

Declaration of Faith

Of CRC Churches International

DECLARATION OF FAITH

The CRC Churches International believes in and presents the following basic truths:

1. The Canonical Scriptures

The Scriptures, as originally written, are infallible and inspired by God. They alone constitute the sole and absolute authority in all matters pertaining to Christian faith and practice.

They are not to be added to, superseded, or changed by later tradition or supposed revelation; and because the Bible is the completed revelation of God,

Whatever is not contained therein is not to be declared as an article of faith.

Matthew 4:4; 5:17-18; 24:35; John 5:39; 10:35; 17:17; Acts 28:23; 1 Corinthians 2:7-16; 2 Timothy 3:15-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21

2. The Godhead

There is one God, perfect and holy, existing eternally in the three Persons of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; the Creator and Preserver of all things, visible and invisible.

These three distinct persons are co-equal and co-eternal in every respect, though each person of the Godhead possesses His own characteristics, and each performs His own specific divine works in total unity and harmony with the others.

Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; John 14:16-17; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 2:18; 4:4-6

3. God the Father

God the Father is the first Person of the triune Godhead. He has always been the Father from all eternity. As the eternal Spirit, He is personal, ever-present, sovereign, self-existent, invisible, immortal, holy, unchanging, good, merciful, all-powerful, all-knowing, loving, gracious, faithful and just. God gave His son, Jesus Christ, for mankind's redemption.

1 Corinthians 15:24-28; John 3:36; Matthew 6:13; 19:26; Hebrews 12:7ff; 1 John 1:3; Revelation 4:11; Leviticus 11:44; 20:26; Acts 17:27-28; Genesis 17:1; 18:14; 21:33; Mark 14:36; Luke 1:37; 18:27; John 4:24; Colossians 1:15; Malachi 3:6; Numbers 23:19; Exodus 3:6, 13-14; Deuteronomy 4:39; Daniel 4:35; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Psalms 5:4-5; 25:8; 89:26,28; 90:2; 102:25-27;

103:13; 107:1; 139:1-12; Isaiah 40:25, 28; 46:9-10; 57:15; 63:11-16; Romans 2:4; 8:28; 12:1

4. Jesus Christ the Son

Jesus Christ the Son is the second Person of the triune Godhead.

He is the eternal Son of God. He is the Lord of all creation. He was pre-existent before He came to earth and is pre-eminent above all things.

He was the Word made flesh, supernaturally conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, and perfect in nature, teaching and obedience.

He was truly God and truly man.

He lived a sinless life and died on a cross as a vicarious sacrifice, shedding His precious blood for the remission of sin for all mankind. He is the only Saviour for the sins of the world.

He rose from the dead in His own glorified body for man's justification, ascended into heaven and will personally return in glory to establish His kingdom on earth.

He is the Head of His body, the Church, and Victor over all the powers of darkness. He now reigns at the right hand of the Father.

John 1:1-3; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Matthew 1:18-25; John 14:9; 17:1,5; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 7:23-28; Acts 1:11; Matthew 24:30; Acts 10:36; Matthew 26:28; Romans 5:1,18; Acts 13:39; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 12:2; 1 Peter 3:22

5. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the triune Godhead.

He is a divine Person, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Son. He is the Giver of life. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He unites man to Jesus Christ in faith and brings about the new birth. He dwells within the regenerate, producing in them the fruit of the Spirit and enabling them to grow in sanctification.

The Holy Spirit inspired prophets, priests, judges and kings, anointed Jesus Christ for His ministry, filled the Church with Pentecostal power, and quickens the mortal bodies of believers to the service of God.

John 14:16-17,26; 16:8-11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; John 3:5; 1 Corinthians 6:19; Romans 8:9-11; Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18; 1 Peter 1:2, 10-12; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Luke 4:1, 18-21; Acts 2:4; 4:31

6. Man

God created man in His own image and likeness by a specific act of creation.

Though man was originally morally upright and perfect, he fell by voluntary transgression through the original sin of Adam and Eve.

Consequently, all mankind is separated from God and his original state of righteousness, and is totally incapable by himself of returning to God.

Fallen man, whatever his character or attainment, is lost and without hope apart from the salvation available in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 5:12, 16-17; Jeremiah 17:9; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12; John 6:44; John 3:3-7; Acts 4:12; 2 Corinthians 11:3

7. The Devil

The devil is a fallen angel who by his influence brought about the downfall of man, and now as the god of this world seeks to destroy humanity. Every believer has access to absolute authority in Jesus Christ over all the power of the devil because Christ's substitutionary death has stripped the devil of his power and authority.

The devil and his evil spirits will be consigned to eternal punishment at the judgment.

Genesis 3:1-5; Matthew 25:41; Luke 10:18-19; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 6:11-12; Colossians 2:16; James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 John 3:8; Jude 6; Revelation 12:7-9, 11-12; 20:10

8. Salvation

Salvation is solely by grace and is received through genuine repentance toward God, and wholehearted trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is also known as the "new birth", and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit, whereupon the believing sinner is justified, regenerated, sanctified, given eternal life, adopted into the family of God and becomes a new creation in Jesus Christ.

There is no other means by which mankind may be saved, except through the salvation provided by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Through Christ's great redemptive act there is forgiveness of sin, liberation from bondage to the world, and freedom in His Spirit.

Salvation produces an upright and moral life.

Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 5:1; Acts 2:38; 3:19-21; 4:12; 13:31; Titus 3:4-7; Ephesians 1:5,7; Galatians 6:14-15; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 2 Corinthians 3:17

9. The Church

The church comprises all "born again" believers of all nations and denominations, under the headship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The primary task of the Church is to teach all nations and to make disciples, bringing the Gospel to bear on every aspect of life.

The church expresses itself in the world through local congregations which gather for worship.

The primary mission of the church is the redemption of the lost.

Romans 12:4-5; 1 Corinthians 12:27ff; Ephesians 5:23, 26-27; 2:22; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Titus 2:14; Matthew 28:19-20

10. The Ordinances

There are two perpetual ordinances ordained by the Lord Jesus Christ for all Christians, which equally proclaim His death, burial and resurrection. When the preaching of the Word conveys the real meaning inherent in these ordinances, and faith is aroused in the recipients, then the Holy Spirit produces great benefits.

Romans 8:11; 10:17

10.1. Believers' Baptism

The believer is baptised by immersion in water upon profession of his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism is an integral part of Christian initiation, but not essential for salvation.

It symbolises identification of the believer with Christ's death, burial and resurrection; separation from the old way of life unto the Lord; and the newness of life now available in Christ.

Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38,41; 8:12-13, 36-39; 9:17-18; 10:47-48; 16:14-15; 18:8; 19:4-5; 22:16; Romans 6:3-5; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:12; 1 Peter 3:20-21

10.2. The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is a meeting of believers in which bread and wine, symbolising His body and blood, are shared in remembrance of Christ's death, in proclamation of His presence, and in anticipation of His Second Coming.

It speaks of the new and eternal covenant made by God with man, and is sealed with the blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

This ordinance should be celebrated regularly by all genuine believers, for it reminds the believer that Christ has provided for his every need, and that at the appointed time Christ is coming for His Church.

Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:20-26

11. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is distinct from the "new birth", and is accompanied by speaking in other tongues as the initial evidence, as the Holy Spirit gives utterance. This gracious and supernatural gift of power was not only for the early disciples, but is a gift available to all believers of every generation. It is received by faith.

It endows believers with power to be effective witnesses for Christ, and gives them access to the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 16:15-20; Luke 24:49; John 7:37-39; Acts 1:8; 2:1-40; 8:15-19; 10:44-47; 19:1-7; Luke 11:13

12. The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

The various supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, such as word of wisdom, word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, working of miracles, prophecy, discernment of spirits, tongues and interpretation of tongues are an integral part of the worship and ministry of the Church.

The gifts are primarily to edify and equip the Church for ministry, and should be in harmony with the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

The gifts are given by the Holy Spirit and are exercised through the believer by faith.

1 Corinthians 12ff; Romans 15:19; Hebrews 2:4; Acts 3:4-7; 5:3; 11:28-30; 13:9-11; 16:18; 27:10, 22-25; 1 Corinthians 12:7; 13:1-2

13. The Fruit of the Spirit

The fruit of the Holy Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and self-control, characterise the life of the true believer and the true ministry of the Church. Such fruit is the natural result of the life of the Spirit in the believer.

Galatians 5:22-26; Colossians 3:12ff; 12:9ff; 1 Corinthians 13:1ff; John 15:1ff

14. Divine Healing

The Bible contains a healing covenant affirmed in both Testaments, providing spiritual and physical health and well-being for the whole person, and divine deliverance from all bondage to the power of Satan. The basis of this covenant for every believer is reconciliation through the atonement of Jesus Christ, which provides the means by which the whole man, spirit, soul and body, may be delivered from the power and effects of sin, sickness and disease. Jesus Christ gave His disciples authority and power to heal all kinds of sickness and disease, and to minister deliverance to those bound by demonic power.

We believe that divine healing and divine deliverance are available to all, through faith in the redemptive death and victorious resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Exodus 15:26; Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; 1 Peter 2:21-24; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32; James 5:14-16; Mark 16:17-18; Matthew 10:1

15. Prayer

Prayer is communion with God by which the believer can offer supplication, intercession and thanksgiving. It is the right and privilege of every believer to speak the word of faith, to pray with authority and so release the transforming power of God.

Through prayer, the believer can communicate with God and receive comfort, guidance, reassurance, encouragement, direction and edification.

Psalm 100:4; Jeremiah 33:3; Matthew 7:7-8, 11; 21-22; John 14:13-14; 16:23-24; Ephesians 6:18; Philippians 4:6-7; James 1:5-6; 1 John 5:14-15; John 4:24; Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15; Jude 20

16. The Resurrection

There will be a bodily resurrection of the just and of the unjust; for the former, a resurrection into eternal life and immortality; for the latter, a resurrection into judgment.

We believe in the eternal punishment of people who wilfully reject and despise the love of God manifested in the great sacrifice of His Son upon the cross for their salvation.

Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2-3, 13; John 5:28-29; 6:39-40; 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 20:4-6, 11-15; Philippians 3:21

17. Prophecy

It is generally accepted that Bible Prophecy has been progressively fulfilled during the course of history and that the Church age will be brought to a close by a series of prophesied events such as the Battle of Armageddon and culminate in the visible, personal and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. This will be associated with the first resurrection, the translation of those alive in Christ, the Judgment Seat of Christ, the binding of satanic powers, the establishment of Christ's millennial reign, after which period the second resurrection and Great White Throne Judgment will take place.

Ezekiel 38; 39; Joel 2; 3; Zechariah 14:1-20; Matthew 24:29-44; Mark 13:24-37; Luke 21:24-36; Acts 1:11; 2:17-21; 2 Peter 3:1-14; Revelation 16:12-16; 20:1-15