

KINGSWOOD CAMP

Kingswood Camp is a Christian organization founded to create an environment where staff, volunteers, and campers are encouraged to explore the Christian faith. Our goal is that people of all ages would discover who Jesus is and be inspired and motivated to follow him. As a Christian organization, our beliefs are based on the Bible. Below is a brief statement of our beliefs called a statement of faith.

Statement of Faith¹

God

We believe there is one true, living, eternal, and personal God. He is self-existent, omnipresent, omniscient, good, kind, holy, just, and merciful. He is long-suffering, loving, gracious, faithful and sovereign. We believe in one God, revealed as three persons: Father, Son, and Spirit (2 Corinthians 13:14). These three persons (called the Trinity) are equally divine and distinct in their functions but are one in essence (or being) and purpose.

The Father: The Father is the first person of God as revealed in the Old Testament. The Father is co-eternal and co-equal with Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Father directs history according to his perfect will and ensures that his purposes are accomplished (2 Peter 1:17). He is referred to as Father by Jesus, the Son (Mark 14:36). He adopts all who place faith in the Son into His eternal family. (John 1:12, Romans 8:15).

The Son: The Son is the second person of God. His name is Jesus. The Son is co-eternal and co-equal with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. (John 1:1) and is the agent and sustainer of creation (Colossians 1:16-17). Through his virgin birth, Jesus was revealed as a human being (Luke 1:26-27, 2:7). He is fully human (Philippians 2:7-8) and fully God (John 1:14). He led a sinless life, suffered, died, and rose again to make possible the redemption of humanity as well as of all creation (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). He ascended to the Father's right hand in heaven, where he is the mediator between God and human beings (Hebrews 9:15). He will return at the end of this age (Matthew 24:36) to judge the living and the dead, initiate the coming of the new heaven and the new earth (John 14:1-3), and complete God's plan for the universe.

The Holy Spirit: The Holy Spirit is the third person of God (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit is co-eternal and co-equal with God the Father and Jesus the Son. The Spirit dwells in and marks

¹ A shorter summarized version of this statement of faith is available on the Kingswood Camp website. This version is available from the director of Kingswood Camp at director@kingswoodcamp.ca

the follower of Jesus beginning at the moment of conversion through faith (Ephesians 1:13). The Holy Spirit convicts of sin and righteousness (John 16:8), regenerates, sanctifies, illuminates, and comforts those who believe in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit also empowers believers for service in the Kingdom of God (1 Corinthians 12:11).

The Bible

The Bible was written under the inspiration and direction of the Holy Spirit as God's self-revelation to us. (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is the final authority in matters of Christian faith and practice. The Bible contains the books found in the Old and New Testaments and is God's complete, true, and inspired word (2 Peter 1:19-21). The Bible shows us who God is, why he created us, how our relationship with God was broken because of sin, and how humans can be reconciled to God through faith in Jesus. (2 Peter 1:20-21). The Bible is the primary authority used by Christians through the leadership of the Holy Spirit to instruct, correct, and teach. (2 Timothy 3:16)

Human Beings and Sin

The Bible teaches that human beings were created as male and female by God in the image and likeness of God. (Genesis 1:26). As image-bearers of God, human beings are uniquely valued above the rest of creation. The Bible describes the human beings, Adam and Eve, as innocent people who were entirely dependent on God for their existence. However, of their own free will, human beings broke the command of God and entered into sin (Genesis 3:6-7), becoming guilty before God and thereby incurring physical and spiritual death (Romans 5:12). As a result of this sin, their fellowship with God (Genesis 3:23), one another (Genesis 3:12), themselves (Romans 7:15) and everything else in the rest of creation (Romans 8:22) was broken. This brokenness affects all people past, present and future.

Salvation from Sin

Humans are unable to save themselves from the corruption of sin (Romans 3:23) and, on their own, are unable to restore their broken relationship with God. All parts of their lives are affected by sin, as are all aspects of creation. (Romans 8:18-22) However, because of God's grace and love, he has provided a way for humanity to be saved from the presence and consequences of sin through faith in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This salvation is only possible by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. (John 3:16, Acts 4:12, Ephesians 2:8-9) There is no other way to restore the broken relationship between God and humanity. (John 14:6). As we repent and turn from our sin, we receive God's forgiveness, and the relationship between God and humans is restored. (1 John 1:9; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 10:9-11).

The Church

The Church is both local and global. At the moment of salvation, the Christian becomes a part of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-27) and is encouraged to become involved in a local

church. The local church is a community of believers that gathers together for worship, encouragement, fellowship, mission, and celebration (Acts 2:42, 46-47).

The New Testament outlines how the local church is to function as a body in service to God with Jesus as its head (Colossians 1:18). All believers are called to be actively involved in ministry with their time, energy, and resources and are to exercise and nurture the gifts given them by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:27).

The Christian Life

The Christian life can be summarized by three essential statements made by God in the Bible. These three statements should be reflected in the lifestyle of the follower of Jesus.

Jesus taught in the greatest commandment that all of the teachings in the Bible can be summarized by loving God and loving our neighbour. (Matthew 22:26-40) As such, it is the top priority of the Christian to love God with their heart, soul, mind, and strength and to love people as an overflow of loving God.

Jesus told the disciples that their great commission (Matthew 28:16-20) is to help others become disciples of Jesus. Christians are to do this through their lives and relationships with others, and they are to teach what they have been taught. Jesus promised that Christians would have the Holy Spirit's power and support to fulfill this commission. (Acts 1:8)

In the Old Testament, God taught through the prophet Micah that his people are "to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8). It is the responsibility of the Christian to reflect on and live out this statement as they learn to follow Jesus in the world.

Jesus' Return

God is in control of human history. He is not absent, nor has he set this world in motion and then abandoned it because sin entered the world. Someday Jesus will return just as he said. (Acts 1:11, Philippians 2:8-11) We do not know the specific time when Jesus will come again (Matt. 25:13), but we have been instructed to be ready—filled with anticipation. (Matt 26:41) The return of Jesus will mark the start of a new era when every knee shall bow to Him. He will judge the living and the dead according to their faith when he returns. His followers will enter the new Heaven and new Kingdom he is creating. (Revelation 21-22)