

# Statement of Faith

## Bankstown Community Church

1. **WE BELIEVE** the Bible is the true Word of God and is His perfect guidebook for living. It is the sole authority in all matters of faith, doctrine and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Peter 1:21).
2. **WE BELIEVE** in the unity of the Godhead and the Trinity of the Persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Each of whom is sovereign, co-equal and co-eternal. He is the only true God, who is holy, loving and just. (Luke 3:22, Matthew 28:19, 2 Corinthians 13:14).
3. **WE BELIEVE** that sin separated us from God and that only through the Lord Jesus Christ can we be reconciled to God (Romans 6:23).
4. **WE BELIEVE** in the Lord Jesus Christ, (truly God and truly man) as God incarnate. (John 1:1-3). He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (John 1:14, Matthew 1:18-23). He led a sinless life here on earth (Hebrews 4:15), and took the punishment for all our sins when He died on a cross at Calvary (2 Corinthians 5:21) was buried and rose back to life again three days later (Luke 24:36-43). Today, He is seated at the right hand of God the Father as our High Priest and Mediator (Hebrews 4:14-16). He is the living Saviour and is coming again (Acts 1:11).
5. **WE BELIEVE** that complete and eternal salvation is by God's grace alone, received as the gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5-7, 1 Peter 1:18-19).
6. **WE BELIEVE** in the one true church, the body and the bride of Christ (Ephesians 1:22-23; 5:25-32), which is composed of all true believers of the present age (1 Corinthians 12:12-13) and the organisation of its members in local churches for worship, for edification of believers, and for worldwide gospel witness, each local church being autonomous but cooperating in fellowship and work (Ephesians 4:11- 16).
7. **WE BELIEVE** that heaven and hell are real places. Death is a beginning, not the end. There is the conscious existence of the dead (Philippians 1:21-23; Luke 16:19-31), the resurrection of the body (John 5:28-29), the judgment and reward of believers (Romans 14:10 12; 2 Corinthians 5:10), the judgment and condemnation of unbelievers (Revelation 20:11-15), the eternal life of the saved (John 3:16), and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:15).
8. **WE BELIEVE** that water baptism is a symbol of the cleansing power of God and a testimony of our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19).
9. **WE BELIEVE** that the Lord's Supper (or Communion) is a time to remember Christ's life, death and resurrection (1 Corinthians 11:20-22, 33-34).
10. **WE BELIEVE** that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer. He guides us in all areas of our lives, makes it possible for us to lead Christ-like lives, and gives each one gifts for building up the Church (Acts 5:3-4, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Romans 8:9, Ephesians 5:18).
11. **WE BELIEVE** that we are called to share the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ with everyone (Matthew 28:19, Acts 1:8, 2:42).
12. **WE BELIEVE** that our Lord Jesus Christ is coming back again as He promised, to take those who believe in Him to be with Him for all eternity before the tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17) and afterward to descend with the Church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (Revelation 19:11-20:6).

13. **WE BELIEVE** in a life of righteousness, good works and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Romans 12:1-2), manifested by speaking the truth (James 5:12), maintaining the sanctity of the home (Ephesians 5:22-6:4), settling differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (1 Corinthians. 6:1-8), not engaging in carnal strife but showing a Christ like attitude toward all men (Romans 12:17-21), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23), and maintaining a life of prayer (Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6), including the privilege, when sick, of calling for the elders of the church to pray and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:13-18).
14. **WE BELIEVE** that Satan is a created angel and incurred the judgement of God by rebelling against his Creator (Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:11-19). Satan is the open and declared enemy of God and man, is the prince of this world (Ephesians 2:2), god of this age (2 Corinthians 4:4). He has been defeated through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and he shall be eternally punished in the lake of fire.
15. **WE BELIEVE** Christ's headship in the Church is inextricably bound up with the love of God and is itself the ultimate explication of God's love for the world (John 3:16; 15:13; Romans 5:8). As the sole "head of the church," Christ "loved the church and gave himself up for her" (Ephesians 5:23, 25). Christ's demonstration of divine love as Head of the Church directly reflects God's moral government of love, within which the law is a transcript of God's character and, conversely, love is itself the fulfillment of God's law (Matthew 22:37-39; Romans 13:8).
16. **WE BELIEVE** in the priesthood of all Believers (1 Peter 2:4, 5:9), the Lord Jesus Christ being our High Priest and mediator between God and Man (1 Timothy 2:5). All followers of Christ have equal potential and validity to minister for God in all aspects of faith and church, according to the gifts God has given them (Romans 12:3-8, Corinthians 12:7-13).
17. **WE BELIEVE** that God has ordained marriage and defined it as the covenant relationship between a man, a woman, and Himself (Genesis 2:18-25). Marriage between one man and one woman for life uniquely reflects Christ's relationship with His Church (Ephesians 5:21-33).