



Seeing What We  
believe

Mark 12:24, Jn. 4:22

Mark 12:24 And Jesus answering said unto them,  
**Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures,** neither the power of God?

Jn. 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: **we know what we worship:** for salvation is of the Jews.

# **MOUNTAIN SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH BYLAWS**

## **ARTICLE 1**

### **NAME AND PURPOSE**

## **ARTICLE 2**

### **STATEMENT OF FAITH AND COVENANT**

#### **SECTION 2.01—STATEMENT OF FAITH**

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- (B) Dispensationalism.**
- (C) The Godhead.**
- (D) The Person and Work of Christ.**
- (E) The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit.**
- (F) The Depravity of Man.**
- (G) Salvation.**

**(H) The Eternal Security and Assurance of Believers.**

**(I) The Church**

**(J) Separation.**

**(K) The Second Coming of Christ.**

**(L) The Eternal State.**

**(M) The Personality of Satan.**

**(N) Creation.**

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**(P) Human Sexuality**

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**(R) Divorce and remarriage.**

**(S) Abortion**  
**(T) Euthanasia**  
**(U) Love**  
**(V) Lawsuits Between Believers**  
**(W) Missions**  
**(X) Giving**

Last week we finished the “Doctrinal Section” of our Constitution and By-laws. This evening we proceed to what is designated “SECTION 2.02 –AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH.

### **SECTION 2.02—AUTHORITY OF STATEMENT OF FAITH**

The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe. We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members. All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.

## I. THE COMPREHENSIVE PERSPECTIVE

- **The Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith.**
  - The Constitution and By-laws emphasize major doctrines.
  - This does not mean that the Bible is clear on every issue or question we have—the Bible has little to say on how to speak a second language, play a sport, or the scientific intricacies of rocket science.

- The entirety of our church's statement of faith cannot be contained in one legal document or decree, with the exception of the Bible.

## II. THE CONCISE PRONOUNCEMENT

- **The Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe.**
- Such a statement is often called *Sola Scriptura*.



- *Sola Scriptura* is the Latin translation for “Scripture alone.” As a whole, the phrase means that God’s Word is sufficient and has the highest authority for all of life.
- We believe that the authority of the Word of God is the guiding light of our life.

Psa. 33:6 **By the word of the LORD were the heavens made**; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

Psa. 119:105 **Thy word is a lamp** unto my feet, and **a light** unto my path.

Pro. 30:5 **Every word of God is pure**: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Psa. 119:130 **The entrance of thy words giveth light**; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

2 Pet. 1:19 **We have also a more sure word of prophecy**; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Heb. 4:12 For **the word of God *is* quick, and powerful**, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Rom. 10:17 So **then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

2 Tim. 2:15 **Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**

2 Tim. 3:16 **All scripture is given by inspiration of God,** and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 **That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.**

Isa. 40:6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:

7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.

8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: **but the word of our God shall stand for ever.**

### III. THE COMPLETENESS PROFESSED

- **We do believe, however, that the foregoing Statement of Faith accurately represents the teachings of the Bible and, therefore, is binding upon all members.**
- Agreement with our Statement of Faith indicates a mutual belief among the members of our church, which is conducive for unity.

Amos 3:3 **Can two walk together, except they be agreed?**

- Such unity, present in the first church in Jerusalem, produces spiritual power and testimony for honoring and glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where **they were assembled together**; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and **they spake the word of God with boldness.**

- Strongly held beliefs in doctrine motivate church members to covenant themselves together as one body, for fruitful fellowship in Christ.

Phil. 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye **stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

#### IV. THE CONSOLIDATED PROGRAM

- **All literature, whether print or electronic, used in the church shall be in complete agreement with the Statement of Faith.**
- Whether we use a tract, a study-guide, or something included in our Sunday programs, we endeavor to stay consistent in all printed materials reflecting our unity.



- Utilizing such unity is a spiritual synergy.

Synergy - the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements, contributions, etc.; synergism. <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/synergy?s=t>

Buckminster Fuller, who coined the word Synergy, defines it as "synthesis plus energy." According to Webster's Dictionary, synergism is "an ancient theological doctrine holding that in regeneration there is cooperation of divine grace and human activity."

<https://www.lightparty.com/Spirituality/Synergy2.html>

Mt. 18:19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20 For **where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.**

**συνεργός** = a companion in work, fellow laborer

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?t=KJV&strongs=G4904>

Rom. 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my **helpers**[G4904] in Christ Jesus: ...

9 Salute Urbane, our **helper**[G4904] in Christ, and Stachys my beloved. ...

21 Timotheus my **workfellow**,[G4904] and Lucius, and Jason, and Sosipater, my kinsmen, salute you.

1 Cor. 3:9 For we are **labourers together**[G4904] with God: ye are God's husbandry, *ye are* God's building.

2 Cor. 1:24 Not for that we have dominion over your faith, but are **helpers**[G4904] of your joy: for by faith ye stand.

2 Cor. 8:23 Whether *any do enquire* of Titus, *he is* my partner and **fellowhelper**[G4904] concerning you: or our brethren *be enquired of, they are* the messengers of the churches, *and* the glory of Christ.

Phil. 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and **companion in labour**, [G4904] and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

Phil. 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my **fellowlabourers**, [G4904] whose names *are* in the book of life.

Col. 4:11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only *are my* **fellowworkers** [G4904] unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.

1 Thess. 3:2 And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our **fellowlabourer**[G4904] in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

Phm. 1:1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy *our* brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and **fellowlabourer**,[G4904] ...

24 Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my **fellowlabourers**. [G4904]

3 Jn. 1:8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be **fellowhelpers**[G4904] to the truth.

- The spiritual synergy listed in the previous verses is a beautiful example of unity.

Psa. 133:1 Behold, how good and how pleasant *it is*  
**for brethren to dwell together in unity!**

- The Holy Spirit moved the Apostle Paul to encourage the church at Ephesus to focus upon “unity.”

Eph. 4:3 **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. ...

13 Till we all come in **the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

- When all of our literature, tracts, handouts, etc. are all in agreement with our statement of faith, it produces and maintains a spirit of unity within our church.



## Summary

This section is epitomized by the word “unity.” As church members we are in agreement regarding the following:

1. The declaration of our faith;
2. The dominion of our faith;
3. The defense of our faith;
4. The durability of our faith.

1 Cor. 16:13 Watch ye, **stand fast in the faith**, quit you like men, be strong.

Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, **so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.**

2 Thess. 2:15 Therefore, **brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle.**