

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT & PHILOSOPHY

## MISSION STATEMENT:

Cornerstone Christian School's mission is to partner with families to provide a Christ-centered education, biblically developing the entire student – spirit, mind, and body. We will integrate the Word of God throughout all disciplines with the goal of sending well-educated disciples into the world to reach the lost with the Gospel (Matthew 28:19).

## PHILOSOPHY:

The Cornerstone Christian School's philosophy of Christian education is based on the truth that God's Word is the standard for all truth, and that the Bible is the inspired, inerrant, and authoritative Word of God. God created and sustains all things. Education in preschool starts with basic skills grounded in an appreciation of God and His Creation combined with social skills built around Christian love and respect. The elementary and high school curriculum contains the Biblical foundation of God's truth and the understanding of the differences between a secular and Christian worldview.

All policies of the school, philosophies of subjects, curriculum materials, and teaching methods shall conform to Cornerstone Christian School's philosophy of Christian education. The Bible is the foundation and motivating force for all curricula. Cornerstone Christian School's primary goals and objectives include:

- To love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, and mind (Matt. 22:37)
- To glorify God in all that we do (1 Cor. 10:31)
- To promote the maturity of students in doctrine and practice (Eph. 6:4, Col. 1:28-29)
- To train students in Christian service and ministry (2 Tim. 2:2)
- To prepare students to be critical thinkers and lifelong learners.

The Word of God teaches that parents are responsible for their children's education (Deut. 6:4-7; Eph. 6:4). Cornerstone Christian School desires to be a trusted partner in this process. We are dedicated to providing an environment that supports Christian values and makes provisions for the individual differences of each child, challenging them to their fullest potential in Christ.

Excellence is a key element of our educational philosophy with the recognition that all students are individually important to God and are endowed with a unique set of gifts that are to be developed. The discipline and edification that is necessary for the development of Christ-like character will be integrated into every part of each student's school day. Students are expected to take responsibility for their conduct, choices, and actions and apply the knowledge they acquire in all areas of their lives.

## GOALS & OBJECTIVES

At Cornerstone Christian School, students will be provided with academic preparation in all subject areas, as well as with Biblical and Christian training.

Cornerstone Christian School will prepare its students to be:

1. *Spiritually Growing Individuals* who have experienced the regenerating power of Jesus Christ and the Word of God through the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and who strive for the highest development of each of their God-given talents and abilities (Eph. 1:3-4; Col. 2:6-7).
2. *Effective Communicators* who express themselves and their faith in worship, speaking, listening, reading, writing, and mathematics (Matthew 22:37).
3. *Healthy Individuals* who understand their identity in Christ as a unique individual created in the image of God, and are physically, emotionally, and spiritually fit, practicing good health habits and wise use of their body as the temple of God (Romans 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20).
4. *Servant Leaders* who practice Biblical skills in developing godly relationships, who do not merely look out for their interests but regard others as more important than themselves, and are called to serve others in love. (Phil. 2:1-5; Gal. 5:13).
5. *Community Participants* who understand God's influence in history and world events and realize their need to practice responsible citizenship through community service. (1 John 3:16-18).
6. *Critical Thinkers* who carry out problem-solving skills from a distinctively Christian worldview (Phil. 4:6-9).
7. *Academically prepared Lifelong Learners* who demonstrate reliance on God and set realistic personal and academic goals (Romans 12:3-8).

Cornerstone Christian School Christian School Statement of Faith presents Christian tenets that are basic to all evangelical Christian teachings. We recognize that specific doctrinal areas are unique to the varied denominations that will be represented at Cornerstone Christian School among teachers and students. Although Cornerstone Christian School is a ministry of First Baptist Church, we desire to serve the Christian community at large. Therefore, the school holds only to the doctrines contained within the declared Statement of Faith. Silence on a doctrine should not be taken as agreement or disagreement with that doctrine, only that it will not be an integrated element of instruction within the curriculum. There will be no attempt to promote specific denominational distinction at Cornerstone Christian School. There will be much effort to promote a Christ-centered worldview and recognition of Christ as "the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6) by which "there is no other" name under heaven by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). We desire to be united in the salvation and love of Christ and avoid any dissension that may arise due to denominational differences between us.

