

CRMA Application for Membership

The CRMA is a Christian organization. To be a member you must be a Bible believing Christian that has been saved by God who believes in the triune God of the Bible.

There are core beliefs that must be believed to be a part of the group.

The Bible - God in the great love that he has for His children has preserved his word for his children in the Bible. As an organization we fully affirm that Scripture is God breathed (2nd Timothy 3:16). To be a member of the organization you must believe that the Bible is God breathed and that it is inerrant and infallible and complete in its 66 books.

The Doctrines of Grace – The Doctrines of Grace are pivotal to uphold because as Christians we should strive to be reverent towards the only God who exists; the triune God of the Bible. Proverbs 9:10: “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight” (ESV). As Christians we should strive to be reverent towards God. The doctrines of grace demonstrate God’s character, these are affirmed by this group because they are found in the Scriptures and taught by all of Jesus’ apostles.

As a group we fully affirm all of these 5 points; to become a member you must affirm points - 1. 2. 4. and 5. All 5 of the points are pivotal to understanding the great sacrifice that was paid for God’s elect.

The 5 Points

1. Dead in your Sins (Total Depravity) - Scripture clearly lays out the condition of man.

That sin came into the world through one man that being Adam (Romans 5:12). This has affected the condition of all mankind now including sin nature, through the federal headship inherited from Adam. This is the condition of all mankind, from conception (Psalm 51:5). All have sinned, none is righteous, all have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:10-18, 23). We are dead in our trespasses; all are by nature children of wrath and are sons of disobedience (Ephesians 2:1-5). In this state the wage that is earned is death (Romans 6:23). The apostle Paul speaking the God breathed words of Scripture cries out: Romans 7:24-25: "Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself serve the law of God with my mind, but with my flesh I serve the law of sin" (ESV). The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is the only atonement that can save anyone, but because of our fallen state with our sinful nature we cannot save ourselves. We need God to make us born again (John 3:5-7). In our fallen state we cannot please God (Romans 8:7-8). Faith is pleasing to God, (Hebrews 11:6) so this is only a gift given to those that God has made a new creation (2nd Corinthians 5:17).

2. Predestined before the foundations of the earth (Unconditional Election) – God, in His great love chose to love and give mercy to undeserving individuals through nothing that they have done, that no man may boast (Ephesians 2:9). Ephesians 1:4-6: "even as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 He predestined us for adoption to Himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of His will, 6 to the praise of His glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved" (ESV).

Romans 9:19-24: "You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can

resist His will?” 20 But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? 22 What if God, desiring to show His wrath and to make known His power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 in order to make known the riches of His glory for vessels of mercy, which He has prepared beforehand for glory— 24 even us whom He has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles” (ESV)?

We fully affirm that in Christ a Christian has done nothing meritorious to earn grace but that God in his great love made them a new creation, making them born again saving them from their body of death (2nd Corinthians 5:17, Romans 7:24-25).

3. The shepherd lays down His life for His sheep (Limited Atonement) - John 10:14-

15: “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep” (ESV).

God in His great mercy has saved everyone for whom the atonement of Christ was intended. The shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. This is an incredible truth that God has made His children His sheep. John 10:27: “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me” (ESV).

The sheep hear the voice of their shepherd and they do not fail to follow his voice because of God’s work in them. The only people who don’t recognize his voice, are those God did not make a new creation (Matthew 15:12-13, 2 Corinthians 5:17). This is

a beautiful picture of the deeply personal reality that occurs in God choosing to save those whom he has predestined. The atonement is effectual to accomplish what it was intended for. The cross canceled the debt of those it was intended for (Colossians 2:14). It is also prophesied that Christ will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). The atonement perfectly accomplished what it was intended for.

4. Unless the Father who sent me draws him (Irresistible Grace) - It is seen in John 6:44 how salvation works. John 6:44: "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws Him. And I will raise Him up on the last day" (ESV). It is seen in John 6:44 that if the Father draws an individual this means that this person will be raised up on the last day. An incredible truth of the gospel. Those who are dead in their sins who God chooses to draw to the son will be saved, not by their own doing but because of the love of God.

5. He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Perseverance of the saints) - For those in Christ they are free indeed (John 8:36). There is no outstanding debt owed for any sins past, present, or future. They were perfectly paid for on the cross (Colossians 2:14). In Christ there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1). God the Holy Spirit seals believers, and there is nothing that can separate them from Christ's love (Ephesians 1:13, Romans 8:35). This should not be an allowance for sin, and Christians are called to confirm their election and calling (2nd Peter 1:10, Romans 6:1).

Controversial issues

Baptism – We affirm believer’s baptism; however, we do allow individuals who practice infant baptism to be members. It is seen in the scripture that individuals are called to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:38). Baptism is a beautiful occurrence, but it is something that a Christian is called to do if they are regenerate. Baptism is oftentimes compared to circumcision. However, in the same way that one cannot choose to be born, an individual in his natural state does not choose to be born again. God saves them entirely by His choice if he has chosen to do so for that individual. To join an individual must submit that baptism is not salvific - for infant baptism or baptism in general. Baptism is not salvific and this is not a belief that will be allowed at this organization.

Elders - 1st Timothy 2:12: “I do not permit a woman to teach or to exercise authority over a man; rather, she is to remain quiet” (ESV).

Aspiring to the office of overseer (commonly referred to as pastor in the modern context, a teaching elder or overseer) is a noble task (1st Timothy 3:1). However, there are qualifications surrounding seeking eldership. In modern times it has become more mainstream for women to be allowed to preach, this is completely opposed to Scripture and this is not a view that is allowed to be held for membership.

Marriage - Genesis 2:24: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh” (ESV).

Marriage as defined in the Bible is between a man and a woman. Any sexual activity outside of the confines of marriage between a man and a woman is wrong. A member is not allowed to

affirm that any such behavior is anything other than sinful.

Molinism – This is an unbiblical philosophical system that questions God’s sovereignty over His creation. God declares the end from the beginning and every outcome is determined by God (Isaiah 46:10, Proverbs 16:33). God is not dependent on middle knowledge in any way shape or form. None of His plans can be thwarted (Job 42:2).

Abortion – Man is made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). Murder is wrong (Exodus 20:13). As a member of the CRMA one must be opposed to abortion.

(By signing this application, you hereby state that you have both fully read and agree with the official application and official constitution of the CRMA. Your Signature will see you recognized as an official member of the CRMA, subject to the association’s rules and regulations as laid out in the application and constitution.)

Your Signature here:
