

Bush Disciples

STATEMENT OF BELIEF

1. Bush Disciples is a Christian organisation, whose purpose is to develop disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. Our belief is:
 - That the **Bible**, as originally given, is the divinely inspired Word of God which reveals God clearly. It is the supreme authority and can be relied upon fully in all matters of faith and conduct today. It reveals a timeless truth, which calls men and women to repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and calls Christians of every age to live counter to the world's culture.
 - That **God** is the sovereign creator. He is one and yet three persons; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, living and interrelating in perfect unity forever.
 - That Jesus Christ is fully human and fully God, as defined by the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.
 - That all **people** are by nature sinful, rebellious and dead towards God. They are therefore guilty before God and stand condemned to hell.
 - That God in His love sent His Son, **Jesus Christ**. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He is human, yet without sin.
 - That God's **chosen people** are redeemed from the penalty and power of sin only by Christ's single, perfect, sacrificial death which was sufficient for all people. He willingly acted as our representative and substitute before God. Our redemption is not by works but by God's unmerited grace.
 - That **Jesus Christ** rose from the dead in bodily form and ascended to heaven and is seated with all authority at the right hand of the Father as the one true mediator between God and people.
 - That, by God's mercy, His Holy Spirit brings about **spiritual rebirth** in His people by granting the individual sinner repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ through God's Word
 - That the **Holy Spirit** indwells and works in believers to empower them to live Godly lives, to give gifts for the ministry of the church, to inspire love for one another and to bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - That according to His promise, Jesus will **return** personally and visibly for the final judgment of all people. Those who are His, will be rescued from His wrath and raised to be with Him forever. This is the Christian's great hope and confidence.
 - Jesus Christ, by inaugurating the **New Covenant**, made redundant for the Christian Disciple, certain Jewish religious laws and customs. What has never been made redundant, and therefore continues to stand, are God's pronounced moral and ethical standards by which mankind is judged and to which His faithful disciples should strive to adhere, by the empowering of the Holy Spirit.
 - The **Gifts** of the Holy Spirit are given for the building up of the church. All disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ are to eagerly desire to receive these gifts, for use in the service of God. Not all Christians have the same spiritual gift, and no one gift is the sign of the filling of the Holy Spirit.

- The **Apostles Creed** and **Nicene Creed** are clear and authoritative statements on the Christian faith. They are used to declare and guard the correct understanding of that faith.
- That it is unprofitable for a church community to argue and divide over “disputable matters” to do with church practice and finer points of doctrine. With such issues, the principle of love, forbearance and denying self, as set down in Romans 14 is the principle to which the church should work.

BAPTISM

5. Bush disciples will baptise into the Christian church, those who, at the discretion of the Elders, have shown the fruit of repentance toward God and profess faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ, as their personal Lord and Saviour.

COMMUNION (LORD'S SUPPER)

6. The Disciples of Christ have been commanded to break bread and drink wine together in remembrance of our Lord.
7. Bush Disciples will celebrate communion at least monthly.
8. Participants are reminded that this is a solemn occasion and it is to be done with reverence and respect for both Christ and one another.
9. Bush Disciples welcomes all Disciples of Christ to share communion at His table.

MARRIAGE

10. Marriage is a gift of God and a means of grace. It is founded in God's loving nature, and in the covenant of love made with us in Christ. Marriage is intended to be a faithful lifelong union between one man and one woman (at the exclusion of all others), where a husband and wife give themselves to each other in love and mutual respect. Marriage reflects the love of Christ for his Church. The commitment, companionship and comfort of marriage enables the full expression of physical love between a husband and wife. Marriage is intended to provide a safe, nurturing and loving environment for husband and wife and for the children with which they may be blessed.
11. Romans Chapter 1 reveals that homosexual relationships (along with all manner of unrighteousness) are an expression of God's wrath on a godless society, and therefore something to be repented of and never celebrated, affirmed, or approved.