

PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTS OF BETHEL FAMILY CHURCH INC.

A. DECLARATION OF FAITH

The Assembly believes in and presents the following basic truths:

- (1) The Canonical Scriptures - As originally written; infallible; inspired by God. They alone constitute the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice. The Old and New Testaments being the infallible Word of God, are not to be added to, superseded, or changed by later tradition or supposed revelation; and because the Bible is the completed revelation of God, whatever is not contained therein is not to be included as an article of faith.
- (2) The Godhead - There is one God, perfect and holy, existing eternally in the three persons of The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit, who is the Creator and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible. These three distinct persons comprising the Godhead, are co-equal and co-eternal in every respect, though each person of the God head possesses His own characteristics, and each performs His own specific divine works in total unity and harmony with the others.
- (3) The Lord Jesus Christ - His humanity, deity and virgin birth. We believe that Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and that He is truly God and truly man. We believe in His sinless life and miraculous ministry, that He died on the cross as a vicarious sacrifice to make atonement for the sins of mankind, and that He is the only Saviour for the sins of the world.

We believe that He physically rose from the dead in His own glorified body for man's justification, ascended into heaven to the Father's right hand, and will personally return in glory to establish His Kingdom on earth.

- (4) The devil - We recognise the personality of the devil, who by his influence brought about the downfall of man, and who now seeks to destroy the faith of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that every believer in Jesus Christ has absolute authority over all the power of the devil; for the substitutionary death of Jesus Christ has legally stripped him of his power over those believers who accept and enforce Christ's complete and victorious redemption. We believe the devil and his evil spirits will be consigned to eternal punishment at the judgment (refer to point 14).
- (5) Man - We believe that God created man in his own image and likeness by a specific and immediate act of creation. Though man was originally morally upright and perfect, he fell by voluntary transgression through the original sin of Adam and Eve. Consequently, all mankind is separated from God and his original state of righteousness, and is totally incapable by himself of returning to God. Fallen man, whatever his character or attainments, is lost and without hope apart from the salvation available in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (6) Salvation - It is solely by grace through faith in and confession of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. This will produce an upright and moral life as a consequence. We believe salvation is received through genuine repentance toward God, and whole-hearted trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. This experience is also known as the "new birth", and is an

instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit, whereupon the believing sinner is regenerated, justified, sanctified, given eternal life, and adopted into the family of God, and becomes a new creation in Jesus Christ. There is no other means except through the salvation provided by the Lord Jesus Christ by which mankind may be saved.

- (7) The Ordinances - There are two perpetual ordinances that are to be undertaken by the Church, because they are ordained by the Lord Jesus Christ for all Christians, whereby they can dedicate themselves to Him, and which equally proclaim His death, burial and resurrection. These ordinances do not automatically confer benefit on the recipients. However, when the preaching of the Word conveys the real meaning behind the symbolism inherent in these ordinances, and faith is aroused in the recipients, then the Holy Spirit produces great benefits as a result.
 - (a) Water Baptism - A genuine belief of salvation will lead to obedience to the will of God, and to a commitment to Christ to be baptised in water. Baptism in water is an integral part of Christian initiation, but not essential for salvation. We believe that baptism is symbolic of the believer's full and complete identification with Jesus Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. We believe that baptism is by immersion, subsequent to a responsible and personal confession of faith in Christ.
 - (b) The Lord's Supper - The Lord's Supper is a meeting of believers in which bread and wine are shared in remembrance of Christ's death in proclamation of His presence, and in anticipation of His Second Coming. This ordinance should be celebrated regularly by all genuine believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, for it reminds the believer that Christ has provided for his every need, and that Christ at the appointed time is coming for his church.
- (8) The Holy Spirit - He is a divine person as expressed in point 2 (The Godhead), and that by His agency alone people can be brought to salvation through Christ as expressed in point 6 (Salvation), and safely guided into the Will of God and into the fellowship of the Church.
- (9) The Baptism in the Holy Spirit - This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the "new birth" and is accompanied by the manifestation of speaking in other tongues (glossolalia), as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, as the initial evidence. This experience was not only for the early disciples, but continues for generations to come, and is a gift available to all and is received by faith. This experience bestows believers with power to be effective witnesses for Christ, and gives them access to the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit as outlined in One Corinthians Chapter twelve verses seven to eleven.
- (10) The Gifts of the Holy Spirit - The various supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (the charismata), as expressed in point 9, should be as much an integral part of worship and ministry of the Church today as they were in Bible days. The gifts are primarily for the equipment of the ministry and the edification of the Church and should be in harmony with the fruit of the Holy Spirit as outlined in Galatians chapter five verses twenty two and twenty three, as the expression of Christian character in believers.
- (11) Divine Healing - The Bible contains a healing covenant affirmed in both Testaments, providing a promise of spiritual and physical health and well - being for the whole person, and divine deliverance from all bondage to the power of Satan. The basis of this covenant

for every believer is the atonement of Jesus Christ. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ has made available to all his disciples authority and power to heal all kinds of sickness and disease, and to minister deliverance to those bound with demonic power. We believe that divine healing and divine deliverance are available to all, through faith in the redemptive death and victorious resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

