

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## **FAITH STATEMENTS**

- We believe that all scripture is God inspired and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness; that the man of God may be perfect in Christ (2Timothy 3v15-17; 2Peter 1v20-21).
- We believe that there is one God who co-exists as a triune Being:  
God the Father,  
God the Son and  
God the Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the birth of Jesus Christ from the Virgin Mary but of God.
- We believe in the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and that He is seated at the right hand of His Father's Throne.
- We believe that Jesus Christ is the only way to the Father and to eternity there is no other substitution.
- We believe in baptism by full immersion of the human body into water and the rising up out of the water as a symbol of forgiveness, an embodiment of the Holy Spirit and adoption into the family of God as sons and daughters.
- We believe in the works of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit bestowed unto us through faith for the Glory of God.
- We believe in the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- We believe in the existence of both Heaven and Hell.

## Where does the name Church of Christ derive from?

- The name Church of Christ simply derives from scripture when Jesus Himself stated in Matthew 16v18 while talking to His disciples (Peter) Jesus Christ says; and upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- The Rock is Christ (1Corinthians 10v4) and upon Christ shall Christ build His Church. This simply means that a church built on the word and standards of Christ in spirit and truth, that church belongs to Christ of which Christ is the head (Ephesians 3v23-25; Colossians 1v18-24).
- Jesus Christ alone is the only true foundation on which a church/body should be established (Matthew 7v24-27).
- The name Church of Christ is derived from the statement of Christ in scripture and that the church body be established on the word and standards of Christ.

## What type of church is the Church of Christ?

- The Church of Christ is a **non-denominational** church (open or acceptable to people of any Christian denomination) established and governed by the word and standards of Jesus Christ who is the Head (Ephesians 1v22-23).
- The **Headquarter** (Head house) of the church is in Heaven where Christ is seated (Hebrew 8v1-2 and Ephesians 1v20-23).
- Each body of the Church of Christ is **autonomous** (having the freedom to govern itself or control its own affairs) and it is the very word of God that unites us into One Faith. The Church of Christ follows only the teachings of Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit in the truth of scripture and not teachings of man (Ephesians 4v3-6 and Colossians 3v1-4).
- The Church of Christ is based on the word and practices of Jesus Christ (John 13v15; Matthew 9v35).
- God **conferred** (the transfer or granting of power, authority, title, right and etc.) all power and authority into Jesus Christ and Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Christ is the **mediator** (a middleman who speaks on behalf of) between humans and God therefore this is our **conviction** (a firmly held belief or opinion.) that only Jesus Christ has the authority by His Father (God) to say what the church is, how it should be governed, how it should worship and what it should teach, all this must come from God above through Christ by the Holy Spirit and not from man's own philosophies (Matthew 28v18; Hebrews 1v1-3 and 1Timothy 2v5).
- Therefore no person, nor group of persons have the right to establish sets of rules or standards by which everyone must abide except be it that is given in scripture through Christ which is just towards all.
- The Church of Christ believes in both the Old and New testaments the old being a shadow pointing towards the New, Jesus Christ.
- The Church of Christ believes that nothing is to be added or subtracted from Scripture it is condemned by God (Galatians 1v6-9 and Revelations 22v18-19).

Since the creation, everything God brought into existence was good and perfect, there was nothing imperfect until man obeyed the serpent and rebelled against the first commandment God gave unto man, this is known as the fall of man in Genesis 3.

Ever since the fall of man, the earth got contaminated with the evil deeds from mankind and thus every being brought into this earth is brought into a contaminated earth which was never Gods plan.

Gods plan for man on planet earth was that the specie called man represents the Kingdom of Heaven as ambassadors on earth and that man should live everlastingly with no defects but in total submission to our Sovereign GOD and having direct communion with Him in paradise.

God's plan was sabotaged by Satan who is the cause of earth being contaminated with evil. Satan thought highly of himself and wanted to exalt himself to be just like God the creator (Ezekiel 28v1-19 and Isaiah 14v 12-20). Because of Satan's pride, God through him out of his presence down to the earth (Revelation 12v 9).

For this very reason mentioned above, Satan now begins to fight and do any and everything in his power to deceive and mislead everyone on earth to get them to disobey God so as Satan himself not be the only one destroyed and thrown into the pit of fire but to drag along anyone else with him.

Because God loves His creation, he had foreseen and made provision to redeem mankind and reconcile them to him again through his son Jesus Christ (John 3v 16; Titus 2v14 and Colossians 1v 21-23) that whoever believes in His son Jesus Christ and remains obedient to his commandments shall regain what was lost, which was the dominion over the earth and eternal life in and through Christ Jesus (John 3v36).

## **The Provisional plan of God**

The provisional plan of God is to restore through his son Jesus Christ what was initially lost in the Garden of Eden, restoring us back to the perfect creation by recreating a new heaven and earth which is no longer contaminated with evil, where there shall be no pain, no death, no crying, no sickness but we will live forever in paradise with God just like the creator intended for it to be in the beginning. In order for us to experience this promise, we ought to live our lives in Christ through him and for him in total submission to our saviour (Revelation 21v1-8; Philippians 1v21).

For the provisional plan of God to be fulfilled, we as children of God need to carry out the good works representing Heaven where God's throne is on earth. How?

## **The Great Commission**

**Matt 28v19** "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age."

### Man's task on earth

This is our mission as children of God, to make known to everyone that God expressed and is still expressing and will always express His love for us through His Son Jesus Christ and that there is still hope for us to repent, receive Christ and dwell with God in paradise having the promise of our restored dominion over all the earth and eternal life in and through Jesus Christ.

