

1. STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

The fundamental beliefs of North Coast Church are:

a. About God

There is one unique and eternal God, who exists in an eternal loving relationship of Father, Son and Spirit - one God in three persons.

God is sovereign in all things: including creation, revelation, redemption, judgement and the establishing of his kingdom.

As sovereign loving creator and redeemer, he is worthy of all glory, honour and praise.

b. About humanity

Men and women together are created in the image of God, and therefore enjoy a unique dignity in creation and a unique relationship with God.

Men and women together have dominion over the created order.

Tragically, human nature is universally sinful since the Fall and all are guilty before God. This leaves us under the wrath and condemnation of God.

We are unable, without the prior regenerative work of God's Spirit, to turn ourselves to God.

c. About the Bible

There is no other way to know God except that he reveals himself to us. The Bible is God's revelation to us.

It is divinely inspired and infallible, as originally given, and has supreme authority in all matters of faith, conduct and experience.

The Bible is sufficient for knowing God. It is not only central to the wellbeing of the church but is able to thoroughly equip the Christian community for life and godliness.

d. About Jesus Christ

Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He is both fully God and truly human. He entered fully into human experience. He endured temptation and he suffered and died. He was perfectly obedient to God his father.

Jesus took on himself the consequences of human sin. He bore the penalty for the sins of His people. He died and was buried. On the third day he rose physically from the dead and is now exalted as ruler over all.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

e. About salvation

There is only one name under heaven by which we can be brought into relationship with God: the name 'Jesus Christ'.

It is only through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ, as our representative and substitute, that the guilt, penalty and power of sin can be removed. In that death, God demonstrates his love to us most perfectly and establishes his victory over Satan and all his foes.

The work of the Holy Spirit is necessary to make the death of Jesus effective in an individual's life. The Spirit enables the sinner to repent and put their faith in Jesus Christ, so that salvation is entirely of God's grace and not of human merit or works.

Although we enjoy now the blessing of union with Christ and secure relationship with God, we await the final consummation of our hope with the return of Christ, the resurrection of our bodies and life with him eternally.

f. About the Spirit in the believer's life

The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son, and indwells all true believers.

His role is to bring glory to Jesus Christ, thus making Jesus Christ central in all things.

The Spirit works to illuminate believers' minds to grasp the truth of the Bible, producing in them his fruit, granting them his gifts and empowering them for service.

He grants his gifts for the purpose of service, not self-indulgence. Their use is determined - not by personal desire for fulfilment, or satisfaction - but by the principle of building the church. Not every gift of the Spirit is given to the church at every moment of its life, only those necessary for building Christ's body.

g. About the church

The visible church is the gathering of believers around Christ in his word. It is a community of people intended by God to bear witness to him and actively seek the extension of his rule.

Within its community both men and women are to seek proper expression of their gifts as they work to build the church in love.

The Bible makes clear that in the church, as in marriage, the roles of men and women are not interchangeable. We are committed to expressing the differences within relationships of mutual dependence.

h. Christian, Evangelical and Reformed

For further clarity, we define ourselves as:

Christian. To be a Christian is to be in a personal relationship of discipleship under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. To be a Christian is to believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, God's long promised chosen King. To be a Christian is to understand and rely upon the fact that Jesus Christ came to die and bear the penalty for sins that we deserve, and to rise again on the third day for our justification. To be a Christian is to daily learn to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him.

Evangelical. We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God. We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his miracles, in his vicarious and atoning death through his shed blood, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father and in his personal return in power and glory. We believe that for the salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential. We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life. We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost; those who are saved to the resurrection of life and those who are lost to the resurrection of judgment. We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reformed. We believe that God created the heavens and the earth. God's inherent goodness and purposeful creation gives objective moral order and purpose to this world. All of life, thought, work and community is to be lived in joyful and thankful worship of the creator God. We believe that God created man and woman in a state of sinless perfection with particular dignity as his image bearers on the earth. We believe that Adam and Eve sinned against God and that everyone since is a sinner by nature and choice. Sin has totally affected all of creation including marring God's image and likeness so that all of our being is stained by sin (including reasoning, desires and emotions). We believe that because all people have sinned and separated themselves from the Holy God that he is obligated to save no one from the just deserved punishment of hell. We believe that God in his unparalleled love and mercy has chosen to elect some people for salvation. We also believe that the salvation of the elect was predestined by God in eternity past. We believe that the salvation of the elect was accomplished by the sinless and obedient life, the substitutionary atoning death and the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ in place of his people for their sins. We believe that the salvation of the elect, by God's grace alone, shows forth in the ongoing repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ that leads to good works. We believe that God's saving grace is ultimately irresistible and that God can soften even the hardest heart and save the worst of sinners according to his will. We believe that the gospel should be urgently proclaimed to all people so that through the preaching of God's word and by the power of God's Spirit they may believe and so be saved. We believe that true Christians who are born again of God's Spirit will be kept by God throughout their life, as evidenced by personal transformation that includes an ever-growing love of God the Father through God the Son by God the Spirit, love of brothers and sisters in the church and love of lost neighbours in their culture. We believe God continues to give gifts to his people for the edification of his church. However, we do not believe any particular gift is evidence of a fullness of the Spirit. We believe the mature course for church life is to focus on the centre – prayer, preaching the gospel to the world, godly living, loving service and Christ himself as revealed to us in the fully sufficient word of God.

2. STATEMENT OF VALUES

The following eight values shape our behaviour:

Biblical – we show this by our commitment to expository preaching and Bible teaching

Prayerful – we show this by a constant dependence on God in prayer

Devoted – we show this by constantly speaking about and delighting in our triune God

Godly – we show this by turning from sin and becoming more like Jesus Christ

Loving – we show this by sacrificing our interests for the good of others

Committed – we show this by prioritising our energy, time and money for the cause of Christ

Generous – we show this by fostering friendly relationships with other churches helping them to prosper in the gospel and supporting gospel ministry partners

Persevering – we show this by continuing in these values despite hardships until Jesus returns