

Cairns Community Church

Identity Statement



“People With a Passion!”

Cairns Community Church are people with a growing passion:

Jesus Christ

The Word of God

Salvation of the Lost

Discipleship

The Church of God

The Family

In all of these, we will live to Glorify God.

Cairns Community Church are people with:

A Passion for Jesus Christ

We know that when we were *God's enemies* God loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Now we love him because he first loved us. We no longer live for ourselves but we are committed to live for him and for righteousness. God wants us to joyfully and urgently proclaim to the world the worth of his Son in whom God is well pleased.

A Passion for the Word of God

We delight in the Word of *God* that makes us wise to salvation. God has revealed himself to us through the word of God which is living and active. We thank God for the Holy Scriptures, inspired, without error, and able to be read, studied and taught today.

A Passion for Salvation

With joy, we sinners can know the grace of *God*, forgiveness, and the security of eternal salvation. With enthusiasm and compassion we take good news of *God's* salvation into our world of lost people. We are in awe of the glorious ministry of the Holy Spirit by which we are being transformed into the likeness of the Lord Jesus. With hope that does not disappoint we await with expectation the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

A Passion for Discipleship

The Lord Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey all that He has commanded us, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Because we love him we will keep his commandments.

A Passion for the Church

The Lord Jesus Christ is building his church. *God's* eternal purposes are being fulfilled in our generation through the Church. This is his priority and for this reason we embrace this mission with enthusiasm and this must be our priority.

A Passion for the Family

God in his wisdom, at creation designed the family. God is good and his plan for men and women and children in marriage and as families is good. God wants us to find satisfaction and joy within families that honour him

In all of these - we will live to Glorify God

Cairns Community Church are people with Passion:¹

At a time when people around us pursue various goals in sport, business, politics and in love with undisguised and unbridled passion, we say that following our Lord Jesus is far more worthy of sincere and fervent commitment than any of these. We don't follow Jesus simply because we are debtors and we have a high sense of duty. We follow him because we love him. We love him because he first loved us.²

People use various words to describe passion; i.e. fire, fervency, enthusiasm, zealousness, ardour, love, warmth, excitement, and commitment. We can use all these words to describe the sheer joy of living for Jesus and living for the glory of God.

Paul spoke of the motivation for energetically and passionately living for the Lord Jesus as he compared living for Jesus like a runner: *“Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.”*³

Thus we challenge ourselves to emerge from being complacent, lukewarm, non-committal, to being God's Holy people, enthusiastically and joyfully living for the glory of God.

We want to be people who will sincerely desire to know and enjoy God and we want to love and enjoy the things that God takes pleasure in. This document outlines some of these basics from the Bible and they are things that we commit ourselves to.

¹ Ways in which “Passion” is commonly understood in the world around us.

1. A strong, enthusiastic liking for something.
2. Intensity of feeling or reaction.
3. The passionate affection and desire felt by lovers for each other.
4. A subject or activity that inspires lively interest.
5. Passionate devotion to or interest in a cause.
6. A powerful intense emotion.

² 1 John 3:1, 4:19

³ 1 Cor 9:24 - 25

A Passion for Jesus Christ

We know that when we were God's enemies God loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Now we love him because he first loved us. We no longer live for ourselves but we are committed to live for him and for righteousness. God wants us to joyfully and urgently proclaim to the world the worth of his Son in whom God is well pleased. ⁴

With an abundance of grace, generosity, forgiveness, and love, God the Father of our Lord Jesus has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. God demonstrated his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God has reconciled us to himself by making peace through the blood of Jesus, shed on the cross. God the Father is perfectly pleased in the Son and the Father may only be known through the Son and it is for our ultimate pleasure and the glory of God that we acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord.⁵

God in his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope and his lavish love has brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves and through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, God has given us an eternal inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade ⁶

We consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus our Lord. In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and those who believe in him have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. ⁷

Jesus Christ will return and at his name every knee will bow. He is the Word of God and we listen to him. He is our Saviour and we love him. He is our Master and we obey him. He is the creator and sustainer of the universe and we trust him. He is our Head and we submit to him. He gives us the Holy Spirit and we are filled. He will return as King of kings and Lord of lords - and we say, "Come Lord Jesus".

Corollary:

We affirm the historic creeds of the Church; the Nicene Creed, the Apostolic Creed, and the Creed of Saint Athanasius.

