

## **Maffra Community Church**

The Doctrinal Statement gives the basic Theological position of the Maffra Community Church and constitutes what we regard as the core of a Biblical faith. Anyone desiring to be a regular member of the fellowship needs to recognise this church's commitment to the truth of this doctrinal position and its implications for their lives.

However, we accept that among Christians who agree with Doctrinal Statement there will be differences of opinions on other issues. We value this diversity within the body of Christ but emphasise the unity, love and harmony that comes from a common faith in Jesus Christ. Within the context of current theological discussion there is a need at times to clarify our position as a church. Doctrinal Perspectives outlines such a position for some issues. We do not necessarily expect everyone to agree with all of Doctrinal Perspectives, but it does represent our considered conclusions on the issues listed. Anyone desiring to be a regular of MCC must accept that this is our position as a church and undertake not to work against this position or cause dissension over it in any way.

### **Doctrinal Statement**

1. We believe the whole of the Bible (Old and New Testaments) to be the inspired and only infallible Word of God. It is the final authority in all matters of faith and life, inerrant in the original writings and God-breathed.
2. We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—co-eternal in being, co-eternal in nature, co-equal in power and glory, having the same attributes and perfections
3. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful man. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a substitutionary sacrifice, and that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead. We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry as Representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. We believe Jesus is coming again to judge the living and the dead.
4. We believe that salvation is entirely of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins.
5. We believe that those who acknowledge Christ as Saviour and Lord belong to the church universal, His body. Christ is the only head and each of us is members, united by the Holy Spirit.
6. That each person upon believing in Christ is regenerated, baptized, indwelt and sealed by the Holy Spirit, who also gives gifts to the Church and enables each believer to produce the fruit of the Spirit.
7. We believe that the church, which is the body and espoused bride of Christ, is a spiritual organism made up of all born-again persons. We believe that the establishment and continuance of local churches is clearly taught and defined in the New Testament Scriptures. We believe in the autonomy of the local churches, free of any external authority and control. We recognize believer's baptism and the Lord's Supper as scriptural means of testimony for the church.

### **Doctrinal Perspectives**

1. We believe in baptism by immersion of those who are able to make a clear confession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. We believe in the equality of men and women in their standing before God. We also believe that the Bible spells out different roles for men and women in some situations within the life of the church which in no way compromise this equality.
3. We believe that the Holy Spirit plays an indispensable role in the Christian life. While we believe that worship should be a warm and wholehearted response to God our practice of public worship does not include the expression of what are commonly regarded as charismatic gifts.
4. We believe that based on Jesus' instruction and Paul's teaching communion occupies a central place in the worship of the church.
5. We believe that generosity with material possessions reflects a true grasp of the Gospel and all of its implications. To regularly give is something we encourage all to aim at.