Jesus said He must preach the message about the Kingdom of God which is the Gospel and unless this message is not heard by all the earth the end cannot come. We must continue to do the same until the whole earth is filled with this message (Matthew 1v14-15; 4v17; 4v23; 24v14; 9v35; 10v7; Mark 16v15; Luke 4v43 and Acts 28v3).

Then the end can come!

## **Scriptural Mandate**

➤ Romans 10v 17

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”

➤ Hosea 4v 6

“My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. “ Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.”

➤ Acts 26v 17-18

I will rescue you from your own people and from the gentiles. I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.

## **God's vision for mankind**

### ➤ Ezekiel 18v 23

“Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? Declares the Sovereign Lord. Rather, am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?”

### ➤ 2 Peter 3v 9

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.”

### ➤ 1 Timothy 2v 3

“This is good, and pleases God our Saviour, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth which is the light.

### ➤ 2 Corinthians 5v17-19

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, and the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting man's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation

### ➤ Revelation 21v1-8;

The primary goal/vision of God is to restore through his son Jesus Christ what was initially lost in the Garden of Eden, human's relationship with God, our identity in Christ, our dominionship over all the earth and restoring us back to the perfect creation by recreating a new heaven and earth which is no longer contaminated with evil, where there shall be no pain, no death, no crying, no sickness, no lack, no darkness but we will live forever in paradise with God just like the creator intended for it to be in the beginning.

In order for us to experience this promise, we ought to live our lives in Christ through him and for him in total submission to our saviour (Philippians 1v21).

## Church Vision

Every church should set their vision and mission on the mandate of Jesus Christ.

➤ John 6v39-40 ; John 10v27-29

“And this is the will of him who sent me that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”

The **vision** of the church is to draw and set the focus of people to Christ and His Kingdom, so as for them to be part of the kingdom family and have dominion and eternal life and the benefits of the kingdom life which was lost in the beginning.

The **mission** of the church is to spread the word of God to everyone so that every ear that hears about Jesus Christ and His Kingdom will have the opportunity to repent of their sins and submit to Christ who is the provision/way to eternal life setting us free from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light and ensuring that the love of God is known and experienced by all man (Matt 28v19; Acts 20v20; 2Cor 5v17-19 and Colo 1v13).

**God expressed his grace and redeemed mankind from the power of darkness, saving us to be reconciled back to himself by restoring what was broken and lost in the Garden of Eden through his son Jesus Christ our Saviour.**

## How to become a member

- For salvation of a man's soul there are two (2) parts: Firstly God's part which is the most important part, then man's part which follows and is also important.
- "For it is by grace you are saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast" (Ephesians 2v8-9). The love of God for man led God to send Jesus Christ into the world to redeem man to God Himself again. The life and teachings of Jesus Christ, the sacrifice on the cross and the proclaiming of the gospel to man constitute God's part which is the most important in and for salvation.
- Secondly man must comply and adhere with the word, ways, standards and laws of God through Christ in order to enter and experience the kingdom of God which is an important part from man.
  1. **Hear the Gospel-** How shall they call on Him whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? (Romans 10v14).
  2. **Believe-** And without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing unto Him, for he that cometh unto God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that seek after Him (Hebrew 11v6). For it is with your heart that you believe and are saved (Romans 10v9).
  3. **Repent/Change-** The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now He commandeth man that they should all everywhere repent (Matthew 3v2; 4v17; Mark 1v15; Acts 2v38 and 17v20).
  4. **Confess Jesus as Lord-** Behold here is water; what doth hinderth me to be baptized? And Phillip said, if you believeth with all thy hearth thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8v36-37). And it is with thy mouth that thou shalt confess the Lord Jesus (Romans10v9).
  5. **Be Baptized for the remission of sins-** And Peter said unto them, repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sin and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2v38).
  6. **Live a life pleasant to God-** As we now have clothed ourselves with Christ by Grace through the obedience of the word we should remain in the ways and



teaching of God through Christ until He comes (2 Timothy 3v16-17; 2Corinthians 5v17-21; Gal 3v27; 1Peter 1v23-25 and 2v9).

7. Being baptized into Christ is an act of obedience towards the word of God it is a command from God and not just a church **ordinance** (a religious rite)

Baptism is extremely important because it sets forth the following for humans on earth:

- To get into Christ by clothing yourselves with Christ (Galatians 3v27; Colossians 3v12).
  - To redeem and reconcile us back to God through the blood of Christ (Titus 2v14; Romans 5v10; 1 Peter 1v18-19)
  - To enter into the Kingdom of God (John 3v1-6; Ephesians 2v6).
  - For the washing away and remission of sins (Act 22v16; Acts 2v38; Hebrews 9v22).
  - For salvation (Mark 16v16; 1 Peter 3v21).
  - To be part of the body of Christ which is the Church (1Corinthians 12v13; Ephesians 1v22-23).
- Since Christ died for our sins we must share in His saving grace which is open to everyone (Acts 10v34-35; Revelation 22v17).
  - Some will choose to come to Christ in faith and obedience and will be saved while others will reject His plea and be condemned. We all have a choice to make Light or Darkness but the word must be spread.
  - Should there be a person from a different denomination who has accepted Christ and Baptized into Christ as an act of obedience of the word of God then that person is a member of the body of Christ.

## **Worship**

Worship is a very important act for honouring God and extends into vast areas.