⁴ 1 John 4:10; Matt 3:17; Col 4:3-4; 1 Pet 2:24; 2 Cor 5:15; 1 John 1:1-3; 2 Thes 3:1, Matt 17:5, 2 Peter 1:17, John 14:6 Eph 1:3-12 John 3:29-30, 15:11, 16:20-24, 17:13, Luke 6:21, Phil 2:9-11, 1 Peter 1:8-9, Jude 1:24-25, 1 John 4:10

⁵ Eph 1:3-9, Rom 5:8, Col 1:19-20

⁶ 1 John 3:1; Col 1:13; 1 Peter 1:3-4

⁷ Phil 3:8; Col 2:9-10

A Passion for the Word of God

We delight in the Word of God that makes us wise to salvation. God has revealed himself to us through the Word of God which is living and active. We thank God for the Holy Scriptures, inspired, without error, and able to be read, studied and taught today. ⁸

God has exalted above all things his name and his word. We are called to love his word. It endures forever, it is the sword of the Spirit, it is sweeter than honey, a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.⁹

We delight in the word of God because through the Holy Scriptures God has spoken to us. We can read the Scriptures and we can understand it, literally, historically and grammatically. We are called to study and to teach the Word of God and only by its study is the man of God thoroughly equipped for every good work.

We believe the Scriptures, both Old and New Testament, to be the inspired Word of God, without error in the original writings, the complete revelation of his will for the salvation of men and the divine and final authority for all Christian faith and life.

Corollary:

We accept that in the wisdom of God there are many translations available in the English language. Some feature ease of reading, others are more accurate and literal and are more suitable for mature study of the Scriptures. Not all are of equal value and some are of no value. All translations need to be used with discernment. We encourage disciplined reading and diligent study so that a child of God will grow in the knowledge of God's Word. The comparison of translations is frequently helpful to help us understand the intentions of the inspired author in the original languages.

⁸ 2 Tim 3:15-17; Heb 4:12; Psalm 119:16

⁹ Psalm 138:1-4; Eph 6:17; Psalm 119:103-105

A Passion for Salvation

With joy, we sinners can know the grace of God, forgiveness, and the security of eternal salvation. With enthusiasm and compassion we take the good news of God's salvation into our world of lost people. We are in awe of the glorious ministry of the Holy Spirit by which we are being transformed into the likeness of the Lord Jesus. With hope that does not disappoint we await with expectation the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.¹⁰

We were dead in our transgressions and sins, in which we used to live when we followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. We gratified the cravings of our sinful nature and followed its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace we have been saved.¹¹

We know that: God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. - we only love God because he first loved us. We are not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.¹²

God commands us to take the Gospel to every man, woman, boy and girl . God's plan of salvation is for all mankind, and God is even now calling for himself a people from every nation, tribe, people and language. It is God the Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life.

We live in a world that is ravaged by sin and its consequences. The God of all compassion calls us to good works so that men may praise God. Through us the Lord Jesus extends his love to people who are harassed, hungry, blind, dirty, sick, oppressed, alienated, weary and burdened.¹³

God anoints us, and set his seal of ownership on us by his Holy Spirit whom God has put in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. The Holy Spirit reveals Jesus Christ to us and through us so that we might live lives that are pure and holy for the glory of God and so that we may escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires. In the goodness of God He makes us stand firm in Christ.¹⁴

¹⁰ Luke 3:6, Acts 28:28; Rom 5:5, 2 Cor 3:8-18, 1 Peter 1:3-5

¹¹ Ephesians 2:1-10

¹² John 3:16, 1 Peter 1, Rom 1:16

¹³ Col 3:12; 2 Cor 9:11; Titus 3:8; Matt 14:14; Mark 1:41; Luke 15:20

¹⁴ 1 Cor 1:21

We believe; that God's wonderful plan of salvation for the world, is revealed to us in the all the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation.¹⁵

For the Jew; The demonstration of God's grace to the Patriarchs, the founding of the nation of Israel, the establishment in the promised land, the enduring love of God in spite of disobedience and idolatry. The eternal covenant with David and the promise of a Saviour, to be priest and king was for Israel and for the blessing of the whole world. The sending of the Messiah into the world by the virgin birth, his subsequent rejection by God's own people, his crucifixion, his resurrection from the dead and his ascension to the glory of heaven, was for the salvation of us all. In the last days Jesus Christ will be revealed to Judge the world during the period of great tribulation.¹⁶ At this time, Israel's restoration as a nation and their return to the Saviour will be for their vindication and for the glory of God. These great events will culminate in the millennial reign of Jesus as King of kings and Lord of lords. We understand that the unfulfilled prophecies will be literally fulfilled in the coming Day of the Lord. These mighty acts of God for his chosen people Israel, reveal God's plan of salvation.¹⁷

We eagerly await our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, from heaven, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.¹⁸ We live in the expectation that the Lord Jesus will return and the whole church will meet the Lord Jesus in the air, for God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, and so we will be forever with the Lord. We look forward to the day of God, the day that will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat; and in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.¹⁹

Corollary:

We believe in the election, pre-destination and security of the believer.

