

# General Information

## Doctrinal Statement

Trinity College believes and teaches the essential doctrines of the Christian faith that are commonly held to be the historic, Biblical, conservative, and evangelical position.

- We *believe* the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are verbally inspired by God, inerrant in the original writings, and that they are the supreme and final authority in faith and life.
- We *believe* in one God, eternally existing in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We *believe* that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary and is fully God and fully man.
- We *believe* that man was created in the image of God, but that he sinned and thereby incurred not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God.
- We *believe* that the Lord Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures as a representative and substitutionary sacrifice, and that all who believe in Him are justified on the ground of His shed blood, and adopted into God's family as His beloved children.
- We *believe* in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life, and by whom the Church is empowered to carry out Christ's Great Commission.
- We *believe* in the resurrection of the crucified body of our Lord, in His ascension into heaven, and His present life there for us, as High Priest and Advocate.
- We *believe* in "that blessed hope," the personal, bodily return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in glory to fully establish his kingdom on the earth.
- We *believe* in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting bliss of the saved, and the everlasting conscious suffering of the lost.

Due to the historical convictions of the school's Founders, and the Biblical conviction of the Faculty of the Bible and Theology Department of Trinity College of Florida. Those who teach full-time in the Bible and Theology Department do also affirm the following statement regarding eschatology:

*"We believe in that "blessed hope," the personal, pre-millennial and imminent bodily return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in glory to fully establish his kingdom on the earth."*

# Statement on Human Sexuality

## Affirmations and Denials<sup>1</sup>

The following statements are a series of affirmations and denials with respect to human sexuality that represents the foundational biblical truths that are embraced, taught, and lived out by Trinity College of Florida. Our understanding of sexuality is grounded in the inerrant Word of God, which is the absolute and final authority for us as Christians for all of life and practice. They are presented in a series of Articles with relevant topics and accompanying Scripture references.

### Article 1: God's Good Design

We affirm that God created humankind in his image as either male or female with equal personhood and worth, and that he commissioned them to be fruitful and multiply, to fill the earth, and to rule and subdue it together. We also affirm that differences between men and women are part of God's design and plan and are complementary in nature. These unique differences between men and women were pronounced as "very good." (Genesis 1:26–28, 31).

We deny that male and female are indistinct from or interchangeable with one another, or that the differences are inconsequential (Genesis 1:26–27, 2:21–24; Matthew 19:4–5).

### Article 2: Sexual Difference

We affirm that when God created human beings, he established a male-female binary that is normatively displayed at the chromosomal level of human biology (Genesis 1:27, 2:18–25; Matthew 19:4; 1 Corinthians 11:8–12).

We deny that any so-called "gender identity" that contradicts the biological markers of male and female assigned by God can be legitimately chosen or changed based on personal preference, subjective feeling, or societal norm (Psalm 139:13–15). We also deny that any human condition resulting from the Fall removes or cancels the structural image of God in any individual or puts anyone beyond God's call to salvation and saving grace.

### Article 3: The Fall

We affirm that because of the Fall in Genesis, sin has marred the sexual experience of humankind, resulting in various disorders (such as intersex conditions and gender dysphoria), which display the brokenness of creation (Genesis 3, Romans 8:20–23). We affirm that the Fall distorted the sexual desires of humanity, and that all expressions of homosexual behavior, either by act or desire, is expressly designated as sin in Scripture and contrary to God's design (1 Corinthians 6:9–10, Romans 1:26–27, Romans 13:14, Galatians 5:16–17, Ephesians 2:3, 1 John 2:16).

We deny that the presence of various disorders is evidence that God intended other modes of existence outside the male-female binary and that such disorders or dysphoria ever legitimize behaviors contrary to this divine intention (Genesis 1:26–28, Matthew 19:4–5).

### Article 4: Masculinity and Femininity

We affirm that men ought to display uniquely masculine ways of being and that women ought to display uniquely feminine ways of being in every sphere of life, which are fitting to God's good design in creation, even if the expressions of masculinity and femininity may vary in limited ways from culture to culture (1 Corinthians 11:13–16, 16:13; 1 Timothy 2:8–13; 1 Peter 3:3).

We deny that these masculine and feminine ways of being can be reduced to mere social constructs, while also denying that they should include unhelpful cultural stereotypes that are not in step with the Bible.

