

What is Redeemer Church?

The basic answer is we are firstly *Christians*, secondly *Evangelicals*, thirdly *Missional* and fourthly we are *Reformed*.¹

First, we are Christian; this distinguishes us from other world religions and cults. Therefore we agree with foundational orthodox Christianity as founded upon both the Apostles and Nicene Creeds.

Second, we are Evangelical.² Therefore we affirm the following points.

- We believe the Bible to be the inspired, the only infallible, authoritative Word of God.
- We believe that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- We believe in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death through His shed blood, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal return to earth in power and glory.
- We believe that for salvation of lost and sinful people, regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential.
- We believe in the present ministry of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a godly life.
- We believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: they that are saved to resurrection life and they are that are lost unto the resurrection of damnation.
- We believe in the spiritual unity of believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Third, we are Missional. actively seeking to share the gospel message in contextually understandable ways to those locally, nationally and internationally with a missionary outreach of compassion and urgency to the poorest of the poor and those who are yet to hear the gospel preached.

- We believe that our local church must be faithful to the content of unchanging bible doctrine.³
- We believe that our local church must be faithful to the continually changing context of the culture(s) in which we minister⁴

¹ Taken from and adapted for our context from the Acts 29 Network

² See, www.nae.net

³ See, Jude 3.

⁴ See, 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

- We Believe that our mission is to bring people into church so that they can be trained to go out into culture as effective missionaries⁵

Fourth, we are Reformed acknowledging God's absolute sovereignty over all his creation and his providentially ordained purposes in and for his creation for his glory and our joy, both now and future.

- We believe that God created the heavens and the earth all that is seen and unseen.⁶
- We believe that God created man and woman in a state of sinless perfection with particular dignity as His image bearers on earth.
- We believe our first parents (Adam and Eve) sinned against God and that everyone since is a sinner by nature and choice. Sin has totally affected all of creation including marring human image and likeness so that all of our being is stained by sin (e.g. reasoning, desires and emotions).
- We believe that because all people have sinned and separated themselves from the Holy God that he is obligated to save no one from the just deserved punishments of hell. We also believe that God in unparalleled love and mercy has chosen to save some people for his glory.
- We believe that salvation was accomplished by the sinless life, substitutionary atoning death, and literal physical resurrection of Jesus Christ in place of His people for their sins.
- We believe that salvation is by God's grace alone, shown forth in the ongoing repentance of sin and faith in Jesus Christ that leads to good works.
- We believe that God's saving grace is *ultimately* irresistible and that God does soften even the hardest of heart and save the worst of sinners according to his will and glory.
- We believe that salvation is ordained by God in eternity past
- We believe that the gospel should be *passionately* and *urgently* proclaimed to all people so that all who believe may be saved through the preaching of God's word through the Holy Spirit.
- We believe the Church is both visible and invisible with God the judge of our hearts.
- We believe that true Christians born again of God's Spirit will be kept by God throughout their life, as evidenced by personal transformation that includes an ever-growing love of God the Father through God the Son by God the Spirit, love of brothers and sisters in the church, and love of lost neighbours in the culture.

⁵ See, Mathew 28: 18-20

⁶ See, Genesis 1

- We believe that God is Lord over all life and that there is nothing in life that is to be separated from God.
- We believe that the worship of God is the end for which people were created and that abiding joy is only to be found by delighting in God through all of life, including hardship and death, which is gain!
- We believe that through many trials and tribulations we will enter the kingdom with joy.

Core Beliefs at Redeemer

- We believe the Church was established and founded upon the teaching of the Apostles and the prophets with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone holding it up for his glory
- We believe our primary mission is making disciples of all nations starting in our context, New Plymouth⁷
- We believe the church is both visible and invisible with God the judge of our hearts
- We believe complementarian gender roles in church life and leadership
- We believe in Christ centred gospel preaching, teaching and living
- We believe that the Holy Spirit is active and present in convicting of sin and glorifying Jesus Christ in both the individual and corporate lives of his people and those he is calling into the kingdom
- We believe God uses prophesy to edify and build up the church as per 1 Corinthians 12, and is subservient to the doctrines of the bible. We are open but cautious regarding prophesy with the intent of testing every spirit
- We believe God can and does work miraculously in the lives of people according to his will and pleasure
- We believe in a believers baptism confirming their confession of faith
- We believe the gift of speaking in tongues is beneficial to individual believers, and to the church if interpreted in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are open but cautious regarding the gift of tongues in the church
- We believe in church discipline as outlined in the Scriptures for the protection of the church body and the working of Gods purpose in our lives knowing that God works all things out for good for those who love him⁸

⁷ Matthew 28:19

⁸ Romans 8:28

What do we at Redeemer not believe?

To help clarify our core beliefs we believe it is helpful to declare what we do not believe and hold to be biblical truth so as to bring open upfront disclosure for those wishing to join us here at *Redeemer*.

- We are not liberals who embrace culture with out discernment and compromise the distinctives of the gospel, but rather Christians who believe the truths of the bible are eternal and therefore fitting for every time, place and people.
- We are not fundamentalists who retreat from cultural involvement and transformation, but rather missionaries faithful both to the content of the bible and context of ministry.
- We are not isolationists and seek to partner with like minded Christians from various churches, denominations and organisations in planting church planting churches.
- We are not hyper-Calvinists, but rather pray, evangelise, and do good works because we believe that the sovereign plan of God is accomplished through us, his people.
- We are not egalitarians and do believe that men should head their homes and male elders/pastors should lead the church with masculine love like Jesus Christ.
- We are not Open Theists but believe in the sovereignty and foreknowledge of God in all things.
- We are not religious relativists and we do believe that there is no salvation apart from faith in Jesus Christ alone.
- We are not moralists, only seeking to help people live good lives, but instead evangelists labouring that people would become new creations in Christ.
- We are not relativists and do gladly embrace the bible as our highest authority above such things as culture, experience, philosophy and other forms of revelation.
- We are not Universalists and do believe that many people will spend eternity in the torments of hell as the bible teaches.
- We are not naturalists and do believe that Satan and demons are real and are enemies at work in this world and subject to God.
- We are not rationalists and do believe that not everything can be known but that God calls us to live by faith with mystery and partial knowledge regarding many things

- We are not Christian Feminists and do believe that God reveals Himself as a Father and is to be honoured by the names he reveals to us without apology
- We are not embarrassed by the bloody death of Jesus Christ and do believe he⁹ died as a substitute for the sins of His people in selfless love
- We are not ashamed and do proclaim a loving gospel of grace which sounds like foolishness and offensive to the unrepentant while saving multitudes with the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ
- We are not Hyper-Pentecostals and do not psychologise, moralise the gospel nor do we adhere to the philosophies of the health, wealth and prosperity gospel-which is no gospel at all

⁹ Eph 2:20, 1 Peter 2:6