

TENETS OF FAITH



Article IV of the Constitution of the Association for Biblical Higher Education requires institutional conformity to the *Tenets of Faith*. The institution’s board of control must affirm agreement with and commitment to the *Tenets* as evidenced by the annual review and signature of this document by the chief executive officer of the institution.

1. We believe that there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
2. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
3. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious atonement through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal and visible return in power and glory.
4. We believe that man was created in the image of God, that he was tempted by Satan and fell, and that, because of the exceeding sinfulness of human nature, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary for salvation.
5. 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.
6. We believe in the bodily resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved unto the resurrection of life and those who are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.

Institution _____

Title _____

Signature _____ **Date** ____/____/____

Name (printed) _____

Biblical Authority as it Relates to Sanctity of Life, Human Sexuality, and Marriage

The ABHE *Tenets of Faith* hold “the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.” The integrity of biblical higher education institutions depends on consistent application of historically understood biblical truths. **As such, signing the ABHE’s *Tenets of Faith* above affirms the following:**

We believe that all human life is sacred and created by God in His image. Human life is of inestimable worth in all its dimensions, including pre-born babies, the aged, the physically or mentally challenged, and every other stage or condition from conception through death, and thus compels our respect and protection. (Genesis 1:27; 2:7; 9:6; Psalm 139:13-16; Jeremiah 1:4-5)

Human sexuality is fundamental to biblical cosmology, not merely biblical morality. Beginning with the Genesis account of creation and continuing consistently throughout the canon of Scripture, God’s intent and actions affirm His immutable creation of humanity as two distinct sexes, male and female, which together reflect the image and nature of God. (Genesis 1:27-28; 2:20-25; Mark 10:6)

God has designed sexual relations to occur only within marriage – a loving, exclusive, consensual, and lifelong union between one man and one woman. Sexual relations occurring outside these boundaries defy His design and are sinful and detrimental to human flourishing. (Genesis 2:20-25; I Thessalonians 4:3-8; Hebrews 13:4)

Individual experiences regarding biological sex do not always reflect God’s original design. Adoption of an identity discordant with one’s biological sex differs from His design and is sinful and detrimental to human flourishing. (Deuteronomy 22:5; Romans 1:24-27; I Corinthians 6:9-11)

Since all human beings are created in God’s image, the identity, dignity, and value of persons must be separated from their actions identified as sin in the Scriptures. Those whose beliefs, self-identification, and behaviors differ from biblical standards must be treated with respect and compassion. God welcomes, embraces, forgives, and heals all people who are responding to His grace. (Psalm. 32, 51; 2 Timothy 2:24-26; I Peter 3:15; I John 1:9)