We do not practice the sign gifts as a Pentecostal/Charismatic church.

We will publicly teach pre-tribulation progressive dispensationalism.

¹⁵ 2 Tim 3:15

¹⁶ 1 Thes 4: 13-11; 2 Thes 1:6-10

¹⁷ Rom 11

¹⁸ Phil 3:20-21

¹⁹ 1 Thes 5:9, 2 Peter 3:10-13

A Passion for Discipleship

The Lord Jesus commands us to go and make disciples of all nations, teaching them to obey all that He has commanded us, Baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Because we love him we will keep his commandments.²⁰

The Lord Jesus calls us to unstinting commitment. Because we love the Lord Jesus we accept his call to personal obedience; to follow him and be baptised by immersion. We remember the Lord Jesus in the regular breaking of bread. We gladly demonstrate that our knowledge of Jesus is effective and productive by living godly lives.²¹

It is our desire that we be like our Teacher and we know that it his plan for us that we be conformed to his likeness.²² The Lord Jesus is our Lord, our Master and our Teacher. He is the vine we are the branches. Fruitful lives are only possible as we abide in Jesus. Without him we can do nothing.²³

As disciples we have the privilege of joyful prayer. Even as Jesus prayed so we need to pray and teach others to pray.²⁴ We are called to be devoted and faithful in prayer; praying continually, in our church, in our homes and in privacy.²⁵ We need to pray, for others, for escape from temptation and for effective proclamation of the message of salvation. In everything - we pray!²⁶

With diligence we study of the Scriptures for by the Holy Spirit they clean us, equip us, and they teach us about the Lord Jesus and his desires for us.²⁷

We will encourage all who love Jesus to establish relationships with people in our community so that as disciples we will spread the joy of knowing Jesus to others and train them in righteousness.²⁸

²⁰ Matt 28:19-20

²¹ Luke 9:22-27, 14:26 ff, 15, 2 Peter 1:8, John 12:26

²² Matt 13:52, Luke 6:40

²³ John 15:1 -15

²⁴ Phil 1:4, Luke 11:1

²⁵ Col 4:2, Rom 12:12, Luke 18:1, 1 Cor 5:17

²⁶ Luke 22:40, Eph 6:18, Phil 1:9, 4:6, Col 1:9-10, 4:3-4, 2 Thes 1:11-12, 3:1-2, Phile 6

²⁷ Luke 24:27, John 5:39, 14:26, 15:26, 16:13-15, Rom 15:4, 2 Tim 2:2, 3:14-4:4 Heb 4:14, 13:7,

²⁸ Matt 4:19, Gal 4:19, 1 Thes 2:7-12, 1 Tim 4:5-13, Titus 2:1-15, 3 John 1:4,

A Passion for the Church

The Lord Jesus Christ is building his church. God's eternal purposes are being fulfilled in our generation through the Church. This is his priority and for this reason we embrace this mission with enthusiasm and this must be our priority. ²⁹

He is head of the Church, his body, of which he is the Savior. We submit to him. The Lord Jesus loved the church and gave himself up for her, to make her holy, cleansing her through the word, so that he will present her to himself as a radiant church, holy and blameless. ³⁰

We are members of his body, living stones, and we are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. The Church is constituted of all those who love the Lord Jesus, in past ages and now. We recognise that this universal church crosses all boundaries made by man but in this present age it is expressed in local churches within which we are called to serve him with commitment, faithfulness and love. ³¹

The Church is the pillar and foundation of truth. It is washed by the water of the Word. He calls us to serve him by proclaiming the gospel and teaching the Word of God for the sake of the Church. Therefore the reading of Scripture and the teaching of the Word shall be central to our fellowship. ³²

The Lord Jesus commands us to remember him in the Lords supper, the breaking of bread. In scripture we are challenged to do this as often as the first Christians, on the Lord's day, the first day of the week. ³³

In the Scriptures we see that Baptism by immersion was done within the context of the mission of the Church thus it will be our strong preference that Baptisms be done as part of the ministry of the church and subject to the leaders of the Church. ³⁴

