



# Aims, Values and Beliefs Booklet

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Cornerstone Church Grays is a registered charity

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[www.cornerstonegrays.org](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org)



## Introduction

Here at Cornerstone we think it is healthy for the church family to be aware of what we stand for as a Church.

At one level that is very straightforward: We stand for Jesus and all that is important to him.

However, what is meant by that is understood in a myriad of different ways in various churches today and therefore it is important to be more specific.

We have tried to articulate what it means for us to stand for Jesus by stating our aims, values, partnership, and beliefs.

Many Christians in the Cornerstone Church family will agree with the vast majority, if not all, of the aims and doctrines communicated in this booklet.

If you have any questions about anything in this booklet or find that you disagree with anything please do contact one of the church elders, who would be very happy to discuss your queries with you. We know it's possible to find unity and genuine fellowship even when there is disagreement over some non-essential matters.

Contact details can be found at

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/contact-us](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/contact-us)



## The aims for Cornerstone

Jesus commanded his followers to make disciples, baptise them and teach them to obey him. (See Matthew 28v19,20)

And therefore:

At Cornerstone we are  
**a family**  
which is  
**committed**  
to do our part in  
**making followers of Jesus**  
and seeking to lovingly  
**obey Him**

### **we are FAMILY**

We have been wonderfully drawn together by the Lord Jesus Christ. With Jesus leading the way, we seek to live as brothers and sisters, caring for each other's needs, encouraging each other, rejoicing with each other and occasionally grieving with each other. In the Cornerstone 'household' are people of all ages and walks of life, many different personalities and temperaments, and a number of different nationalities.

For all our difference, we love spending time with each other and welcoming others into the family.



## **we are COMMITTED**

Following and knowing the Lord Jesus Christ is a wonderful privilege and a source of deep joy but it is also a serious matter that ultimately touches every part of life. At Cornerstone, we try not to take ourselves too seriously but we do take seriously our commitment to living daily for Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

## **we are DISCIPLE MAKERS**

We are committed to lovingly help people who are interested to become a disciple (a follower of Jesus) for the first time through the good news of Jesus and to help existing disciples to grow in their relationship with Jesus. We are dependent on God for these things but recognise that Jesus always planned to use his church to help make disciples.

## **we seek to be OBEDIENT**

All followers of Jesus live with the reality of failing Jesus every day and are so thankful for the forgiveness that Jesus won for us at the cross. In the Great Commission Jesus highlighted the importance of obedience and at Cornerstone we want to gently and biblically help each other in seeking to be more obedient to Jesus



# The values for Cornerstone

We have a clear set of values that shape our life together as a church

## **committed to JESUS**

The apostle Paul wrote 'I want to know Christ'.

So do we. Jesus is the centre of our church life and each of our own lives.

## **committed to THE GOSPEL**

"By this gospel you are saved"

It is only through faith in the gospel of Jesus that salvation is realised. We long for and work together to make the gospel of Jesus known to those around us.

## **committed to THE BIBLE**

God hasn't left us in the dark about who he is and his purposes. He's given us the Bible.

We treasure that gift: we teach and study the Bible in order to know God better, and to live for him.

## **committed to PRAYER**

Jesus said "When you pray..."

God's people are a praying people and therefore prayer undergirds all we do as a church.

## **committed to COMMUNITY**

Cornerstone Church is not a one-hour-a-week church nor do we seek to overtake the lives of anyone in our church family.

We're trying to love, support and care for each other and want everyone to feel part of and be committed to the family. This is so important as we serve our local community in Word and deed.



### **committed to TRAINING**

We're keen for everyone to develop their God-given gifts.

So we work hard to "prepare God's people for works of service".

### **committed to GODLINESS**

"The fruit of the spirit is..."

We long for the work of the Spirit to be evident in all our lives as God transforms our minds and lives.



## Partnership at Cornerstone

Cornerstone Church Grays works together with faithful gospel churches where possible. This includes some independent, FIEC and Church of England congregations. We rejoice in and value these local partnerships.