# STATEMENT OF FAITH

1. **The Bible.** We believe that the Bible is God's inspired Word, that it was written by men who were led by the Holy Spirit, and that it is the supreme, infallible authority in all matters of faith and conduct. (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; Mark 7:6-13; Acts 5:29)

2. **The Trinity.** We believe that there is only one true God, the triune God of the Bible, eternally existing as three coequal but distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 1:1-2, 14; John 10:30; 14:15-17; 2 Corinthians 13:14)

- a. **God the Father.** We believe that God the Father is perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer, and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:15-16; Jeremiah 10:12; Ephesians 2:4-5; Isaiah 65:24; Hebrews 7:25)
- b. **God the Son.** We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal and only begotten Son of God, conceived of the Holy Spirit, of virgin birth, sinless in His life, and making atonement for the sins of the world by His death. We believe in His bodily resurrection, ascension and visible, pre-millennial return to the world according to His promise. (John 1:1, 14, 18; Matthew 1:18; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 4:10; Acts 2:23-24; Acts 1:9-11)
- c. **God the Holy Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit was sent by God the Father and the Son to convict the world of sin, of righteousness and judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ. (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7-8; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Corinthians 6:11)

3. **Salvation.** We believe that all men are by nature and choice sinners, but that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." We believe that God offers redemption, forgiveness and restoration to all who confess and forsake their sin, seeking His mercy and forgiveness through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe, therefore, that those who accept Christ as Savior and Lord will rejoice forever in God's presence and those who refuse to accept Christ as Savior and Lord will be forever separated from God. (John 3:16-18, 36; Acts 3:19-21; Romans 5:12; 3:23; 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 1:8-10)

4. **The Church.** We believe that a local church is a community of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized by immersion upon a credible confession of faith and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to these local churches were committed, for perpetual observance, the ordinances of baptism, and the Lord's Supper, and that God has

laid upon these churches the task of proclaiming to a lost world the acceptance of Jesus Christ as Savior and the enthroning of Him as Lord and Master. We believe that human betterment and social improvements are the inevitable by-products of such a gospel. (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:42-47; Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:18-20; Galatians 6:10)

**5. Marriage and Human Sexuality.** We believe that the God of the Bible is the Creator of the universe. We believe that He created mankind, male and female, in His own image and likeness. As such He created them different so as to complement and complete each other. God instituted monogamous marriage between a man and a woman who love each other as the foundation of the family and the basic structure of human society.

We believe that marriage is exclusively the binding union of one genetic male and one genetic female sanctioned by God and evidenced by a marriage ceremony.

We also believe that legitimate biblical sexual relations are exercised solely within marriage. Therefore, sexual activities such as, but not limited to, lust, adultery, fornication, pre-marital sex, incest, polygamy, homosexuality, transgenderism, bisexuality, cross-dressing, pedophilia, and bestiality are contrary to God's laws and the teachings of the Bible. Further, lascivious behavior, the creation, viewing, and/or distribution of pornography are incompatible with a true biblical witness.

We believe that homosexuality and all other "sexual preferences" or "orientations" other than heterosexuality within the bond of marriage are unnatural, sinful, and unacceptable to God, a violation of His original, intended design for marriage. Therefore, this ministry will only perform marriage ceremonies and make its facilities and resources available for weddings between a man and a woman who are entering into a covenant relationship with each other and with God as an expression of their lifelong commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and one another. (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-12; John 4:16-18; Romans 1:18-32; 7:2; 1 Corinthians 5:11; 6:9-11, 18-20; 7:1-17; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:3-12, 21-33; 1 Timothy 1:8-11) (Please see also our *Wedding Guidelines*)

We believe that every person regardless of sexual orientation or practice should be shown compassion, love, kindness, respect and dignity. Hateful and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accordance with Scripture nor the doctrines and practices of this church. (Mark 12:28-31; Luke 6:3; Galatians 6:10)

**6. Autonomy of the Local Church.** We believe that every human being is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith, that each church is independent and autonomous and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictation or patronage of the other. (Romans 14:12; Matthew 22:21; Acts 12:1)