



FOSTER COLLEGE

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL DISTINCTIVES

Foster College encourages students to actively engage with knowledge by critically evaluating what they learn and applying it appropriately. However, this process must be filtered through the Institution's Biblical and Theological Distinctives. The Core Distinctives represent non-negotiable beliefs that all stakeholders must adhere to in order to remain aligned with the college's mission and values. Therefore, **all leadership, faculty, staff, and students must acknowledge their full agreement with these Core Distinctives.**

Regarding the Institutional Positions, the college is guided by the principle: "*In essentials, UNITY; in non-essentials, LIBERTY; in all things, CHARITY.*" While Foster College is built on sound biblical interpretation and adherence to core faith convictions, we recognize that sincere theologians and Bible scholars may arrive at variant conclusions on positional matters that are not heretical.

As an institution, we uphold certain positional beliefs while acknowledging that individuals may hold differing views. Those with personal perspectives that slightly differ from our position are welcome within the Foster College community. However, in matters of positional divergence, the college's stance must be acknowledged, respected, and prioritized. Efforts to intentionally persuade students to adopt views contrary to this position are impermissible.

CORE DISTINCTIVES

We unequivocally believe...

AUTHORITY OF SCRIPTURE

1. The Bible as the inerrant, infallible Word of God, and that, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God."¹

TRIUNITY OF THE GODHEAD

2. There is one God, manifested in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, co-equal and co-eternal.²
3. In the perfect humanity and the perfect Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ; His substitutionary death on the cross, His physical burial, His bodily resurrection, and His ongoing intercession and advocacy for His saints.³
4. In the personality of the Holy Spirit, and full recognition of His work in this age including the: reproving, convicting, sealing, baptizing, instructing, indwelling, and filling of believers.⁴



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SALVATION AND SECURITY

5. Salvation is by grace through faith; it is the unmerited gift of God. We are redeemed solely through the shed blood of Christ on the cross.⁵
6. All who have accepted Christ as their personal Savior are born again and are members of the universal Church, the body and Bride of Christ, regardless of membership in any local church or denomination.⁶
7. While a believer may grow in knowledge of their position and power in Christ, they are, at the moment of salvation, absolutely complete in Christ. No second blessing or second work of grace is required by God.⁷
8. In the eternal security of believers. This security is the work of God for those chosen and saved by grace, ensuring they are preserved unto the fulfillment of God's purposes.⁸

SIN AND SATAN

9. In the fall of humanity through belief in Satan's deception, resulting in condemnation as sinners separated from God—a condition that affects all humankind.⁹
10. In the personality of Satan. Though created perfect, he fell through pride, becoming the originator of sin, the enemy of God, and the "god of this world."¹⁰
11. Eternal punishment awaits those who reject the great salvation offered through the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God.¹¹
12. Though the saved person retains a sin nature in this life, the Holy Spirit provides the means for daily victory over sin. This victory is available to all believers and is made effective through conscious dependence on the Spirit."¹²

THE IMMINENT RETURN OF CHRIST

13. The imminent return of Christ will unfold as follows: first, His coming for His Church, followed by a period of tribulation, and culminating in His visible, personal, and glorious second coming. At that time, Christ will establish a 1,000-year earthly Kingdom, reigning as King of Kings and Lord of Lords, restoring Israel, and executing final judgment. This judgment will result in eternal separation and destruction in Hell for the unredeemed, while the redeemed will enjoy eternal blessing and life with Him forever in the New Jerusalem and the new heavens and earth.¹³

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY ON HUMAN SEXUALITY AND MARRIAGE

14. Marriage is ordained by God as a sacred covenant and union between one God-created man and one God-created woman. In marriage, the husband and wife are equal in standing before God through grace, with the husband being called to serve as the head of the home and the wife willingly submitting to his leadership in accordance with biblical teaching.¹⁴



FOSTER COLLEGE

INSTITUTIONAL POSITIONS

We uphold the belief that...

GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

15. Certain gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as speaking in tongues and healing, were manifestation gifts given to authenticate the message and messengers of God. With the completion of the Bible, these gifts are no longer signs of spirituality but must, if practiced, align with Biblical instruction.¹⁵

PASTOR/ELDER LEADERSHIP

16. All individuals, created in God's image, have inherent value and deserve dignity, as taught throughout Scripture. While both men and women are both endowed with gifts and called to serve, we distinguish between ministry gifts and church offices. We believe the leadership office of pastor/elder, as defined by Biblical qualifications, is reserved for men, therefore, women should not serve in this capacity.¹⁶



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Scriptural Support

¹ Exodus 24:4; Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 17:19; Joshua 8:34; Psalm 19:7-10; 119:11,89,105, 140; Isaiah 34:16; 40:8; Jeremiah 15:16; 36:1-32; Matthew 5:17-18; 22:29; Luke 21:33; 24:44-46; John 5:39; 16:13-15; 17:17; Acts 2:16 ff.; 17:11; Romans 15:4; 16:25-26; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 4:12; 1 Peter 1:25; 2 Peter 1:19-21.

² Ps. 33: 6, 9; Isaiah 61:1; Matt. 3:16-17, 28:19; Mk. 1:10,11; Luke 1:35, 3:22; John 1:32; Acts 7:55; Romans 8:11, 14-17, 26-27; 2 Cor. 12:13-14; Hebrews 9:14.

³ Genesis 18:1ff.; Psalms 2:7ff.; 110:1ff.; Isaiah 7:14; 53; Matthew 1:18-23; 3:17; 8:29; 11:27; 14:33; 16:16,27; 17:5; 27; 28:1-6,19; Mark 1:1; 3:11; Luke 1:35; 4:41; 22:70; 24:46; John 1:1-18,29; 10:30,38; 11:25-27; 12:44-50; 14:7-11; 16:15-16,28; 17:1-5, 21-22; 20:1-20,28; Acts 1:9; 2:22-24; 7:55-56; 9:4-5,20; Romans 1:3-4;3:23-26; 5:6-21; 8:1-3,34; 10:4; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2:2; 8:6; 15:1-8,24-28; 2 Corinthians 5:19-20, 8:9; Galatians 4:4-5; Ephesians 1:20; 3:11; 4:7-10; Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 1:13-22; 2:9; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 1 Timothy 2:5-6; 3:16; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 1:1-3; 4:14-15; 7:14-28; 9:12-15,24-28; 12:2; 13:8; 1 Peter 2:21-25; 3:22; 1 John 1:7-9; 2:1-2, 3:2; 4:14-15; 5:9; 2 John 7-9.

⁴ Genesis 1:2; Judges 14:6; Job 26:13; Psalms 51:11; 139:7ff.; Isaiah 61:1-3; Joel 2:28-32; Matthew 1:18; 3:16; 4:1; 12:28-32; 28:19; Mark 1:10,12; Luke 1:35; 4:1,18-19;11:13; 12:12; 24:49; John 4:24; 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-14; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4,38;4:31; 5:3; 6:3; 7:55; 8:17,39; 10:44; 13:2; 15:28; 16:6; 19:1-6; Romans 8:9-11,14-16,26-27; 1 Corinthians 2:10-14; 3:16; 12:3-11,13; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14;4:30; 5:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:19; 1 Timothy 3:16; 4:1; 2 Timothy 1:14; 3:16; Hebrews 9:8,14; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 John 4:13; 5:6-7; Revelation 1:10; 22:17.