²⁹ Matt 16:18, Eph 3:10, Col 1:24

³⁰ Col 1:18, Eph 1:22, 5:25 ff

³¹ 1 Cor 1:2, Heb 12:23, 1 Peter 2:5, 2 Cor 11:28

³² 1 Tim 3:15, 4:13, Col 1:23-29, 1 John 1:3

³³ Acts 20:7, 2:24, 1 Cor 11:23-26

³⁴ Matt 28:19-20, Acts 8:35-38, Rom 6:3-8, Gal 3:27, Col 2:12, 1 Peter 3:21

We recognise that our generation is in turmoil over the issues of gender roles, and we acknowledge that the Father of lies, the enemy of the church and the family, has always caused chaos and the perversion of God's clear design for the church and the family. However we must hold to the scriptures with faithfulness and also extend love and patience for those who will struggle with Gender issues. The Scriptures clearly teach that God expects the Church to be governed by Godly men, and that when the Church meets it will be lead and taught by men. These issues are rooted in God's design and order at creation. In our generation we must differ from the world in that we will positively affirm God's wisdom and creatively seek ways to develop spiritual gifts that are consistent with the scriptures.³⁵

Corollary:

In the wisdom of God the relationship of Jesus to the Church, his body and bride, is an analogy of the wonderful relationship that God intends for a man and his wife.³⁶

It is not at variance with our membership in the universal Church, that we require of members a level of commitment to this local church and biblical submission to its leadership.³⁷

As deemed helpful, we will take the liberty to enjoy the wide fellowship of the body of Christ, but we will do so without having to conform to different doctrines and compromise teaching and interpretation of Scripture which we hold as important. We recognise that this principle is at variance with the ideals of the dominant pluralistic world view. Also consistent with this, it will be our priority to give greater support to those who hold the same interpretation of Scripture as we do.

We acknowledge that there are those who have other valid views on some of the important doctrines that we hold. While we acknowledge our oneness as redeemed Children of God and while we can enjoy a unity as God's community, we nevertheless hold our convictions with integrity before the Lord. There are distinctive things we will teach, some of which are outlined here. We hold these with a clear conscience, in humility and with grace, but without acrimony or animosity. We ask that those who participate in the fellowship respect our position and not teach other doctrines in the meetings of the Church.

³⁵ 1 Tim 3:1-12, Titus 1:6, 1 Tim 2:11-14, Titus 2:3-4, 1 Cor 14:33

³⁶ Eph 5:23

³⁷ Phil 3:29-30, 1 Tim 5:17 ff, Heb 13:17

A Passion for the Family

God in his wisdom, at creation designed the family. God is good and his plan for men and women and children in marriage and as families is good. God wants us to find satisfaction and joy within families that honour him.³⁸

God created man in his image, male and female. They were wonderfully created, equal in personhood and dignity but distinctly different and ordered roles. God's design is that one man and one woman should live together in complementary harmony, and by God's grace live with a unified destiny for his glory.³⁹

The family consisting of those individuals related by blood or adoption is always initiated and unified by the marriage of one man to one woman. This is the foundational unit of society and it has primary responsibility for the welfare, education and property of its members.⁴⁰

In the home it is God's plan that a man sacrificially loves his wife and under God that he exercise loving and humble headship and that his wife will exercise with intelligence and willingness Godly submission.⁴¹

God in his grace has designed sex to be enjoyed between one man and one woman only, who have committed themselves in marriage for life. It is into this union that God designed for Children to be born, to be cared for, and to grow up in the knowledge of God.⁴²

Even as in the first family, Satan sowed discord, and the first family were sinners so we see in our generation the virulent attack of Satan on the family. We have in our community lives damaged by family, sexual, and gender chaos. God helping us, we will nurture in our church families; where men will glorify God as men, where women will glorify God as women, where children will be loved and will be obedient to their parents, where the lonely and the hurt will be welcomed and healed, and where singles will be encouraged and blessed.⁴³

We will nurture and teach the family in our community in cross generational activities so that old and young will be blessed together in an environment of hospitality.⁴⁴

³⁸ Neh 10:28, Jer 29:4-7, Prov 5:15-19

³⁹ Gen 1:26-27, 2:7, 18-25, 1 Cor 11:3, Eph 5:22 ff, Col 3:17-21

⁴⁰ 2 Cor 12:14

⁴¹ 1 Peter 3:1-7,

⁴² Psalm 98:7, Mal 2:16-17, 1 Cor 7:2 ff, Eph 6:4, Col 3:20-21, 1 Tim 5:1-8,16, Heb 11:7

⁴³ Psalm 68:6, 107:41, Gal 4:27

⁴⁴ Psalm 22:27

In all of these - we will live to glorify God

We believe that the chief end of man is to glorify God by enjoying him forever.

Job 22:25 . . . the Almighty will be your gold, the choicest silver for you.

Psalm 86:11 Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.

12 I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name forever.

13 For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave.

1 Cor 10:31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

2 Cor 4:15 All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.