

# STATEMENT OF FAITH



LAUNCESTON  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

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## Introduction

This *Statement of Faith* outlines what we believe as we engage in the task of Christian education. This is the faith on which our school was founded. This is who we are; this is what we promote, practise and teach.

*All LCS staff are to uphold the Statement of Faith in both their public and private lives and are committed to the body of Christian believers through membership of a local church or Christian community.*

## Enrolment

As a guided enrolment school, we recognise that our student and parent community include a variety of faith and lifestyle beliefs. All are welcome in our school. Nevertheless, it is important when joining the school community that families understand what the school promotes, practises and teaches. We recognise the right of parents and students to hold different positions on lifestyle or faith as private matters.

## God

There is one God who is three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.<sup>1</sup>

God created the world and He created us to be His people.<sup>2</sup> God loves us<sup>3</sup> and is our Father in Heaven. He rules over the world and provides us with everything we need. God reveals Himself to us through His creation, through His Word in the Bible, and most of all through His Son Jesus Christ.<sup>4</sup>

## The Bible

The Bible is God's written Word, spoken by God through the people who wrote it. Because of this, we can trust the Bible in everything we believe and do. In the Bible, God tells us how much He loves us and how He wants to be with us forever, as His family. The Bible guides and directs us on how God wants us to live. It tells us what God is like and that His plan for us is good.<sup>5</sup>

## Life before God

God is Holy and His law is perfect. God created humanity, both male and female, in His image. For this reason, we believe that people are either male or female in accordance with their sex assigned by God at birth.<sup>6</sup> Since the beginning when Adam and Eve disobeyed God, all people have broken God's laws and rebelled against God. This is what sin is. Sin is our failure to glorify God as He deserves with loving worship and humble obedience. Unless we turn to Him and ask His help to turn away from our sin, we will be separated from Him forever.<sup>7</sup>

But God loves us and does not want to be separated from us. God wants us to be in His family.<sup>8</sup> He wants us to honour Him because He made the world and He rules over the world. He wants us to learn about Him from the Bible. He wants us to talk to Him and enjoy being with Him.<sup>9</sup>

God's plan is to welcome us into His family again. This happens when we trust in Jesus. Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man and taught people about God. Jesus lived exactly how God planned for Him and never broke God's law. Jesus took the consequences for our sin when He died on the

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<sup>1</sup> Deut. 6:4, Matt. 28:19, Mark 12:29, John 14:8–18

<sup>2</sup> God created humanity able and willing, in heart and mind, to live in relationship with Him. Living in relationship, in love and obedience to Him, is fundamental to our being fully human. God sustains all things and, as our Creator and Sustainer, is the Father of all humanity. (1 Corinthians 8: 6, Eph 3: 15, Acts 17: 24 – 27)

<sup>3</sup> It is acknowledged that the pronoun us, as used in this Statement of Faith, may be understood to refer to humanity in general or more specifically to those who profess personal faith in Christ.

<sup>4</sup> Gen. 1, Ps. 19:1–4, Ps. 33:6, Rom. 1:20, Heb. 1:1–4.

<sup>5</sup> Deut. 10:12–13, 2 Tim. 3:16–17, 2 Peter 1:19–21.

<sup>6</sup> A very small proportion of people can be described as 'intersex', meaning they may have the biological attributes of both sexes or lack some of the biological attributes considered necessary to be defined as one of the other Sex. Intersex is always congenital and can originate from genetic, chromosomal or hormonal variations. See <https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/australian-government-guidelines-recognition-sex-and-gender>

<sup>7</sup> Gen. 1:27, Rom. 1:18–32, Rom. 5:12–14, Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:3

<sup>8</sup> Though there is nothing about us that would compel God to want a relationship with us. Rom 9: 11, 13, 16, Eph. 1: 4 – 9

<sup>9</sup> John 14:1–3, Rom. 3:22–24

cross. Because of this, God promises He will forgive us when we turn to Him and away from our sin. Believing in Jesus and why He died for us is the only way we can be in God's family again.<sup>10</sup>

Jesus died for us, but that was not the end! Jesus also rose from the dead. He is alive again! Jesus is the ruler of the world. He broke the power of sin and death. The Bible says Jesus is now in Heaven. God the Father has made Him King over all. Jesus has prepared a place in Heaven for every person who trusts in Him.<sup>11</sup>

Because Jesus is God's Son and the ruler of everything, we can be sure His promises are true. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to give us new hearts to help us believe God's promises and to understand the Bible. The Holy Spirit helps us believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit helps us see all the things we do that break God's law, and helps us to be more like God wants us to be. He encourages us to do God's work here on earth. God is bringing His world back to Himself and wants us to participate with Him in this work. One day Jesus will return to judge this world, and everything will be made new and right<sup>12</sup>

God wants us to tell all people in the world about how far away from Him they are because of their sin and about how much He loves them.<sup>13</sup> God wants us to tell all people about how He is the ruler of the world. God wants us to tell all people about Jesus and why He died. Every person who puts their trust in Jesus becomes part of God's family<sup>14</sup>, called the church<sup>15</sup>.

