

Queenstown Bible Chapel
127 Hallenstein Street
Queenstown 9300

Full Statement Of Faith

1. In the verbal and plenary inspiration of the Bible, and inerrant in every part as given originally. God superintended the human authors so that they composed and recorded His word, which is His revelation to us and it is will for us, authoritative and sufficient for our guidance in all matters of faith and practice.
2. God is spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable. Within the nature of the one and only true God, there are three eternal, co-existent and co-equal persons : the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (the Deity or Godhead). In this triunity each takes a distinctive position and assumes certain responsibilities while remaining in perfect harmony with one another.
3. Jesus Christ was God manifest in flesh, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, perfect and impeccable humanity (sinless and incapable of sinning) and in all respects truly God and truly Man.
4. The death of Christ upon the cross of calvary was substitutionary in character and a propitiatory sacrifice by which we are reconciled to God. Christ paid the penalty for mans sin through the shedding of his own precious blood. The value of Christ's offering of Himself is infinite, able to meet the need of all, but of no saving value to those who do not believe and appropriate Christ.
5. The Lord Jesus Christ literally and physically rose from the dead. He was seen by many witnesses over 40 days, and ascended in His resurrection and glorified body to the right hand of God in heaven.
6. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only mediator between God and men. He is the Saviour and Head of His Body, the Church, the faithful High Priest over the House of God and Advocate on behalf of his people.

7. At the end of the church dispensation conditions will deteriorate. The Lord Jesus will return to the atmosphere to remove His people (the Rapture) to be with Himself in Heaven so that he can send terrible judgements upon the earth (The Tribulation). These culminate in the Battle of Armageddon which is followed by the establishment of His Millennial Kingdom and reign in righteousness. After a short permitted rebellion at the end of 1000 years sin and death will be finally dealt with, the great white throne judgement, the new Heavens and Earth and the Eternal State ushered in.
8. It pleased God, in the beginning to create, or make of nothing, the Universe. In six literal twenty four hour solar days, the Lord made the Universe (the Heavens and the Earth, the Sea and all that is within them).
9. Man was created in the image and likeness of God. Through a free and wilful act of Adam (in the literal Garden of Eden) sin entered into the world, and death by sin. From their representative head Adam's descendants inherit sin, this corruption extending to every facet of man's nature and faculties, with nothing in anyone that can commend them to a righteous God.
10. Salvation is neither deserved nor earned. Salvation cannot be:
 - A. Handed down from parents to children,
 - B. Granted or bestowed by the Church, Bought with money before or after death, Obtained by good works or religious observances.Salvation is a gift that is given by God, in love and mercy, upon personal faith in Christ and His finished work on Calvary's cross in the three hours of darkness. God guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost.
11. On the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit was poured out on the gathered disciples by the risen Lord as promised. Through this inaugural and historical act they were baptised, with all future believers of the church age, into one body (the mystical body of Christ which is a spiritual entity) and united with its exalted Head in Heaven – Christ. A person comes into the reality of this relationship at the time of conversion.
12. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer in His fullness from the moment of conversion forever. Christ endows through the Spirit special abilities for service on all believers as he sees fit and according to His purposes. The gift of Apostle and Prophet was foundational. Gifts such as wisdom and knowledge were needed while the N.T. scriptures were being completed, and confirmatory sign gifts such as miracles and languages (tongues) were limited in history to the transition period of the early church.

13. Every person has an endless life and will experience a conscious existence after death of either eternal bliss or eternal punishment. All bodies will be raised at their allocated time, and re-united with their departed spirits to inhabit either Heaven or Earth, or the Lake of Fire.
14. Satan is a created spirit being who dwelt with the Angelic hosts in heaven. Through pride and rebellion Satan along with angels who sided with him were cast out of the Lord's presence. Since his fall Satan has been in opposition to the Lord, His word and His people. While powerful he is not omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent and carries out his work (along with demons) as permitted by the Lord in a given dispensation.
15. The Church in its Total aspect is not an organisation. It has no power or authority and cannot be approached nor can it come together. There is not a confederation of Churches, either national or international. There is "one body" – the Church embracing all Christians from the Day of Pentecost until the Rapture.
16. God's desire is for all Christians to gather to Christ in local church capacity owning His Headship and absolute rule. They are to gather solely to the Lord's Name, avoiding any denominational designation.
17. The local church or Assembly is a visible expression on earth of the invisible mystical heavenly body and is to be composed of believers only. When a believer desires to join the local assembly, they are to be welcomed to share in all things that a scripturally constituted Assembly stands for. It is necessary that in the life of the person joining there is clear evidence of conversion, and that they are free from fundamental error. The scripture order is (a) conversion (b) baptism (c) reception.
18. The Assembly is autonomous, and is governed by Elders in the Congregation – mature spiritual men collectively known as the Oversight. In various versions of the Bible these men are also called Bishops, Shepherds, Pastors, Leaders and Overseers. None of the above terms are to be used as Titles but are descriptive of these brothers maturity and work (function), and there is always a plurality of such men in each local Assembly.
19. Believers corporately are a Holy Priesthood and as Priests each offer spiritual sacrifices (subject to certain restrictions on sisters). There is no distinctive hierarchy envisaged in the New Testament to officiate in such matters.
20. Each believer has spiritual abilities that are essential for the well being of the Assembly. There are to be opportunities for the development and use of this variety

of gift in a proper and complementary way. To rely on a Pastor or Minister, as in clerisy, is contrary to the teaching of the New Testament.

21. Those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus Christ are to be baptised (immersed). Baptism is neither a means of salvation, nor the way of entrance into the Church.
22. The Lord's supper is to be observed on the first day of the week, being a remembrance and proclamation of the Lord and His death until He comes, the Bread and Cup being no more than emblems of His body given, His blood shed.
23. Men and Women are in every respect equal in Christ. Because of Creation and the Fall God has prescribed distinctive spheres and differing rolls for each to fulfil. In the Church man's role is one of selfless leadership while that of the woman is one of submissive service. In meetings, when the church comes together, men are to have their heads uncovered and women covered as a symbol of headship. The women are to keep silent regarding public speaking and prayer.
24. Assembly members who offend in a moral or doctrinal way, as indicated in the New Testament scriptures, are to be disciplined in the manner prescribed by the same scriptures. Those who truly repent are to be restored to fellowship.
25. We belief a faithful reading of Scripture will involve seeking the author's intended meaning. We believe that Israel and the church are distinct entities. We reject replacement theology and all theological schemes that seek to reinterpret Old Testament texts or the covenants contained therein. We believe that Israel's covenants will be fulfilled by Israel, not the church, and that the prophesied kingdom is yet future.
26. We reject Calvinism and Arminianism (and the false dichotomy that portrays non-Calvinists as necessarily Arminian). We affirm God's absolute sovereignty and reject Calvinism's attempt to redefine sovereignty as meticulous divine determinism. We reject the teaching that regeneration precedes faith. We affirm faith as the sole condition for salvation and we reject Lordship salvation.
27. This Assembly selects and appoints as Trustees of the Queenstown Bible Chapel only those who give willing assent to these 26 articles. Any sitting trustees who can no longer subscribe to this statement of faith automatically disqualifies themselves from trusteeship.