We do consider it to be important to formally belong to an organised gospel partnership (otherwise known as a denomination). Cornerstone is pleased to belong to the Anglican Mission in England (AMiE). This is a fellowship of faithful Anglican churches committed to gospel mission.



For more details about AMiE please see

[www.anglicanmissioninengland.org](http://www.anglicanmissioninengland.org)

Our Anglican identity is important to us and can be observed in some aspects of church life. However, there are a number of folks in the Cornerstone Church family who are not at all Anglican and appreciate the biblical focus that we have and are 100% involved in church life.





# Our beliefs at Cornerstone

## For an individual Christian

We believe that the heart of the Christian faith is heartfelt and life changing belief in Jesus.

Jesus put it like this

**“The time has come,” he said. “The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!”**

Or to flesh this out in a bit more detail we believe a Christian is somebody who can say the following is true of themselves.

### 1. I am trusting the gospel of grace for my salvation

- I know that I am a sinner in God’s sight. Without Jesus and his death upon the cross I would face His holy judgement. My only hope is God’s mercy. *See Psalm 51:4*
- I believe that Jesus Christ is both Lord and Saviour. I trust Him alone for my salvation, as He is revealed in God’s Word, the Bible. *See Acts 4:12*
- I believe in the realities summarised in the Apostles Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,



and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\* Church, (\* means 'universal')  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **2. With the Holy Spirit's help I am seeking to grow in godliness**

- I want to be devoted to personal Bible reading and prayer.  
*See 1 Peter 2:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*
- I want to share Christ with unbelievers such as I am able.  
*See 1 Peter 3:15*
- I want to live a holy life in line with the ethical teaching of the Bible in those different relationships to which God has called me – e.g. in marriage, family, workplace, community, church, etc.  
*See 1 Thessalonians 4:7*



## **For Christians serving in leadership roles at Cornerstone**

This is the statement of faith (parts A & B) for Cornerstone Church Grays that all elders, trustees and individuals serving in a Bible teaching role must agree with. If they change their mind on some matter of doctrine contained in this statement it will be necessary for them to stand down from the particular role they are serving in which requires agreement to the statement of faith.

### **Statement of Faith - PART A**

#### **1. The Father**

There is only one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is the Almighty Creator of all things, the Supreme Ruler over all things and the Holy Judge of all people. He sustains and governs all things according to his sovereign will, for his own glory. Even though God is more powerful, wise and holy than we can imagine, because of his kindness revealed in the Gospel, we can know him as our loving Father.

Genesis 1:1-2:25; Psalm 90:2, 96:10-13; Isaiah 45:5-18; Daniel 4:34-35; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 1 John 3:1

#### **2. The Son**

The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin and lived a sinless life in obedience to the Father. In his life, death, teaching and miracles he perfectly reveals the Father. On the cross he died in the place of sinners, bearing God's anger and punishment for their sin, redeeming them by his blood. He rose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven where he is exalted as Lord of all. Salvation is in and through Christ alone.

Matthew 1:18-25; John 1:1-18; Acts 2:22-36; Colossians 1:15-22; Hebrews 2:14-18, 7:23-28, 10:11-14



### 3. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He has been sent from heaven to glorify Christ and to apply his work of salvation. He convicts sinners, imparts spiritual life and gives a true understanding of the Bible – for he inspired all Scripture and he speaks in Scripture to us today. He indwells all believers, brings assurance of salvation and produces increasing likeness to Christ. He builds up the Church and empowers its members for service and mission.

John 3:1-8, 16:5-16; Romans 8:1-17; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16, 3:17-18, 12:1-31; Galatians 5:16-26

### 4. The Bible

God has revealed himself, his actions and his promises in the Bible, which consists of the Old and New Testaments alone. Every word was inspired by God through human authors, so that the Bible as originally given is in its entirety the Word of God, without error and fully reliable in fact and doctrine. The Bible alone speaks with final authority and is always sufficient for all matters of belief and practice.

