



Vision

To faithfully serve in God’s plan to restore all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Mission

To assist parents in the nurture of their children, by providing a Christ-centred, biblically grounded, culturally engaging and academically rigorous education to equip the children to live for God’s glory.

Summary Statement of Belief - Introduction

Covenant Christian School is more than just a school. It’s a community of people—staff, students, parents, ex-students, grandparents, friends, and even connected churches—all committed to nurturing and educating children in a Christian way. The Association behind this community, that operates and governs the School, has a Christian foundation and has set out its Christian beliefs in its founding documents (i.e. its Constitution).

The *Covenant Christian School Summary Statement of Belief* has a number of purposes.

First and foremost, it is a public declaration of what we believe are life-changing truths, which we warmly invite all who read them to personally consider and accept.

Second, it provides a concise outline of the Christian understanding that is foundational to the content of the education provided by the School, and the source of the principles that guide the way the School is operated and decisions are made.

Thirdly, it is the theological ‘standard’ by which Members (and leaders) of the Association and School staff are assessed and selected. The Association has a strong desire (and obligation) to retain the School’s distinctively Christian nature into the future, and it is only by choosing leaders who share that distinctive Christian understanding that this can be achieved.

If you have any questions about the Summary Statement of Belief, please contact the Board through the School Office.

Covenant Christian School is a school that has been established—as the name suggests—to celebrate, uphold, and enjoy the benefits of the new Covenant that God has made with his people, and to help parents bring their children up under that Covenant. As we partner together, we hope and pray that the truths set out in this Summary Statement of Belief will help us all undertake that task to the glory of God.

Summary Statement of Belief



THE FOUNDATION: The Bible is God’s word, the final authority in all matters of life and doctrine, and the only reliable source for human knowledge of God.

a. The Bible’s divine character

The Bible—God’s Holy Scripture—consists of the 66 books of the Old and New Testament. The books of the Old and New Testament together are God’s complete word to all people.¹ This word has been written down and gives full expression to the promises of God. All these promises find their fulfilment in Jesus Christ.²

b. How the message of the Bible comes from God and changes us

God’s Scripture has been written by men, guided and kept free from error by God’s Holy Spirit, for the sake of all people everywhere.³ It is capable of being translated into other languages in such a way that it can be understood by anyone.

Correct understanding of the Bible’s message is granted only by God’s Holy Spirit.⁴ That understanding is confirmed by trust in the Lord Jesus Christ,⁵ and by a joyful assurance that through him, God is now our Father for eternity.⁶

In the same way, trust in Jesus and his word is given by the Holy Spirit.⁷ This living faith is accompanied by the forgiveness of sins and by the changed life of the one who trusts.⁸ Because of this trust, we look forward with complete confidence to the return of Christ in glory, and the resurrection of our bodies from the dead.⁹

¹ 2 Tim 3:16-17

² Lk 24:25-27, 44-47; Rom 15:8; 2 Cor 1:20

³ Ps 119, 2 Pet 1:19-21, Heb 4:12-13

⁴ 1 Cor 2:6-12 cf 2 Pet 3:16

⁵ John 1:1-13, John 5:39-40

⁶ Rom 8:16-17, Gal 4:6-7, 1 Pet 1:23, 1 Jn 1:1-4

⁷ John 15:26, Acts 2:38-39, 1 Cor 12:3, 1 John 4:2-3

⁸ John 13:34-35, 1 Thess 1:5-6, 1 Jn 3:14, 1 Jn 4: 20, James 2:14-22

⁹ Acts 1:10-11, 1 Cor 15:12-28, 1 Pet 1:3, 1 Thess 1:9-10

c. The Bible's divine authority

The Bible's character as a human document does not take away from its character as God's pure and complete word.¹⁰

God's word has been preserved faithfully by being written down, copied, then reliably and regularly translated over time into other languages, and taken into every part of God's world.

