

SOUTHAM ROAD EVANGELICAL CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH AND PRACTICE

God and Mankind

We hold that God is one, though composed of three distinct Persons, namely the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each of these three persons is equal in Holiness, Love and Sovereignty

We believe that God made man in His own likeness enabling us to respond to Himself. Man, however, chose to be independent of God, rejected His authority thus becoming estranged from God, falling short of the standards expected and becoming, as a result, sinful.

We believe that the Father has acted towards man in love by giving His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to die in man's place. He has by this means made it possible for us to be forgiven for our sinfulness and to be fully reconciled to God: the only requirement on our part is acceptance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the trusting of ourselves to Him.

We also believe that refusal to accept the sacrifice of Jesus Christ leaves man under condemnation to be ultimately judged and sentenced to eternal separation from God.

We believe Jesus Christ to be truly God, yet truly human, having been born of the virgin Mary; He is sinless and the only Saviour of mankind, having died on the cross in our place, representing us to God and thereby redeeming us from the grip and punishment of sin. We believe in his physical resurrection, that He ascended into heaven and that He will one day return personally to establish His kingdom on earth.

We believe in the Holy Spirit who convicts men in regard to sin, righteousness and judgement; who makes the death of Christ effective to sinners calling them to repentance and directing their trust towards the Lord Jesus Christ. We hold that He makes repentant sinners partakers in the life of the risen Christ that He remains within them enabling them to understand the Scriptures, fitting them and empowering them for service.

The Bible

We believe that the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God, the various writers having been influenced by the Holy Spirit. These writings are fully trustworthy and are our highest and final authority for faith and life.

The Church

We recognise that all who accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord constitute the Church, which is the body of Christ, held together and growing in Him as a total worldwide fellowship and in local congregations.

As a local congregation we practise the baptism of believers by immersion on the confession of faith in Christ.

We also meet regularly to carry out Christ's command to remember Him by sharing bread and wine in the Communion, doing this in expectation of His personal return.

We further believe that all believers are priests and can, and should, exercise spiritual gifts for the benefit of the Church, these gifts being given by Christ. The commission of Christ to proclaim the Good News to all people, making them disciples and teaching obedience to Him, is acknowledged.

As a local Church we are entirely self-supporting and independent; though we recognise and cultivate a warm relationship with other Churches.

The Elders have responsibility and authority for maintaining the spiritual life and Christian orthodoxy of the Church Fellowship. The CIO has a Church Council which consists of an appointed representative from each committee/working group of the CIO. The Church Council will have delegated responsibility from the charity trustees in the running of day to day activities of the CIO in such ways as the charity trustees may decide. The Church Council will work in co-operation with the Elders of the Church and the charity trustees (who may include non-Elders).