

# FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS: THE MISSION OF MOUNT VERNON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MOUNT VERNON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL,  
COMMITTED TO EDUCATION BASED ON THE INFALLIBLE WORD OF GOD,  
SEEKS TO SERVE GOD BY PREPARING STUDENTS TO RESPOND IN LOVING SERVICE TO GOD  
AND THEIR NEIGHBORS.  
AS AN EXTENSION OF THE CHRISTIAN HOME, WE ASSIST PARENTS IN NURTURING THEIR  
CHILDREN IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LORD AND OF HIS CREATION,  
THEREBY EQUIPPING STUDENTS TO EMBRACE BIBLICAL VALUES WHILE BEING CHRIST'S  
AGENTS OF RENEWAL IN THE WORLD.

*THE CENTRAL AIM OF MOUNT VERNON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL IS TO PROMOTE AND IMPLEMENT  
THE FOLLOWING DISTINCTIVE WORLD VIEW:*

## 1. MAN'S LIFE AND TASK

WE CONFESS that all things are created by God (*Genesis 1 & 2*) and, as His creation, remain under His rule, are upheld by His power, and exist for His glory (*Psalms 19:1*); that mankind, as the creature uniquely made in God's image (*Genesis 1:27*), is given dominion over creation to rule it and develop it under God (*Genesis 1:28-30; Westminster Confession, Chapter IV*).

WE CONFESS that man is called to experience and confess creation's God-given order and meaning (*Colossians 2:10*).

WE CONFESS that human life in its entirety is a response to the true God, either in obedience or disobedience to that God (*1 John 3:7-10*), and that in fulfillment of his task, man is called to discern the many ways in which God calls each of His creatures to serve Him (*1 John 4:1-3*), so that man may cultivate creation in all its richness in obedience to God's commands and in harmony with the laws in which God in His faithfulness maintains His creation (*Romans 8:18-21*).

WE CONFESS that education is the process of nurturing and directing the child, as a creature made in God's image, to the responsible and obedient exercise of this dominion, in fulfillment of his calling under God (*Ephesians 4:11-13*).

## 2. THE WORD OF GOD

WE CONFESS that the whole creation finds its coherence and meaning in the only begotten Son of the Father, the living Word of God through Whom all things were made and are continually upheld (*Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 9, 10; Colossians 1:15-20*).

WE CONFESS that the supreme standards for all matters of education are the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, God's Word written, by whose light alone we can study creation and know its God-given meaning (*1 Timothy 3:15-17; Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter I; Belgic Confession of Faith, Article VII*).

**WE CONFESS** that creation is God's handiwork (*Psalm 24: 1-2*), that He governs all things by His providence (*Hebrews 1:3*), that every creature is subject to His will (*Job 1:12*), and that through general revelation God reveals truth to all people, both believers and unbelievers (*Romans 1:20; Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 2*).

**WE CONFESS** that while the study of the Scriptures is no substitute for the study of God's creation, Scripture remains indispensable and determinative for our knowledge of God, of mankind and of the rest of creation, and thus for the whole educational task (*Hebrews 4:12-13; Belgic Confession of Faith, Article 3*).

### 3. SIN

**WE CONFESS** that in sin man has rejected God in favor of "gods" and priorities of his own making, and has therefore cut himself off from all true knowledge of God, of himself, and of the meaning of creation, so that the light that he supposes he has is darkness and his wisdom is folly (*Isaiah 44:9-20; Belgic Confession of Faith, Article XV*);

that apart from the one sinless Man, Jesus Christ, all men alike grope in darkness; that since man cannot be neutral in relationship to God, neither can his acquisition of knowledge be so; it will be either pleasing or displeasing to His Creator (*Romans 5:19; Belgic Confession of Faith, Article XV*);

that disobedience to God is inherently destructive of man and of the creation over which man is given dominion, but that the creation remains continually upheld in grace in subjection to God's law (*Romans 5:12-14; Colossians 1:16-18; Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter V; Belgic Confession of Faith, Article XIII*);

that no human activity, including the educational task, can enable man of himself to fulfill his destiny or bring himself to salvation, but the redemption and renewal of human life lies in the power of the blood and Spirit of Christ alone (*Ezekiel 36:26-27; Westminster Confession of Faith, Chapter XVI; Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 23*);

that true education is possible only where the fear of God is re-established by God's grace in the heart of man as the indispensable foundation of all wisdom and knowledge (*Proverbs 1:7; Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 12*).

### 4. REDEMPTION IN CHRIST

**WE CONFESS** that God in Christ by the cross has restored the whole creation to harmony with Himself, making all things new in Christ (*Colossians 1:15-23; Belgic Confession of Faith, Article XXI*);

that although the fulfillment of this restoration awaits the future revelation of Christ in glory, yet, in principle, by the present work of the Holy Spirit in the world, it is a present reality to be reckoned with in faith in every area of life (*Romans 8:37-40; Belgic Confession of Faith, Article XXIV*);

that Christ in His redemption, by the Holy Spirit, is creating from among the old humanity in Adam a new humanity in Christ, united in the Church which is His body, the covenant community bound to Him as Head (*Peter 2:9-10*);

that the covenant community is the gathering of those who, having received the sign of God's redemption in the sacrament of Baptism, claim the promises of God and trust Jesus for their salvation (*Acts 2:28; Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 27*);

that the covenant community is God's appointed means, through the power of the Holy Spirit within the community, for communicating the redemption of Christ to our

children and then to the world (*Matthew 28:19-20; Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 26, Belgic Confession, Article XXVIII*);

that although by the grace of God, men who reject the Word of God as the ordering principle of life provide many valuable insights into the structure of reality, yet, because the religious direction of their thought remains radically opposed to that of the covenant community in Christ, there can be no possibility of a synthesis of their systems of thought with the Scripturally-directed thought which Christ's covenant community is called to pursue (*II Peter 1:3-21*).

## THE SPECIAL TASK OF PARENTS

WE CONFESS that God has given parents the responsibility for the nurture of their children by discipline and instruction according to the Word of the Lord; that in accordance with this responsibility, God has given parents authority over their children to guide them and direct them in the way of righteousness;

that God has given children on their part a corresponding responsibility to honor, respect, and obey their parents in the Lord;

that faithful training of children means instructing them in the covenant revealed in Scripture by which God binds His people to Himself in whole-hearted love, which covenant is the key to the fulfillment of all man's life;

that while parents may invite others to share with them in the nurture of their children, the responsibility for this nurture remains the responsibility of the parents, whose task it always remains to determine the character and religious direction of the children's nurture in every aspect.

## THE SPECIAL TASK OF THE SCHOOL

WE CONFESS that the covenant community redeemed in Jesus Christ expresses itself in many ways in every aspect of this temporal world; a school where Christ is confessed as Lord of the educational task in harmony with the Scriptures is one valid expression of the life of this covenant community, displaying in its own distinctive manner the rich fullness of Christ's redemption;

that it is the special task of the school to open out to the child the meaning and structure of the creation under the guidance of the Word of God, as part of the equipping of the child for the fulfillment of his calling in life in subjection to Christ as King;

that the school's team of teachers, as the body of educators in the Christian community, has the task, in obedience to Christ's calling, of articulating the content of the educational curriculum and seeking to implement it so as to lead each child as a responsible creature made in God's image, who must be accepted for who he is and as he is; that the school, under Christ and by His Holy Spirit, is to advance the reign of Christ on earth in accordance with its special task so that His kingdom may come to expression here and now, though with very much imperfection and weakness, and so that our Lord may find us busy in His service when He comes in glory.