Because it is the word of God, the Bible carries God's authority. The Bible teaches about itself that it is complete: that is, the Bible alone is sufficient to provide reliable knowledge of God, understanding of human nature, true knowledge of salvation, and complete instruction in how to live in a way that pleases him.¹¹

Secondary sources of knowledge of God, or instruction in Christian living, can be reliable or useful if and only if they accurately reflect what may be found in the Bible, or reasonably concluded from it. Such secondary sources may include, for example, Christian teachers and friends,¹² books,¹³ prophecies,¹⁴ doctrinal summaries, and church leaders.¹⁵

Even the knowledge of God in creation, although revealed by God,¹⁶ can only be correctly understood through God's Holy Spirit, working through the revealing word of Scripture.

Where secondary sources contradict Scripture, or impose obligations beyond Scripture, they should be rejected.¹⁷

d. Concerning this statement

The School Association believes that this Summary Statement of Belief reflects the content of Scripture. Subject to Scripture's authority, we take the Reformed Protestant creeds (named in the School Constitution) as our standard of belief. This *Summary Statement of Belief* is intended as a helpful contemporary summary of those creeds.

¹⁰ 2 Tim 3:16-17, 2 Pet 1:21

¹¹ 2 Tim 3:16-17, Rom 15:4

¹² Deut 6:6-7, Eph 4:11-16, Col 3:16, Heb 10:24-25

¹³ 1 Ki 14:19, 2 Ti 4:13

¹⁴ 1 Co 14:29, 1 Thess 5:19-21

¹⁵ 1 Pet 4:11, Gal 1:8-9, 1 Jn 4:1-3, 2 Jn 7-8, Rev 2:2

¹⁶ Ps 19:1-6, cf. Rom 1:18-23

¹⁷ Gal 1:8-9, 1 Jn 4:1-3



1. GOD: God is the loving ruler of the world. He made the world. He made us rulers of the world under him.

a. There is one creator God in three persons

There is only one God.¹⁸ He made all of creation, including this world and everything in it.¹⁹ Everything that was, is and will be; everything that has happened, happens and will happen; occurs by God's specific plan, permission and foreknowledge.²⁰

The Bible reveals that this one God consists of three persons—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.²¹ There are not three gods; yet the three persons of the Godhead are neither confused nor intermixed, but bound together in perfect and eternal love.

b. God is king and ruler over all his creation

The Bible teaches that God rules over all creation, and over every single event that occurs within it. The Bible gives specific examples of his lordship in the history of individuals and nations, especially the nation of Israel and her leaders, kings and prophets.²²

c. We are to rule the world under God

Men and women together are created by God as his image bearers and so have authority to rule over God's creation.²³ This happens as men and women together fulfil God's command by being fruitful and multiplying, filling the earth and subduing it,²⁴ to the glory of God:²⁵ God's people, ruling over God's place (his creation), under God's rule.

¹⁸ Deut 6:4-6, Isa 42:8, Zech 14:9, Mk 12:29, John 17:3

¹⁹ Gen 1, John 1:3, Col 1:16-17

²⁰ Mt 10:29-30, Rom 4:16-17, Rom 8:28-30

²¹ Mt 28:18-20, Jn 14:8-11, 16-17; 2 Cor 13:14

²² Ex 7:1-5, Isa 40:12-17, Prov 16:33, Prov 21:1,

Isa 45:1, Dan 4:24-26, Acts 4:24-30

²³ Gen 1:26-27, Ps 8

²⁴ Gen 1:28, Ps 8, Heb 2:5-10

²⁵ Rev 4:11, Eph 1:15-22, Eph 3:7-11, Rom 8:18-22



2. SIN: We all reject the ruler—God—by trying to run life our own way without him. But we fail to rule ourselves or society or the world.

Every person is born into a state of rebellion against God, rejecting God’s rule and unable to do good in his sight.²⁶ The Bible calls this state ‘sin’. We are born sinful, and we continue sinful by nature.²⁷ Unless God supernaturally changes us, we daily reinforce and demonstrate our sin by the choices we make.²⁸ We refuse to give glory to God, and by nature choose instead to serve ourselves, our own desires, and the created things God has made for our enjoyment.²⁹

Because of this, God hands us over to serve our own desires.³⁰ Thus, we are unable to please God, and we are not free to choose to do good.³¹ Our failure to serve God rightly is reflected in damaged relationships with him, others, and this world, and ultimately in death and judgement.³²