The Bible says that God's promises are for all people who believe in Him. This means Christian parents want to teach their children to know and love God too. God's best plan for children is that they grow up in families. The Bible teaches that families are formed through marriage and tells us that marriage is a commitment between one man and one woman<sup>16</sup>, to the exclusion of all others, that is intended to last for life and is the only rightful place for sexual activity and procreation<sup>17</sup>.

## **A Christian**

A Christian is someone who trusts in God's gift of Jesus Christ as their Saviour and who strives to follow and obey Jesus, living for Him in every area of life.<sup>18</sup>

## **Christian Schools**

Christian schools partner with families in teaching children that the world and everything in it belongs to God. Christian schools weave this understanding all through their curriculum and in their everyday practices<sup>19</sup>.

God wants His family to protect and nurture every person as an individual who has dignity and worth from before they are born. He wants His people to work for justice in every society and to protect and care for His creation. He wants us to love others as He loves them<sup>20</sup>.

This is God's world and Jesus Christ is at the centre of all things. Jesus is the ruler and King of everything we do. He is Lord in our schools, in our homes, in our lives and our hearts. Everything we do can be done with thanks for everything God has given us as an act of worship to Him.<sup>21</sup>

God's perfect plan, empowered and enabled through the work of God's Holy Spirit, is for the redemption of our imperfect and broken world. As communities of faith in the God of the Bible, we

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<sup>10</sup> Matt. 20:28, 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Tim. 2:5-6, 1 Peter 2:22-24

<sup>11</sup> Matt. 28:18, Luke 24:36-43, John 5:21-23, John 14:2-3, 1 Peter:1:3.

<sup>12</sup> John 14: 16 – 18, John 15: 26, 1 Cor. 2: 9 – 10, 1 Cor. 12: 3, Titus 3: 3 – 8.

<sup>13</sup> We understand that God lovingly and mercifully sent His Son Jesus into the world to suffer and die for the salvation of sinners and that it is because of this love that the message of salvation is to be offered to all people. However, it is acknowledged that some Christians understand that God's saving love is particular to those who have been given by God the Father to His Son Jesus. John 6: 36 – 39, 65, John 10: 15 – 16, John 17: 20 – 26, Eph. 1: 2- 5, Eph. 5:2 & 25,

<sup>14</sup> When God is our Redeemer we are His children by adoption. He is our Heavenly Father who has eternally adopted us into His family. Rom. 8: 15, Luke 11: 13.

<sup>15</sup> John 14: 16 – 18, John 15: 26, 1 Cor. 2: 9 – 10, 1 Cor. 12: 3, Titus 3: 3 – 8.

<sup>16</sup> The loving relationship between husband and wife is given in the Bible as a picture of the loving relationship between Christ and the Church. Eph. 5: 25.

<sup>17</sup> Gen. 1:27-28, Gen. 2:24, Gen 17:7, Matt. 19:4-6, Matt. 19:14, Acts 2:39, Eph. 5:22-32

<sup>18</sup> Rom. 6:23, Rom 12, Titus 3:3-8, 1 Peter 2:21

<sup>19</sup> Deut. 6:6-7, Deut. 10:14, Ps. 24:1, Eph. 6:4

<sup>20</sup> Gen. 1:26-28, Ex. 20:13, Ps. 139:13-16, Micah 6:8

<sup>21</sup> Deut. 10:14, Ps. 24:1, Ps. 150:6, Eph. 1:20-22, Rev. 5:13

are committed to standing alongside our brothers and sisters in genuine partnership, understanding how we can live in the tension of the brokenness. This includes navigating the journey of life from infancy to adulthood and dealing with the issues that arise from living in a society that constantly challenges biblical-theological perspectives.

Mega themes like poverty, slavery, work, societal structure and the impact of the revolutions (industrial, sexual, information) need to be considered through the lens of God's redemption plan revealed in His Word. Current issues like faithful stewardship of resources, suicide, pornography, consent, relationships, gender, and sexuality, when viewed and understood from a Biblical worldview perspective, shed light on how to live as embodied images of our creator God. Christians can respond in compassion to people with alternative views without in any way compromising their conviction of the Biblical theological view and teachings.<sup>22</sup>

We, as a Christian School, have a responsibility to speak the truth of God's Word (as understood through our Confessional Basis) into the issues of our society.

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<sup>22</sup> Matt. 7:24-27, 1 Pet. 3:15, Hew. 12:5-6, 1 John 1:5-10, John 8:7-11  
LCS Statement of Faith