Psalms 19:7-11; 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 1:19-21

### 5. The Human Race

All men and women are created in the image of God and therefore have inherent dignity and worth. Because there is equality and difference within God himself, men and women are equal before God, yet have different roles under God. Both men and women are created to love, obey and glorify God. However, as a result of the disobedience of our first parents, Adam & Eve, every aspect of human nature has been corrupted so that naturally all people are without spiritual life, guilty sinners and enemies of God. Every person is therefore under the just condemnation of God and needs to be forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ in order to know him & please him.



Genesis 1:26-27, 3:1-24; Matthew 22:34-40; Romans 1:18-32, 5:12-19; 2 Corinthians 5:16-19; Eph 2:1-3

## 6. The Gospel

The Gospel is the wonderful news that because of God's love, sinners can be saved from God's wrath through the sacrificial death and resurrection of God's Son. Because of what Jesus has done on the cross we can be saved from wrath for relationship; from Hell for Heaven. This salvation is entirely a work of God's grace and cannot be earned or deserved. It is God who calls sinners, granting them repentance and faith so that all who believe in Jesus are justified by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone. Believers are adopted into the family of God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit and preserved for the coming Kingdom.

John 1:12-13, 6:35-51; Romans 3:21-26; Galatians 2:15-16; Ephesians 2:4-9; 2 Timothy 1:9-10; Titus 3:4-7

## 7. The Church

The universal Church is the body of which Christ is the head and to which all who are saved belong. It is made visible in local churches, which are congregations of believers who are committed to each other for the worship of God, the preaching of the Word, the administering of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, for pastoral care and discipline, for building up believers for service and reaching out to non-believers in evangelism. The unity of the body of Christ is expressed within and between churches by mutual love, care and encouragement.

Acts 2:42-47; Ephesians 2:19-22, 4:1-6, 5:25-33; Philippians 2:1-11; Colossians 1:18

## 8. The Future

The Lord Jesus Christ will return in glory. He will raise the dead and judge the world in righteousness. Those who have not been saved by Christ will be sent to eternal punishment in Hell and those who have



will be welcomed into a life of eternal joy in fellowship with God in the promised New Creation. God will make all things new and will be glorified in all things forever.

Matthew 24:1-44, 25:31-46; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 20:11-21:8, 22:1-5

### **Statement of Faith - PART B**

1. Bible teaching and prayer lie at the heart of gospel ministry.

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 1:38; Acts 6:4; 2 Timothy 4:2

2. The chief role of the Holy Spirit is to work through his Word to give faith and grow godliness.

John 3:1-8, 16:7-11; Galatians 6:22-23; 1 Peter 1:23

3. A 'complementarian' view of the roles of men and women in the home and the church. Men and women are made in God's image and just as God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are equal in divinity yet different in role, so too, men and women are equal in humanity yet different in role.

Ephesians 5:22-33; 1 Timothy 2:8-15

4. That marriage is between one man and one woman and that heterosexual marriage is the right, best and only context for sex.

Matthew 19:3-6; 1 Corinthians 6:9-20, 7:1-16; Ephesians 5:3, 22-33



Details of further information can be found on the back page of this booklet.



## **Further information**

Further information can also be found on our website or in further booklets. Below is a list of booklets and/or website links that you might find helpful.

The booklets will normally be available at Sunday Services on the Welcome Table and pdf versions are also available on the website.

### **Children and Young People Booklet**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/children-youth](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/children-youth)

### **Contact details and Data Privacy Booklet**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/privacy](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/privacy)

### **Giving Booklet**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/giving](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/giving)

### **Membership Booklet**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/membership](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/membership)

### **Mid Week Groups Booklet**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/small-groups](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/small-groups)

### **Safeguarding Policy**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/safeguarding](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/safeguarding)

### **Serving Teams Booklet**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/serving-teams](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/serving-teams)

### **Sharing Jesus with Others**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/evangelism](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/evangelism)

### **Welcome to Cornerstone Church Booklet**

[www.cornerstonegrays.org/church-life](http://www.cornerstonegrays.org/church-life)