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<sup>1</sup> These statements were formulated and come as a slight revision to the human sexuality statement formulated and adopted by Bethlehem Baptist church in Minneapolis, Minnesota. See <https://bethlehem.church/manhood-womanhood-affirmations-and-denials/>

**Article 5: Definition and Purpose of Marriage**

We affirm that God created and intended marriage to be the loving, lifelong union of a man and a woman, and that marriage is the only proper context for sexual intimacy. We affirm that there are many purposes to marriage such as procreation as well as expressions of covenant love, relational and emotional intimacy, along with physical pleasure. We further assert that a husband and wife may still glorify God even without children (Genesis 1:28, 2:24; Song of Solomon 2:7; Matthew 19:4–6; Luke 20:34–36).

We deny that any union between two men, two women, more than two people, or any other unbiblical arrangement constitutes a legitimate marriage.

\* Approved by the Presidential Cabinet and the Board of Trustees – January 19, 2022

## Statement of Principles on Marriage and Singleness

**Affirmations and Denials**

The following statements are a series of affirmations and denials with respect to the principles of marriage and singleness that represent the foundational biblical truths that are embraced, taught, and lived out by Trinity College of Florida. Our understanding of marriage and singleness is grounded in the inerrant Word of God, which is the absolute and final authority for us as Christians for all of life and practice. They are presented in a series of Articles with relevant topics and accompanying Scripture references.

**Article 1: Marriage Roles**

We affirm that God, in his wisdom, appointed unique and complementary roles within marriage, according to creation, and as a type of the relationship between Christ and the church (Genesis 2:15, 18; Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Peter 3:1–7).

We deny that the distinct, God-given roles of husbands and wives or of fathers and mothers are inconsequential, interchangeable, or indistinct from one another.

**Article 2: Husbands**

We affirm that, as Christ is the head of the church, a husband is the head of his wife and should display sacrificial and loving headship in marriage, bearing a particular accountability before God in the leadership of the home (Ephesians 5:22–33, 1 Peter 3:7).

We deny that a husband's headship is inherently oppressive to his wife. We deny that either spouse should ever domineer, manipulate, neglect, or abuse the other spouse, and we deny that these behaviors should ever be overlooked or permitted when brought to the attention of church leaders.

**Article 3: Wives**

We affirm that, as the church submits to Christ, a wife should submit to her husband and should display joyful respect and help in marriage (Ephesians 5:22–33, Colossians 3:18, 1 Peter 3:1–6).

We deny that a wife's submission is a result of sin's corruption of God's design. We also deny that either wives or husbands should follow their spouses into sin.

**Article 4: Singleness**

We affirm that just as marriage is a gift from God, singleness is also a gift from God to be enjoyed as an excellent path for faithful and fruitful service in the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 7:6–8, Matthew 19:10–12).

We deny that singleness should be given less respect or honor as a way of life in service to Christ. We also deny that singleness should be used as an excuse for sinful behaviors.

**Article 5: The Ultimate Goal of Marriage**

We affirm that the ultimate point of marriage is to picture the relationship between Christ and the church, which will be consummated when the church, Christ's bride, will be united to Jesus in glory, at which point marriage will cease to exist in its earthly form (Luke 20:34-36, Ephesians 5:31-32).

We deny that earthly marriage is the ultimate goal of the Christian or that one must pursue marriage to portray the gospel with one's life.

\* Approved by the Presidential Cabinet and the Board of Trustees – January 19, 2022.

## History

Dr. William T. Watson, a tent preacher from North Carolina, and pastor of a large Christian and Missionary Alliance church in St. Petersburg felt the Lord led him to establish a Bible college for the training of Christian workers. Following God's call, he founded the Florida Bible Institute in 1932, changing the name to Trinity College in 1947. Little did he realize when he started the College that a young man, Billy Graham, who would enroll in 1937 and graduate in 1940, was destined to become one of the greatest evangelists in the history of the church.

Though Dr. Graham is the College's most famous graduate, he is but one of many in the past years who have gone on from the College to serve the Lord all over the world and in many different roles. Originally focused on training pastors and missionaries, the College has expanded its course offerings over the years to include worship ministry, youth ministry, elementary education, psychology, general studies, and business organizational leadership. In 1999, the College also added an evening degree completion program for adults, enabling those with families and careers to benefit from a Trinity education.

