



Statement of Principles and Beliefs of Christian Faith

Statement of Principles

- Jesus Christ alone is head of the Church.
- The Church is the community called into being by God. In both its universal and local expressions, it consists of persons who have personally and knowingly accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and have pledged themselves to worship, follow and serve him as a priestly community.
- By his high priestly ministry, Jesus Christ has won the right for every believer to approach God directly through him.
- Jesus Christ is the supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct in the life of both churches and individuals.
- He has given to all churches and to every individual the right and responsibility to understand and to do God's will. Therefore, being accountable to God, Christians are not to despise their fellow believers but to accept one another as Christ's servants, allowing each other freedom of conscience.
- God has given to human governments the right and responsibility to promote what is just and good but not to coerce belief or practice contrary to conscience.

Beliefs of Christian Faith

- There is only one God. He is infinitely good and great, and has revealed himself to be personal and triune in essential being, eternally existing as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- God speaks to us through the bible, the 66 Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments. Being God-breathed they are fully trustworthy and supremely authoritative for what we believe and how we are to live.
- God created the heavens and the earth and all that exists in them. He continues to care for and govern his creation, working out his purposes for all he has made.
- In creating humans, male and female, in His likeness God intended that we should live in fellowship with him. However, tempted by Satan, God's adversary, the first man and woman disobeyed God. The effect of their sin spread so that we all sin, falling short of our responsibility to love God and neighbour and care for the world.
- Despite our sin, which alienates us from God and rightly deserves his judgment, God, because of his grace and great love for all people, sent his son into the world to save us.
- The incarnate son, Jesus of Nazareth, was conceived by the virgin Mary through the Holy Spirit. Fully human and fully divine, he lived on earth a sinless life of perfect obedience. He died on the cross as a sacrifice on our behalf and in our place, redeeming us from the penalty and power of sin and triumphing over Satan. He was raised bodily from the dead and ascended to his Father's presence where he lives forever as our great High Priest and reigns as Lord of all.
- The Gospel, the good news concerning Jesus Christ and his reconciling work, is God's powerful way of bringing salvation. All who respond in repentance and faith God sets right with himself, forgiving and cleansing them from sin and giving them his Holy Spirit and eternal life.
- The Holy Spirit gives new life to all believers and resides in them permanently empowering for life and witness. He makes them holy and enables them to grow into the likeness of Christ. Through the Spirit God grants all his people various gifts for the well-being, functioning and mission of the Church.
- All Christians are commanded to love God with all their heart, mind and strength, and their neighbours as themselves. What love means in practice, we discover through searching the Scriptures, which reveal God's character and will. Such love includes the responsibility of every Christian to participate in the proclamation of the good news throughout the world.
- While all believers belong to the universal church, God gathers them into local churches, which exist to worship and serve him. Jesus Christ, the head of the church, has established both baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- Jesus Christ will return visibly and victoriously from his Father's presence to complete his conquest of sin and evil. All people, both believers and unbelievers, will be raised bodily and be judged by God. Believers will enjoy eternal blessedness in God's presence, while unbelievers will suffer the eternal punishment of exclusion from his presence. The whole creation will be so transformed that righteousness will characterise the new heavens and the new earth forever.
- This Statement gives us all a common starting point and to underline the Christian ethos of Carey. It is the basis on which we will view one another, our students and their families, and our framework for grappling with contentious issues in our community and the world.