

# Bundaberg Christian College

## STATEMENT OF FAITH



The Doctrinal basis of the Bundaberg Christian College (the 'College') is as follows:

The College accepts, adapts and adheres to the following Doctrinal basis:

We believe that the Bible is God's written Word, divinely inspired and infallible in the original autographs of the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament and the twenty-seven books of the New Testament in their entirety, and we therefore believe that the Holy Spirit supernaturally guided the human authors to write authoritative statements of truth that are the supreme basis for Christian belief and conduct;

We believe that there is one God in whom there are three co-equal and co-eternal Persons, revealed as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and we believe that God, of His own Sovereign Will, created the Universe and all that is contained within it;

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ is the uncreated, externally existing, only begotten Son of the Father, and that He became a man, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless human life, offered Himself as the perfect atoning sacrifice upon the Cross, was raised bodily from the dead, and ascended to Heaven according to the Scriptures where He is now seated at the Father's right hand;

We believe that the Holy Spirit, co-equal with the Father and the Son, is present in the world to convince people of their sin and their need for the Saviour, to lead them to repentance, and to regenerate and indwell those who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord. We also believe that the indwelling Holy Spirit seeks to enable each believer to live in a manner worthy of his or her calling in Christ by manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in his or her life, and bestows at least one spiritual gift upon each believer to prepare him or her for Christian service;

We believe that human beings, both male and female, are in the spiritual image of God and the supreme creatures within His Creation. We also believe that, through the rebellion and disobedience of the first human beings, this image was marred and that all people are now in a fallen sinful and lost condition which has separated them from God and caused disharmony between themselves;

We believe that human beings can never make up for their sin by self-improvement or good works, and that salvation from the penalty and consequences of sin is offered as a free gift of God and is found only through a personal acceptance of the substitutionary atoning death and bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ;

We believe that human beings were created to live forever, either existing eternally separated from God in Hell because of sin, or living eternally with God because of personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ;

We believe in the actual existence of the Devil, originally created by God in a perfect state, but he chose to rebel against God's authority and is now the father of all evil and opposed to God and God's purposes and seeks to tempt God's people away from the ways of God. The College also believes that Satan was defeated through the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and that he is ultimately subject to the purposes of God and will be confined forever to Hell;

We believe that the Church is composed of all believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, and finds visible manifestation in each of the local churches.

We believe in the future, personal return to earth of the Lord Jesus Christ, at which time will commence the glorious reign of Christ, and then, the full realisation of the Eternal Kingdom of God.

We believe that marriage has been divinely established by God and affirmed by Jesus as the voluntary, lifelong union of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. Marriage is a symbolic representation of the nature of God's love for us and for His church, anticipating His union with the believers in eternity. Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:18-25; Matthew 19:4-6; Ephesians 5:22-33; Revelation 19:6-9.

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We believe that marriage is the only context in which human sexuality is to be expressed and in which sexual intimacy is to be experienced.

The Bible teaches that sexual behaviour is to be limited to monogamous, heterosexual married, couples and that believers are to abstain from sexual immorality.

Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:18-25; Exodus 20:14; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 5:27-28; Matthew 15:18-20; Acts 15:20; Romans 1:20-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20; 1 Corinthians 7:2; 1 Timothy 1:10; Hebrews 13:4.

We believe that the two distinct, complementary genders (sexes) of male and female together reflect the image and nature of God (Genesis 1:26-27). The Bible ties gender identity to biological sex (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:22-24) and does not make a distinction between the two. God's intended best for humankind is that we live our lives in accordance with our biological sex.

According to Scripture, our gender identity is to align with our biological sex, as designed by God.

The determination of biological sex commences in the womb and is recognised at birth (Genesis 1:27; Genesis 5:1-2; Psalm 139:13-14; Mark 10:6). We recognise that in a very small number of cases sex may be indeterminate at birth and a determination of sex may be required. We acknowledge the biological sex of a person as recognised at birth and require practices consistent with that sex. Genesis 1:26-27; Genesis 2:22-24; Genesis 3:21; Genesis 5:1-2; Psalm 139:1-5 and 13-16; Matthew 19:4-5; Mark 10:6-7.

We believe that acknowledgement of our sin and acceptance of the loving grace of God will lead to purity and holiness as the Holy Spirit's work enables the believer to demonstrate the character of the perfect man, Jesus Christ. The Bible exhorts us to pursue godliness and to model Biblical standards of behaviour to our peers and the wider society in both word and deed. It also calls Christian believers to abstain from all appearance of evil and to be active members of a local Church and meet together regularly as a body so that we may encourage one another. Leviticus 20:22-26; Deuteronomy 6:25; Psalm 133:1; Matthew 5:16; Acts 2:46; 1 Corinthians 14:26; Philippians 2:12-16; 2 Thessalonians 5:22; Titus 2:10-14; Hebrews 10:25; 1 Peter 1:13-16; 2 Peter 3:11-14; 1 John 1:5-10.

We aim to spread and strengthen the teaching of the Christian religion, as articulated in this Statement of Faith, the maintenance of the doctrines upon which that religion rests, and the observances that promote and manifest that religion. In the context of Christian schooling, conduct that is inconsistent with the Christian beliefs of the College, including on the part of the student body, can impact detrimentally on: a the College's ability to be conducted in conformity with its Christian doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings; b its ability to maintain its religious ethos; and c its ability to ensure the modelling of a Christian standard of conduct to each individual student and to the student body.

The use of College facilities or property in a manner that is inconsistent with its religious doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings can have the same impact. Such conduct can remove the ability of the College to act in conformity with its doctrines, tenets, beliefs or teachings and can incur injury to the religious susceptibility of adherents of its religion. Psalm 127:3; Proverbs 22:6; Matthew 5:13-16; Matthew 8:6; Matthew 18:10; Mark 9:37, 42; Luke 17:1-2; Acts 20:28; Ephesians 2:20-22; Ephesians 5:3; Hebrews 10:24-25; Hebrews 13:17.

This Statement of Faith is not intended as a summary of the complete revelation of the Holy Scriptures or the beliefs of the College but is instead intended to be applied insofar as is required for the formation of a valid Constitution.

In conducting its operations, the College shall act consistently with the Statement of Faith.