One clear example of human sin in Scripture is the history of God’s people Israel in the Old Testament. Despite God’s rescue of Israel from Egypt, and from her enemies; despite his clear instruction of Israel in the Ten Commandments and the law of Moses; they repeatedly rejected God’s kingship and his many expressions of grace and blessing.³³

Nevertheless, the sin of the people of Israel, collectively and individually, is neither exceptional nor unique. Rather, it is typical of all people, everywhere, at all times.³⁴

The fullest extent of human sin is revealed in human refusal to worship Jesus as Lord, and—when given opportunity—subjecting him to death as a criminal, nailing him to a cross.³⁵

²⁶ Ps 51:5, Rom 5:12, 19, Eph 2:3

²⁷ Luke 11:4, Rom 3:10-18, Rom 5:12-14, 1 Cor 15: 47-49

²⁸ Mk 7:20-23

²⁹ Rom 1:18-32

³⁰ Rom 1:24, 26, 28

³¹ Rom 6:16, Eph 2:1-3

³² Gen 2:16-17, Rom 6:23, 2 Thess1:8-9, Heb 9:27

³³ Ex 32:9, Deut 9:13, Deut 31:16-18, Jer 2:30, Ezek 44:7, 9; Mal 3:7, Mt 23:29-36, Acts 7

³⁴ Rom 3:9-20

³⁵ Acts 2:36-37, Acts 4:25-28



3. JUDGEMENT: God won't let us rebel forever. God's punishment for rebellion is death and judgement.

There are consequences in this life for sin, including suffering and death.³⁶ In addition, there is a final day of judgement.³⁷ On this day, all people will be judged by the Lord Jesus for their sins.³⁸ Those who remain unforgiven will receive fair and just punishment from him.³⁹

All whose sins remain unforgiven will be punished eternally in hell, shut out from God's saving presence forever.⁴⁰ The Bible teaches that hell is a place of eternal, conscious punishment for unforgiven sin.⁴¹ There is no support in the Bible for belief in purgatory, limbo, or any intermediate state where unforgiven sinners receive further opportunity to repent of their sins and escape the torment of hell.⁴²

The Bible's expectation is that the final destination of many people will be hell, despite God's free, gracious and loving offer of forgiveness of sin through Jesus Christ.⁴³

³⁶ Gen 3:14-19, Rom 1:24, 26, 28; 2 Thess 2:9-12

³⁷ Heb 9:27, 1 Thess 4:13-5:3

³⁸ Rev 20:11-15

³⁹ Mt 25:31-46, Rom 2:3-11

⁴⁰ 2 Thess 1:8-9

⁴¹ Mt 5:22, 29-30, Mk 9:43-48

⁴² Heb 9:27, Luke 16:19-31, Luke 23:43

⁴³ Mt 7:13, Luke 13:23-24



4. JESUS AND HIS DEATH: Because of his love, God sent his Son into the world: the man Jesus Christ. Jesus always lived under God's rule. Yet by dying in our place he took our punishment and brought forgiveness.

a. Who Jesus is

Jesus Christ is God's only Son. He is God, and is the perfect expression of his Heavenly Father.⁴⁴ Jesus said, "The Father and I are One".⁴⁵

By the virgin Mary, he was born a man⁴⁶ and lived a life of perfect obedience to God.⁴⁷ His life, death and resurrection was and is a perfect fulfilment of God's law.⁴⁸ Although Jesus was fully and completely human, and accepted all the limitations that came with being human,⁴⁹ his divine nature was never lost or changed in any way.⁵⁰

Jesus remains God the Son from eternity. His divine nature guarantees and secures the perfection of his human nature. Jesus' divine and human natures are neither confused nor separated in the person of Jesus Christ. Both natures remain free from any hint of sin. Jesus did nothing to earn God's just condemnation against sin.⁵¹

Jesus' life, ministry and death reveal God perfectly and completely.⁵² Whoever has seen Jesus, revealed in Scripture, has seen Jesus' heavenly Father.⁵³

b. What Jesus has done

Jesus fulfilled every requirement of God's law fully and completely.⁵⁴ He did this by his perfect obedience to the law's commandments and regulations, not only in letter but also in spirit.⁵⁵ Most importantly, he fulfilled God's law by dying on the cross, an innocent man put to death in place of guilty people.⁵⁶

