

ARTICLE XVII – STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

1. The Holy Scriptures

We believe the Bible (KJV) is the inspired, infallible, and authoritative Word of God, the final standard for all faith and practice.

2. The One True God

We believe in one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

3. The Lord Jesus Christ

We believe Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man, born of a virgin, sinless, crucified, risen, and exalted as Lord.

4. The Fall of Man

We believe all humanity is fallen in sin and separated from God, unable to save themselves.

5. Salvation

We believe salvation is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by works.

6. The New Birth

We believe every believer must be born again by the Holy Spirit, resulting in a transformed life.

7. Justification

We believe believers are declared righteous by faith in Christ's finished work.

8. Sanctification

We believe believers are called to live holy lives, set apart unto God.

9. The Holy Spirit

We believe the Holy Spirit indwells, empowers, leads, and equips believers for holy living and ministry.

10. The Church

We believe the Church is the body of Christ, made up of true believers, called to discipleship and mission.

11. Ordinances

We believe in water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper as commanded by Christ.

12. The Mission of the Church

We believe the Church is called to preach the Gospel, make disciples, and demonstrate the power of God.

13. The Return of Christ

We believe Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly.

14. Final Judgment

We believe in eternal life for the saved and eternal separation for the lost.

Our decision to discontinue Catholic holidays and traditions is based on the following principles:

1. **Scriptural Authority:** The Apostle Paul, in his letters to the early Church, emphasized the sufficiency of Christ and the importance of remaining faithful to the gospel (Galatians 1:8-9). We are instructed to "hold fast to the word of life" (Philippians 2:16) and not be led astray by man-made traditions that overshadow the work of Christ.
2. **The Example of the Early Church:** The early Church, as depicted in the Acts of the Apostles and the epistles, did not observe the traditional holidays now associated with Catholicism. Instead, their focus was on the celebration of the resurrection of Christ (every Sunday), the breaking of bread (communion), and the proclamation of the gospel.
3. **Avoidance of Syncretism:** Many Catholic holidays have roots in pre-Christian or non-biblical traditions. As followers of Christ, we desire to avoid any syncretism—blending of Christian beliefs with practices not rooted in Scripture. Our commitment is to pure worship and devotion to God as revealed in His Word.

Conclusion:

In this Ministry, we are committed to building a culture that prioritizes biblical practices, genuine worship, and a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. While we respect the diversity of Christian traditions, we believe that our faith and practices should be based solely on the teachings of Scripture. Therefore, we will no longer observe Catholic holidays and traditions, choosing instead to focus on the truths of the gospel and the ways in which we can faithfully live out Christ's commands in our daily lives.

Affirmation: All churches and ministers must adhere to these truths. Persistent deviation shall result in revocation of affiliation or credentials.

VRMI Leadership Team