- (12) Prayer is communion with God by which the believer through Jesus Christ, can offer supplication, intercession and thanksgiving and is a vital channel through which God works. It is the right and privilege of every believer in Jesus Christ to pray with authority and faith for God's intervention in all the various affairs of mankind.
- (13) The Church Universal - The body of Christ is not found in any one denomination, but is composed of people everywhere of all nations who have sincerely confessed Christ as Lord and Saviour; have experienced the new birth by the Holy Spirit; and have come under the headship of no mortal man, but that of the Lord Jesus Christ. The primary task and mission of the Church is to teach all nations, to make disciples, and to bring the Gospel to bear on every aspect of life, as outlined in Matthew chapter twenty eight verses nineteen to twenty, Mark chapter sixteen verses fifteen to twenty, and Luke chapter twenty four verses forty six to forty eight.
- (14) The Resurrections - There will be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection into eternal life and immortality; for the latter, a resurrection into judgment. We believe in the eternal punishment of people who wilfully reject and despise the love of God manifested in the great sacrifice of His Son upon the cross for their salvation.
- (15) Bible Prophecy - The great hope of the Church lies in the fulfilment of Bible Prophecy in world and universal events, heralding the climax of this age, and the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, and in the inauguration of the eternal kingdom of God.

B. THE VISION AND MISSION

1. Vision

Our vision is to help expand the Kingdom of Jesus Christ on earth by creating Bible-based contemporary local churches and ministries (*Acts 1:8*).

2. Mission

Our mission is to exalt Jesus Christ in all that we think, say and do, and to extend His influence throughout the world by:

2.1. Proclaiming Christ's Gospel with the expectation that supernatural signs will follow as the normal New Testament pattern (*Mark 16:15-20*)

2.2. Planting Christ-centred churches that are autonomous, interdependent and self-propagating (*Acts 14:21-28*)

2.3. Promoting Christ-glorifying Christian communities which outwork the miraculous and character transforming ministry of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:42-47*);

2.4. Producing Christ-following disciples who seek to obey the Great Commandment and Great Commission (*Matthew 22:36-40, 28:18-20*).

C. CORE VALUES

The Church accepts and agrees to the core values of the CRC as outlined below.

9.1. Word Based

We believe that God will work through His living, authoritative and relevant Bible.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring that all our theology, ministry practices and organisational policies and processes are Biblically based;
- Continually reforming ourselves, our local churches and our movement by aligning ourselves to God's Word.

9.2. Multiplying Churches

We believe in the God-inspired multiplication strategy of covering the earth with churches.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring our churches are autonomous and interdependent for the purpose of reproducing new churches;
- Continually releasing our people to outwork the Great Commission blueprint for New Testament revival as mandated by Jesus.

9.3. Interdependent Ministries

We believe in connected, cooperative and accountable ministers and churches.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring our church leadership teams avoid the extremes of both independence and dependence, through responsible and accountable practices;
- Continually looking to Jesus as the Head of the church, to call and anoint the right men and women to lead the churches of our movement.

9.4. New Creation Message

We believe in the liberating power of the New Creation Message that secures and strengthens our foundations in Christ.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring that we teach "rest" in the finished work of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection on our behalf, and in the reality of Christ in us through the person of the Holy Spirit;
- Continually enforcing our authority in Christ and appropriating all the privileges we now possess as members of God's Family.

9.5. Gospel of Grace

We believe in a Gospel-centred and grace-pervading Christian message that must never be added to or changed. We show this value by:

- Ensuring that we maintain our abiding conviction that Jesus Christ can save and transform anyone who places their full trust in Him;
- Continually embracing repentance and obedience as integral aspects of our response to God's grace.

9.6. Stable Spirituality

We believe in a balance between the 'Word' and the 'Spirit' as we express our dependence on Jesus Christ.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring that we equally value the Word of God and the Spirit of God as absolutely essential for the growth and stability of all believers, ministers and churches;
- Continually assessing that works attributed to the Holy Spirit align with the inspired Word of God.

9.7. Contemporary Ministry

We believe that our churches should be creative and culturally relevant while remaining doctrinally pure.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring that we prayerfully and wisely adapt and change our worship modes, outreach methods and organisational processes;
- Continually monitoring that we maintain our Biblical beliefs and principles as we effectively relate to our constantly changing society.

9.8. Harmonious Relationships

We believe in pursuing unity and walking in love in our churches and amongst our ministers.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring that integrity and right relationships are paramount, so we can experience the Godly power and spiritual synergy of dedicated teams;
- Continually working at love and unity, doing all in our power to strengthen and develop the ties that bind us together.

9.9. Dynamic Faith

We believe in a forward-moving and daring faith that undergirds everything we do for Jesus Christ.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring that we move in a faith realm that prays, believes and acts according to the Holy Spirit's confirmed leading;
- Continually affirming that faith is the means by which our potential authority in Christ is outworked in real spiritual power.

9.10. Selfless Service

We believe in the call and cost of Christ-appointed ministers who willingly embrace sacrificial servant-hood as a way of life.

We show this value by:

- Ensuring that CRC Ministers know the depth of spiritual passion that comes from an authentic call of God;
- Continually encouraging people to value the cost of being a servant of Jesus, resisting the temptation to desire a crown without a cross.