

## **Renew Church New Zealand Belief Statement**

### **God**

There is only one God, existing in three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) – eternal, unchanging, all-powerful, all-knowing and all-present.

### **Man**

The historical account of Genesis records that Mankind was created in the image and likeness of God, but by voluntary disobedience fell from innocence and purity, inherited a sinful nature, and became alienated from God. Man is utterly unable to remedy his exiled and sinful condition apart from Jesus Christ.

### **The Cross**

God the Son (Jesus Christ) became man, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life, and was crucified on a cross ensuring the pardon of all who believe in Him. He rose again, breaking the curse of sin and death, thus providing not just salvation but freedom from sin, sickness and torment – complete restoration of the human race back to God.

### **Salvation**

Salvation is available by faith alone in the complete work of Jesus Christ on the cross, and cannot be earned by works or religion. Authentic salvation will result in genuine repentance (a change of heart resulting in the turning away of the practice of sinning) and the desire to make life-choices which are pleasing to God. Every person's eternal destination – eternal life (heaven) or eternal separation (hell) will be determined by our response to Christ's redeeming grace.

### **The Bible**

The Bible (Old and New Testaments) is God-inspired and is the only infallible and authoritative Word of God.

### **Church**

The Church (the Body and Bride of Christ), is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again Believers. Her purpose is to continue the restorative ministry of Jesus Christ and advance His Kingdom until He returns. Every Christian is called to be an active participant in a community of Believers (local churches), meeting regularly for fellowship, worship, prayer, teaching and communion.

### **Water Baptism**

Water baptism (full immersion in water in the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit), is an outward sign of the inward work of grace that has been worked in the Believer's heart. It is an act of obedience, symbolic of forsaking our former selfish, sinful ways, and beginning a new life surrendered to God.

### **Holy Spirit Baptism**

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from Salvation and Water Baptism, and is available to every Believer for the purpose of supernatural empowerment and victorious living as an ambassador of Christ. Evidences of Holy Spirit Baptism include the ability to speak in an unlearned language (tongues), boldness in Christian witness and operation in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

### **Great Commission**

Every Believer is called to a life of mission and purpose in one (or more) of the seven 'mountains of culture' (family, church, government, education, business, media/arts, science/technology) showing the love of God, preaching the good news in word and deed, and being actively involved in 'making disciples of all Nations'.

### **Unseen Realm**

Satan is a literal being, originally an arch-angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven. His

forces of fallen-angels and demonic entities work relentlessly to further enslave mankind in sin. Angels are God's messengers, assisting in His work and protecting the Church.

### **Healing**

Healing (spiritual, mental and physical) was purchased by Jesus Christ on the cross, and is therefore God's perfect will and privilege for all believers.

### **Life**

All human life is sacred and must be respected and protected (both before and after birth), regardless of age or ailment.

### **Gender**

God created mankind male and female, therefore gender is biological and chosen by God, not man.

### **Marriage**

Marriage is the sacred, life-long covenant between one man and one woman before God. All sexual behaviour outside of this covenant is outside of the will of God.

### **Israel**

Israel and the Jewish people are precious to God, and have an important part to play in God's future plans for mankind.

### **The Second Coming of Christ**

One day Jesus Christ will return in physical form to earth for His Bride, the Church, who will rule and reign alongside Him.