



CROSSCULTURE

STATEMENT OF FAITH



PART 3



Study 1

THE CHURCH

From our Statement of Faith:

11. The Church is comprised of all those whom God has saved into His family and meets regularly in local gatherings to build one another up for service and witness.

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| • Acts 1:8, 14:23, 20:7 | • 1 Timothy 3:15 |
| • Romans 12:4-6 | • Titus 1:5 |
| • 1 Corinthians 12:12-14 | • Hebrews 10:25 |
| • Ephesians 1:22-23, 3:6-11, 4:11-16 | • 1 Peter 4:10-11 |

All across the world, followers of Jesus meet together in churches. Some meet in grand buildings with big welcoming signs at the front door. Others meet in secrecy behind closed doors. *What* is the church? Or rather – *who* is the church? The Bible has much to teach us about the nature and purpose of the church.

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the word ‘church’? Think of the ways the church is described in the Bible.

Read Ephesians 2:11–22

2. Who is included in the household (or church) of God? How does someone become a member of the household?

Read Hebrews 3:12–14 and 10:24–25

3. While the Church (*written with capital C*) is made up of all believers, the Bible encourages us to meet together in local gatherings of churches (*written with little c*). Why is it important for us to meet together?

Read Ephesians 4:11-16

4. How has the Lord Jesus provided for his church to be built up? What happens when each member plays their part?
5. If all members of God's church and family are saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8–10), how should this impact how you see yourself, other believers and people currently outside of the church?
6. How have you been encouraged or built up by meeting together at church or in your life group? How can you also encourage others as a church?
7. Is church online still considered a church?

Study 2

BAPTISM AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

From our Statement of Faith:

12. The baptism of believers symbolises their union with Jesus Christ in His death and resurrection. The Lord's Supper is a remembrance, thanksgiving and proclamation of the death of Jesus.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew 28:19–20• Mark 1:9–11, 14:22–25• Luke 3:21–22, 22:19–20• Romans 6:3–5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23–29• Colossians 2:12• 1 Peter 3:20–22 |
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Among Bible-believing Christians, there are different views on baptism and the Lord's Supper. Who should be baptised? How should we be baptised? What is the Lord's Supper and its purpose?

1. How has your faith journey been impacted by participating in baptism or the Lord's Supper?

Read Acts 2:41 / 8:12 / 10:44–48 / 16:14–15, 31–34 / 18:8 / 19:1–5

2. What is the common theme among those who were baptised? What do these passages suggest about who baptism is for? Are there other relevant passages in the Bible?

Read Romans 6:3-5 and Colossians 2:12

3. What is the meaning of baptism? Why is baptism significant in a believer's life?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:23–29 and Luke 22:19–20

4. What reason did Jesus and Paul give for the Lord's Supper? How can the Lord's Supper (communion) deepen your understanding of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross?
5. We must not take communion in an unworthy manner. What does it mean to eat and drink in an unworthy manner (1 Corinthians 11:17–34)?
6. If you are a believer but have not taken the step to be baptised, what is holding you back?
7. How can we avoid turning baptism and the Lord's Supper into empty rituals or superstitious practice?

Study 3

GIFTED TO SERVE

From our Statement of Faith:

13. All believers are gifted by the Holy Spirit to build up the Church.

- [Romans 1:11-12, 12:6](#)
- [1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12:8-1](#)
- [Ephesians 4:11-16](#)
- [1 Peter 4:10](#)

According to the Bible, this aspect of our beliefs is vital for the church to function and grow as the body of Christ. Every believer has an important part to play by the power of God's spirit.

1. What unique contribution does each of your family members have? What are they good at? How do they benefit the family?

Read Ephesians 4:1-16

2. How has God organised his family as the body of Christ?

3. What is the purpose of God's gifts to his people? Think about how God's *purpose* in giving us gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4–6) may influence when and how we exercise our gifts. What should be our principle in using these gifts?

Read Ephesians 4:8–11 / Romans 12:3–8 / 1 Corinthians 12:7–11, 27–28 / 1 Peter 4:1–11

4. What types of gifts are described? How are they related?

Application

5. How does each of your life group members contribute to the group?

6. How has God gifted you to build up the body of Christ? How can you use your gifts this week?

Study 4

SENT BY JESUS

From our Statement of Faith:

*14. Jesus Christ sends us to make disciples of all nations,
calling them to repent and believe the gospel*

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew 24:14, 28:19–20• Luke 24:47• Acts 1:8 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Romans 10:14–15• 2 Corinthians 5:20• 1 Peter 2:9 |
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God's intention is to bless the whole of humanity – from the beginning of the Bible (Genesis 1:28), through the calling of Abraham to be a blessing to the nations, through what Jesus has done on earth, and eventually into the new creation.

As the recipients of God's greatest blessing in Jesus, we have the privilege to pass on the blessing of the gospel to the nations. This is one of God's purposes in bringing us into his family (1 Peter 2:9).

1. What is the most important earthly task that someone (perhaps your spouse, family, boss or client) has ever sent you to do? How did it make you feel?

Read Matthew 28:16–20

2. Why is the context of this passage (the location of Jesus and his disciples, the time in Jesus' life and the placement in Matthew's gospel) important to what Jesus said?

3. What state were his disciples in?

4. Why did Jesus begin by declaring the extent of his authority? What are the implications for those who are sent to share the message and those who hear the message?

5. What does Jesus' great commission involve?

Application

6. How is our church doing in living out Jesus' great commission together? What encourages you? What could be improved?

7. What obstacles have you encountered in fulfilling Jesus' great commission? How can you overcome them? Pray for one another in your life group and other people you would love to become disciples of Jesus.

Study 5

THE RETURN OF THE KING

From our Statement of Faith:

15. Jesus Christ will return to judge everyone. Unrepentant sinners will face eternal punishment. His people will be raised to live with Him forever in His new kingdom.

- [John 6:44, 14:3](#)
 - [Acts 1:11, 17:30–31](#)
 - [1 Corinthians 15:21–22, 42, 50–53](#)
 - [2 Thessalonians 1:8–9](#)
- [2 Timothy 4:1](#)
 - [Titus 2:13](#)
 - [Revelation 20:15, 21:1–8](#)

Jesus ascended back into heaven, but he will return one day in the same way he left (Acts 1:11). As God's people, we are often curious about the future. More than just satisfying our curiosity, the Bible speaks of the end times because it shapes how we live now. In this way, we must always live with a constant awareness of the future.

1. Why are you looking forward (or not) to the future and the return of Jesus?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–5:11

2. Why is the return of Jesus a comfort?

3. Why is the return of Jesus a warning?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:20–25 and 50–55

4. How does Jesus' resurrection anticipate his return?

Read Revelation 21:1–8

5. What will heaven and hell be like?

Application

6. If you knew Jesus was returning in the next 24 hours, what would you do differently? How might this prepare us to be ready for Jesus to return at any time?

7. If you are not looking forward to the return of Jesus, what factors in your life are causing that?