⁴⁴ Heb 1:1-4, 2 Cor 4:4, Col 1:15-20

⁴⁵ John 10:30

⁴⁶ Mt 1:16, Luke 1:26-38, John 1:14, Heb 2:14-18

⁴⁷ Luke 2:52, John 19:6, 1 Pet 2:22, 2 Cor 5:21, Heb 4:15, 1 Jn 3:5

⁴⁸ Mt 5:17-18, Acts 2:25-32, 1 Cor 15:3-4

⁴⁹ Phil 2:6

⁵⁰ John 1:1-5, 14

⁵¹ 1 Peter 2:21-22, 1 John 3:5, 2 Cor 5:21, Heb 4:15

⁵² John 5:19-20, John 8:38, John 12:45

⁵³ John 14:8-9

⁵⁴ 1 Pet 2:22, Heb 4:15

⁵⁵ Mt 5:17-20, Jn 8:29

⁵⁶ Jn 10:18, 1 Pet 2:24

The law of God demands the death of the sinner.⁵⁷ But by dying in our place, Jesus took the full weight of sin upon himself.⁵⁸ That is, he bore God's anger against sin,⁵⁹ he took upon himself the guilt of sin, he paid the full penalty that sin deserved,⁶⁰ and he broke the power of both sin and Satan.⁶¹ Therefore, for all who trust in him alone, no further price for sin remains to be paid. Christians—those who have trusted in Jesus alone for forgiveness and named him as Lord—are completely free of God's condemnation against both them and their sin.⁶²

The work of the cross can be summarised in the following ten ways:

1. In the cross God the Father completely exhausts his anger against human sin by bearing it himself, in the person of his own Son.⁶³
2. By paying the price of sin through the shedding of the blood of Jesus, God redeems us from the power of sin and the rule of Satan.⁶⁴
3. By means of the cross God justifies those who put their trust in his Son.⁶⁵ That is, he declares guilty sinners to be not guilty but righteous, not because of anything good they have done, but only through the death and merit of the Lord Jesus Christ.⁶⁶
4. By removing that which stood between God and us (namely human sin), the death of Jesus turns us from God's enemies into his adopted sons and daughters.⁶⁷ We are reconciled to him.⁶⁸
5. The cross brings glory to God by revealing him in his majesty, sovereignty, justice and love.⁶⁹
6. The cross reveals that God is perfectly just, completely satisfying the requirements of his divine law.⁷⁰
7. The cross reveals the great love of God for the whole world, effective in mercy towards those who trust him.⁷¹
8. The apparent foolishness of the cross reveals the wisdom and power of God in saving many people for himself, and in so doing, reveals the emptiness of this world's wisdom and power.⁷²
9. The cross is the means by which the power of Satan is broken and the victory of Christ begins.⁷³
10. The cross is the way in which men and women are, through trust in the Lord Jesus, brought to share in his victory over sin, the flesh, the world and Satan.⁷⁴

