the Scriptures, and for mutual encouragement.
14. At physical death the believer enters immediately into eternal, conscious fellowship with the Lord and awaits the resurrection of the body to everlasting glory and blessing.
15. At physical death the unbeliever enters immediately into eternal, conscious separation from the Lord and awaits the resurrection of the body to everlasting judgment and condemnation.
16. Jesus Christ will come again to the earth--personally, visibly and bodily--to consummate history and the eternal plan of God.
17. The Lord Jesus Christ commanded all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to disciple people from every nation. The fulfillment of the Great Commission requires that all worldly and personal ambitions be subordinated to a total commitment to "Him Who loved us and gave Himself for us".

After reading the Statement of Faith, go to the "Faculty Commitments" form and indicate your agreement and affirmation.