



## **Statement on Biblical Justice**

Salisbury Christian School (SCS) foundational beliefs and teachings are based on Biblical truth. The Bible is God's Word, divinely inspired, infallible, and is the final authority of truth. We endeavor to teach students, in all areas of life and education, from a distinctly Christian worldview. This includes instructing students to understand the world, issues, and relationships based on God's Word, which prepares them to assume their proper place in the home, the church, and the world. Accordingly, the Bible is the basis from which we form our foundational beliefs regarding Biblical justice in the areas of diversity, race, culture, and ultimately, unity. The purpose of this statement is to affirm Salisbury Christian School's alignment with the truth of God's Word.

We affirm that since He is holy, righteous, and just, God requires those who bear His image to live justly in the world. This includes showing appropriate respect to every person. Jesus Christ himself was born into a time of Roman oppression. In an age of injustice and division, Jesus welcomed into his company women and men, rich and poor, soldier and citizen, oppressor and oppressed, Jew and Gentile. There is no greater foundation for an understanding and pursuit of justice than the character of God and the cross of Christ.

All injustices stem from a fallen and sinful humanity where reconciliation and true justice can only be found at the cross. God has given us the ministry and message of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-19). Our first priority in pursuing justice is the restoration of relationship between man and God, then between man and his neighbor (Matthew 22:37-40). While we need to be careful not to dismiss common grace working in secular arenas and not to discard Biblical ideas about justice and ethics because they arise from secular ideology, we affirm that any man-made framework or systematic solution to any sin or injustice, apart from the cross of Christ, is flawed. SCS is committed to using Biblical principles rather than man-made constructs, frameworks, theories, ideologies, and isms in its educational teachings, and will explicitly teach these truths honestly, prayerfully, sensitively, respectfully, contextually, age-appropriately, and with the conviction that we all sin and are in need of God's grace.

(Deuteronomy 32:4; Isaiah 61:8; Zechariah 7:9; Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:17-19; Romans 3:31)

### **DIVERSITY**

In John's prophetic revelation, around the throne of God were those found from every nation, people, and language - diversity beyond imagining. We do not dissolve but retain our diversity, celebrating our physical, social, and cultural differences while recognizing that we are part of a "Kingdom" that transcends all ethnic, cultural, racial, and societal boundaries.

We believe that the diversity we witness in the body of Christ should also be modeled in our educational institution. We believe that greater diversity at SCS enhances the educational experience by providing a better context of demonstrating the unifying power of the Gospel. It also better equips all students for success in the increasingly global and diverse world that awaits them. SCS embraces the Biblical vision of the Kingdom of God as intended from the beginning. We envision a community where diversity is seen as normal, where differences and commonalities both are celebrated, and where we recognize that all have been uniquely gifted in a diverse range of skills and talents to fulfill the great commission to go and make disciples of all nations.

(Psalm 139:13-14; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Matthew 28:16-20; Revelation 7:9)

### **RACE**

Scripture teaches that God made all people from one man and one woman. Though people are often distinguished by different ethnicities and nationalities, all people are equals before God in both creation and redemption. We affirm that our identity in Christ is our highest identity. "Race" is not a Biblical

category, but rather a social construct that has often been used to classify groups of people in terms of inferiority and superiority. All that is good, honest, just, and beautiful in various ethnic backgrounds and experiences can be celebrated as the fruit of God's grace. Likewise, all sinful actions are to be confessed, repented of, and repudiated.

We affirm that racism is a sin rooted in pride and malice which must be condemned and renounced by all who honor the image of God in all people. Racial sin can subtly and overtly manifest itself as both animosity and/or vainglory. Such sinful prejudice or partiality falls short of God's revealed will and violates the royal law of love. We also affirm that virtually all cultures, at times, contain laws and systems that can foster racist attitudes and policies. Treating people with partiality or prejudice is not consistent with Biblical Christianity and is therefore sinful and will not be taught or tolerated at SCS. At the same time, we also recognize that man-made attempts at activism aimed at reshaping the wider culture can easily become distractions that inevitably lead to departures from the Gospel. Again, SCS is committed to using Biblical principles rather than man-made constructs, frameworks, theories, ideologies, and isms in its educational teachings.

(Genesis 1:26-28; Deuteronomy 10:17; 2 Corinthians 12:16-18; Acts 10:34; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 6:9; James 2:4)

### **CULTURE**

Culture reflects the way of life of a group of people, the collection of shared language, history, customs, and beliefs. We believe that if culture is a reflection of the core beliefs and values of a group of people, then we, as Christians should impact it in a way that reflects Biblical worldview thinking. As Christ followers, we have the power to affect our culture positively. Christian education is about training our students to be leaders and to influence culture for Christ, not the reverse. As believers in Jesus, we celebrate the fact that God has promised to prepare a renewed heaven and earth where its residents will include people from every cultural background and where sin, brokenness, and division will no longer exist.

(John 14:1-3; Romans 10:12-13; Galatians 3:28-29; Revelation 7:9-10; Revelation 21:1-3 & 22-24)

### **UNITY**

One of the few recorded prayers of Jesus was a plea for unity (John 17:21). SCS is committed to the promotion of unity in all teaching, believing that we may be many members, but we are one body through the redemptive power of Christ. SCS also affirms that unity is not uniformity. We believe that it brings strength to our community through the partnership and diversity of different backgrounds coming together through prayer, worship, and fellowship together. SCS is a community unified in our fellowship as believers around the core tenets of our faith. We are one in the foundational principles we stand on and believe in. We are of one accord through our diversity in the calling we pursue in academic excellence and in keeping Christ preeminent in all things. Unity commands a blessing; when we walk in unity, we walk in the blessings of God.

(1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Psalm 133:1; Romans 12:16; Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 4:1-6; Colossians 1:18)

### **NON-HARASSMENT POLICY**

All people are created in the image of God and, as such, have profound value (Genesis 1:27). Hateful or harassing behavior toward anyone who differs from us is wrong because it does not recognize another person's God-given worth and is an assault on a fellow image-bearer. SCS is committed to maintaining an environment in which all individuals (staff, students, and parents) treat each other with dignity and respect, which includes freedom from all forms of intimidation, exploitation, harassment, sexual harassment, and bullying.

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