⁵⁷ Jn 3:18,36, Rom 6:23, Eph 2:1-2

⁵⁸ 2 Cor 5:21, Col 2:13-14

⁵⁹ Eph 2:2-3, 1 John 4:10

⁶⁰ Rom 8:3, Gal 3:13, Heb 10:14, Col 2:15

⁶¹ 1 John 3:8

⁶² Eph 2:8-10, Rom 5:1, Rom 8:1

⁶³ 1 Jn 4:10, Rom 3:23-25

⁶⁴ Mark 10:45, Mt 26:28, Eph 1:7,

1 Pet 1:18-19

⁶⁵ Rom 5:1, 8-9

⁶⁶ Heb 10:14

⁶⁷ Rom 8:14-17, Gal 4:7, Tit 3:7, 1 Jn 3:1

⁶⁸ Rom 5:8-10, Eph 2:13, Col 1:20

⁶⁹ John 17:4, Rom 1:16-17, 3:21, 11:33-36,

Eph 2:7

⁷⁰ Rom 1:16-17, 3:21, Col 2:13-15

⁷¹ John 3:16, Eph 2:4, Rom 5:8-9, 1 Jn 4:9-10

⁷² 1 Cor 1:18-30, 2:14-16

⁷³ Gen 3:15, 1 John 3:8, Luke 10:18, Heb 2:14

⁷⁴ Rom 5:1; 6:3; 8:1-6; Heb 2:9, Heb 4:14-16,

2 Tim 1:10



5. JESUS AND THE RESURRECTION: God raised Jesus to life again as the ruler of the world. Jesus has conquered death, now gives new life, and will return to judge.

a. God defeated death by raising Jesus bodily from the dead

Just as Jesus died physically on the cross in Jerusalem, so also he was physically raised three days later to eternal life and appeared to many witnesses.⁷⁵ Jesus, in his glorified body is now seated in heaven at the right hand of his Heavenly Father.⁷⁶ His rising to eternal life means that death and Satan have been forever defeated.⁷⁷ Jesus' resurrection is the evidence of this and the anticipation of more life and blessing to come.⁷⁸

b. Because of the resurrection, we are blessed

In the resurrection, the work of the cross is continued, and will be completed on the day of Christ's return.⁷⁹ Thus, the one who trusts Jesus as Lord receives full forgiveness of sins,⁸⁰ is united with Christ by faith and receives the fullness of the Holy Spirit as a down-payment and guarantee of every blessing of God's new creation.⁸¹ These blessings begin the moment the believer puts his trust in Jesus, and will be revealed in full at the new creation.⁸² The crowning blessing of the Christian life is to call God 'Father'.⁸³

c. Because of the resurrection, Jesus is revealed as the coming king and judge of creation

Because Jesus has risen in fulfilment of the promises of the Old Testament,⁸⁴ he is revealed to be God's chosen and eternal king.⁸⁵ He will return again at a day and hour unknown,⁸⁶ to judge the living and the dead,⁸⁷ to destroy sin, evil, suffering and all the wickedness of the old creation,⁸⁸ and to bring in the new creation in all its fullness: God's people, in God's place, under God's rule once again.⁸⁹ For this day, all Christians wait prayerfully, with longing, thankfulness, eager hope and complete assurance⁹⁰ that God will achieve what he has promised in Christ.⁹¹

⁷⁵ Mark 16:14, Luke 24:33-46, John 20:19, 26, Acts 1:3-4; 9-11; 10:40-41, 1 Cor 15:1-7

⁷⁶ Dan 7:13, Acts 7:55-56, Mt 26:64, Heb 10:12

⁷⁷ 1 Cor 15:24-26

⁷⁸ John 11:25-26, 1 Cor 15:20, 42-43;

1 John 5:12-13

⁷⁹ John 20:17, Col 3:4, Phil 3:20-21,

1 Pet 1:7, 13, 1 Jn 3:2

⁸⁰ Acts 2:38

⁸¹ Eph 1:13-14, John 7:37-39 2 Cor 1:22

⁸² Col 3:4, Rev 21:1-5

⁸³ Rom 8:14-16, Gal 4:6

⁸⁴ Ps 16:8-11

⁸⁵ Ps 110:1, Rom 1:4

⁸⁶ 1 Thess 5:1-3

⁸⁷ Mt 25:31-46

⁸⁸ 2 Pet 3:10, Rev 20:1-21:8

⁸⁹ 1 Thess 4:16-18, Rev 21:9-22:5

⁹⁰ Rom 8:31-39

⁹¹ Rom 8:18-25, 1 Thess 1:9-10, 2 Pet 3:11-13



6. RESPONSE TO THE GOSPEL: Submission to the lordship of Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is not enough to know the facts of the gospel as outlined above, without also responding in some way.⁹²

a. Those who respond by rejection of Christ's Lordship

All those who continue to reject the Lordship of Jesus Christ will themselves be rejected by him, and face the punishment of eternal judgement.⁹³