An important characteristic of the College has always been its distinctly conservative evangelical, but non-denominational, nature. At Trinity, students from a wide variety of church backgrounds have the opportunity to study God's Word and be equipped to serve Him in an atmosphere of respect. In a world where nondenominational cooperation among evangelicals is becoming increasingly vital, Trinity College of Florida believes this type of education best serves its students as they prepare to live and serve more effectively. A major milestone in the life of the College was achieved in 1996 when Trinity was accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education. Accreditation demonstrates an institution's commitment to educational quality in general and to the Biblical and theological as well as, Christian Service requirements unique to Bible colleges. Trinity looks with pride at its past, and enthusiasm at its future, as we continue the tradition of equipping men and women to serve our Lord.

## Our Mission Statement

Trinity College of Florida provides a biblically centered education, equipping servant leaders for life and career opportunities. The goals for achieving this mission are:

1. Spiritual - To orient, motivate, and lead students to Christian maturity and spiritual depth.
2. Academic - To engage students with opportunities to integrate Biblical faith and learning.
3. Intellectual - To develop in students the ability for critical analysis and to motivate in them a desire for continuing intellectual pursuits.
4. Professional - To produce graduates competent in the area of their professional training.
5. Social - To cultivate a culture that redefines how we learn, love, and live in a way that honors God, impacting our community for generations to come.

## Our Vision Statement

The vision of Trinity College of Florida is to be the premier provider of biblically-focused, multifaceted, and diversified higher learning to fulfill the Great Commission in life and career. Trinity College believes that the Bible should be at the heart and core of all training and that it is the standard for evaluating all claims to knowledge. The Bible, as the inspired Word of God, is instrumental in thoroughly equipping God's servants for ministry. This philosophy is reflected in the wide range of Bible and theology courses offered. The College believes that the Bible is the only framework within which a consistent, effective, and productive worldview, lifestyle, and life of service to God and humanity can be maintained.

# Standards

Trinity College is a private, Christian educational institution that has sought to create and encourage the kind of atmosphere in which quality Christian education can flourish. It is believed that the College should provide the student with precepts and examples from which a student can develop personal values within a Biblical framework.

In accordance with the objectives of the College, certain standards and norms have been adopted to create just such an atmosphere for the best possible educational experience. The College expects its faculty, staff, and students to maintain personal conduct, which is spiritually and morally constructive—thus glorifying the Lord in all things.

The student should understand that attendance at Trinity College is a privilege granted only to those who desire to work together in carrying out and attaining the aims of a Christian college. When a student is accepted, an agreement is implied to be diligent in studies and employment and to obey the Student Handbook regulations.

The administration reserves the right to withdraw anyone who is considered to be out of harmony with the spirit of the College. It is expected that each student's conduct will give evidence of Christian standards of honesty, morality, and courtesy. The policy of the College in promoting spiritual growth and the pursuit of learning is best summed up in these words: "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth." (2 Timothy 2:15, NASB)

Although the Trustees and Administration of Trinity College of Florida in no way guarantee employment to any of its graduates believe that the application of Biblical principles in the lives of faculty and students will result in personal love and commitment to Christ, wholesome consideration for others, and a well-disciplined life.

## Student Body

### **Geographical Distribution**

Eight states and four foreign countries were represented on campus in the Fall of 2023-2024 semester with 93% of students coming from Florida.

### **Church Affiliation**

Trinity College is a non-denominational, evangelical Bible college, and in the last academic year, more than 10 denominations or independent churches were represented, or attended, by students on campus.

### **Residence Halls**

The L.L. Speer Hall serves as the main residence hall for the campus. The three-story residence building is equipped with the latest and safest technology. The Ruth Munce Hall is used as an additional residence hall for the campus.

### **W.T. Watson Administration Building**

The W.T. Watson Administration Building currently houses the student lounge, kitchen, dining room, administrative offices, faculty offices, and classrooms, along with the central maintenance facility.

### **Disclaimer**

Trinity College of Florida reserves the right to make any changes in the programs presented, tuition and fees, and the courses offered in this publication. The provisions of this catalog are subject to change without notice and do not constitute an irrevocable contract between any student and the College. All addendums will be posted on the Trinity College website, once approved.