



New Year traditions—everyone has them. Maybe you are in to ‘spring cleaning’ and have your house chore list ready as soon as the calendar turns. Maybe you set a book reading or exercise goal. For Eric and I, as FamilyLife staff (a division of Cru), it is time for us to do a ‘body check’.

What do I mean by that? Well, every January, each Cru missionary staff member is asked to read through and sign the Cru Statement of Faith.

In 2020, Cru had approximately **19,000 staff members** in **190 countries** consisting of all different age groups, ethnicities, and political demographics, so as you would imagine, we are a **diverse group!** So how do we all function as members of the same body, so to speak? The introductory paragraph to the Statement of Faith puts it this way,



“We accept those areas of doctrinal teaching on which historically there has been general agreement among all true Christians. Because of the specialized calling of our movement, we desire to allow for freedom of conviction on other doctrinal matters, provided that any interpretation is based upon the Bible alone, and that no such interpretation shall become an issue which hinders the ministry to which God has called us.”

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**Blended and Blessed®** is the only one-day livestream just for step-family couples, single parents, dating couples with kids, and those who care about blended families.

You can watch at home with your spouse or even host an event in your home with your small group or friends, bringing together couples for one incredible day of teaching, music, and humor! With some of today's most trusted and respected experts, Blended & Blessed will challenge, inspire, and encourage you. Over 27,000 people from 22 countries have experienced the event over the past five years because of its ‘virtual nature’ - we pray this year will continue its spread! Streaming April 24th 2021, visit <https://www.blendedandblessed.com>.

Curious what a document that so many could agree on looks like? The complete document is available to the public at Cru.org, but here is an abbreviated version:

- ◆ There is one true God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit .
- ◆ Jesus Christ is God, the living Word, who became flesh, lived a sinless life and voluntarily atoned for human sins by dying. He then rose from the dead, ascended bodily into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God the Father, where He continually makes intercession for His own.
- ◆ Adam and Eve were originally created in the image of God. They sinned by disobeying God. That historic fall brought all people under divine condemnation. As a result, all people are totally unable to please God and are in need of regeneration and by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Salvation is wholly a work of God’s free grace and is not the work, in whole or in part, of human works or goodness or religious ceremony.
- ◆ Jesus Christ will come again to the earth—personally, visibly and bodily—to consummate history and the eternal plan of God. Until that day Jesus commands all believers to proclaim the gospel throughout the world and to disciple people from every nation.

As we seek to share the love of Christ around the world, we need this whole diverse body—but in order to not lose our foundational faith base, we need these basic truths in common. Though we may not agree on everything with every FamilyLife or Cru staff member, I’m thankful to know that every year each and every one of us have reaffirmed these basic tenets of faith as we move toward our common mission of winning, building, and sending Christ-centered multiplying disciples.



In Him

**Bonus Baby Pic! Yep, we all think Ruby is mighty cute!**

Tear & Prayer

Pray for the **Riedy Family**  
Serving with **FAMILYLIFE**  
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Charissa & Jon Vandiver

Pray for 'the big move'! Next month we plan to list our Little Rock home & look to buy near Cru/ FamilyLife headquarters in Lake Hart, FL. There are LOTS of moving pieces involved in this, of course, so please pray for wisdom, favor, & peace through it all. We feel that God has clearly led us to this move, but that does not mean the transition will be easy—**pray** esp. for our girls as Brenna & Amanda move with us while doing virtual classes. Pray for strong family ties to remain as we adapt to long-distance grandparenting. Praise for a healthy & happy grandbaby Ruby!! Praise for a good response to the Love Like You Mean It® virtual cruise February 11-14th