⁵ Genesis 3:15; Exodus 3:14-17; 6:2-8; Matthew 1:21; 4:17; 16:21-26; 27:22-28:6; Luke 1:68-69; 2:28-32; John 1:11-14,29; 3:3-21,36; 5:24; 10:9,28-29; 15:1-16; 17:17; Acts 2:21; 4:12; 15:11; 16:30-31; 17:30-31; 20:32; Romans 1:16-18; 2:4; 3:23-25; 4:3ff.; 5:8-10; 6:1-23; 8:1-18,29-39; 10:9-10,13; 1 Corinthians 1:18,30; 6:19-20; 15:10; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20; Galatians 2:20; 3:13; 5:22-25; 6:15; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-22; 4:11-16; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 1:9-22; 3:1 ff.; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10, 5:23-24; 2 Timothy 1:12; Titus 2:11-14; Hebrews 2:1-3; 5:8-9; 9:24-28; 11:1-12:8,14; James 2:14-26; 1 Peter 1:2-23; 1 John 1:6-2:11; Revelation 3:20; 21:1-22:5.

⁶ Matt. 16:16-18; Acts 2:47-48; Romans 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Eph. 1:20-23, 4:3-10; Col. 3:14-15.

⁷ John 5:24, 17:23; Acts 13:39; Romans 5:1; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; Eph. 1:3; Col. 2:10; 1 John 4:17, 5:11-12.

⁸ John 5:24, 10:28, 13:1, 14:16-17, 17:11; Romans 8:29; 1 Cor. 6:19; Philippians 1:6; Heb. 7:25; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:12, 5:13; Jude 24.

⁹ Genesis 1:26-30; 2:5,7,18-22; 3; 9:6; Psalms 1; 8:3-6; 32:1-5; 51:5; Isaiah 6:5; Jeremiah 17:5; Matthew 16:26; Acts 17:26-31; Romans 1:19-32; 3:10-18,23; 5:6,12,19; 6:6; 7:14-25; 8:14-18,29; 1 Corinthians 1:21-31; 15:19,21-22; Ephesians 2:1-22; Colossians 1:21-22; 3:9-11.

¹⁰ Gen. 3:1-15; Isa. 14:12-17; Ezek. 28:12-19; Luke 4:1-13; John 8:44; Eph. 2:2, 6:10-12; Jude 6; 1 John 5:19, Rev. 12:9, 20:1-3, 10.

¹¹ John 1:14, 18, 3:16; Luke 16:19-26; 2 Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:11-15.

¹² John 17:17; Romans 6:11-13, 8:2, 4, 12-13; 2 Cor. 3:18, 7:1; Gal. 5:16-23; Eph. 4:22-24, 5:25-27; Col. 2:1-10; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 10:10, 14; 12:10; 1 Peter 1:14-16; 1 John 1:4-7, 3:5-9.

¹³ 2 Samuel 7:11-13; Psalm 2:9; Isaiah 11:14; Jeremiah 30:7; Ezekiel 34:28; Joel 3; Amos 9:15; Zechariah 12:2-3, 14:1-4,9; Matt. 24:36, 25; Mark 9:47-48; John 6:39; Acts 1:11; Romans 8:19-21; 1 Corinthians 3:9-15, 15:51-54; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 1 Thessalonians 3:13, 4:14-18; Titus 2:13-14; 2 Peter 3:13; 1 John 2:28-3:3; 1 John 2:28, 3:2; Revelation 1:7, 13-16, 5:9-14, 6:17, 7:14, 12:10-11; 13:8, 19:7-9, 14-16, 20, 20:1-15, 21:2-5

¹⁴ Genesis 1:27-28, 2:21-25; Ruth 4:13; Malachi 2:14-15; Luke 2:4-5; Romans 5:1-2; 1 Corinthians 7:2; Ephesians 5:22-33. 32; Hebrews 13:5; 1 Peter 3:1-7. *(For more information, read SBIC's Statement on Human Sexuality in this Catalog and on our website.)*

¹⁵ Mark 16:19-20; Acts 19:10-12; 1 Corinthians 12:30, 13:8; 2 Timothy 4:20

¹⁶ 1 Timothy 2:12-14, 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9, 2:3-5; 1 Peter 5:1-4.