However, individual men and women are by nature dead in sin.⁹⁴ This means that they are completely unable of their own free will either to acknowledge Jesus as Lord and so be forgiven, or to turn away from their sin.⁹⁵

b. Those who respond by joyful submission to Christ's Lordship

The Bible teaches that a sinful person can only be saved from sin when, by the power of God's Holy Spirit, they receive new birth into God's kingdom.⁹⁶

When a person is born again by the power of God's Holy Spirit, God by his Spirit makes his permanent home within that believer.⁹⁷ They receive every spiritual blessing in Christ including forgiveness, adoption as God's children and membership of Christ's body, the church.⁹⁸

The evidence of new birth is that the person so reborn confesses that Jesus is Lord,⁹⁹ and from that moment until the moment they are received into glory, shows faithfulness to that confession.¹⁰⁰ This evidence includes the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control—in other words, all the things required by God's law.¹⁰¹

⁹² James 1:22-27, 2:14-19

⁹³ John 3:36, 2 Thess 1:5-10, 2 Pet 3:7

⁹⁴ Eph 2:1

⁹⁵ Rom 8:7-8, 1 Cor 2:14, Eph 2:1-5

⁹⁶ John 3:3, Eph 2:4-5, 1 Peter 1:3, 23

⁹⁷ 2 Cor 6:16, Gal 2:20, Eph 1:13,14

⁹⁸ Rom 8:12-17, 12:5, 1 Cor 12:12-13,18-20, Gal 4:3-7, Eph 1:3-5

⁹⁹ 1 Cor 12:3

¹⁰⁰ Heb 3:14

¹⁰¹ Rom 13:8-10, Gal 5:18-24, Eph 2:10, Tit 2:14, 1 Jn 2:3-6

The Christian will not immediately become perfect in Christ-likeness. However he is immediately set free from slavery to sin,¹⁰² and from the requirements of God's law.¹⁰³ His life from this point on will be characterized by faithful prayer,¹⁰⁴ an ongoing battle against sin¹⁰⁵ and a desire to use his new-found freedom to love, serve and glorify God as his king: trusting and obeying God's word¹⁰⁶ (the Bible) and loving his neighbour as he loves himself.¹⁰⁷

This change of life and attitude will set the believer apart from the rest of the world in many and varied ways.¹⁰⁸ One sign of the change will be the Christian's desire, expressed in practice, to meet regularly with others of God's people and to prayerfully encourage them, and to themselves be encouraged, towards attentiveness to God's word, love of God and men, and good works.¹⁰⁹ (This pattern will also be reflected in the Christian home, as parents seek to bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.¹¹⁰) A further sign will be a desire to obey and respect the human government that God has instituted to rule over them.¹¹¹ Believers will also seek to use their bodies to honour God, and will flee all sexual immorality, including sexual relations outside of marriage and homosexual practices.¹¹²

The life of the Christian is marked by confident assurance of our adoption as God's children;¹¹³ perseverance in living by the Lordship of Christ; and thankfulness for his mercy and sacrifice on our behalf.¹¹⁴

The Covenant Christian School Vision and Mission represent how we, as a School Association, seek to live out these truths in our School community:

Vision

To faithfully serve in God's plan to restore all things under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Mission

To assist parents in the nurture of their children, by providing a Christ-centred, biblically grounded, culturally engaging and academically rigorous education to equip the children to live for God's glory.

¹⁰² Rom 6:17-18

¹⁰³ Rom 7:6

¹⁰⁴ 1 Thes 5:15-18

¹⁰⁵ Rom 7:21-25, 2 Cor 5:1-5

¹⁰⁶ Rom 14:7-12, 1 Cor 10:31

¹⁰⁷ Rom 13:8, Rom 14:13-23, 1 Cor 9:19-23

¹⁰⁸ Jn 15:18-19, Rom 12:2, Phil 2:15, 1 Jn 5:19

¹⁰⁹ 1 Thes 5:9-11, Heb 10:23-25

¹¹⁰ Deut 6:6-8, Eph 6:4

¹¹¹ Rom 13:1, 1 Pet 2:13-17

¹¹² 1 Thess 4:1-3, 1 Cor 6:9-11, 18-20

¹¹³ Rom 8:28-39

¹¹⁴ Rom 12:1-3, 1 Thes 5:18

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