



Position Statement

on
Becoming and Living
as a Christian

September 2026

Position Statement on Becoming and Living as a Christian

Purpose

As a network of Christian schools, our Special Character is expressed through people living out the Christian faith, which is central to all we do. As trusts and schools, we are required to discern Christian faith across our network, including curriculum, when considering applicants for tagged teaching positions and when enrolling families.

This document is a position statement that provides further clarification to the NZCPT's theological framework.

Our Position

Holy Scripture announces salvation as a gracious gift from God, accomplished through Jesus Christ, received through faith, and lived out in a transformed life. The gospel is the **“good news of Jesus Christ”** (Mark 1:1), and it is “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Romans 1:16).

In Jesus, God delivers and restores His people. Israel broke the covenant God made with Moses at Mt Sinai, and yet God brings restoration and a New Covenant through the person and work of Messiah, Jesus. Specifically, God now works salvation for all —Jew and Gentile —through Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension—Jesus in the fullness of his life and ministry. God's New Covenant displays his loving kindness and his grace just as it confirms God's victory over the powers of sin, death, and the devil.

All are called to receive the Gospel and repent by placing faith in Jesus Christ and giving him their allegiance. Faith involves turning to God, trusting in Jesus Christ and receiving him, following him as Lord, and continuing in him by the power of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus we are saved through forgiveness of sins, being reconciled to God the Father, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit and the promise of life everlasting. This is good news indeed!

At the end of all things: **“[God] will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore...”** (Revelation 21:4)

Bible references: Jeremiah 31:31ff; Ezekiel 36:22ff; 37; Mark 1:1, 14; John 3:16; 14:6, 8–9; Acts 3:12; 10:37–43; Romans 1:1–4, 16; 1 Corinthians 15:1–4; 2 Corinthians 5:17–19; 1 John 3:8b; 5:11–12.

Living Faithfully

In the Gospel, we are addressed by God and called to respond. God takes the initiative and is the primary agent. God's good news is not our news, though it is good news for us. We must remain attentive to the Gospel (cf. Hebrews 2:1) and make sure we don't reduce relationship with and dependence on the LORD to a formula, checklist or step-by-step process. Within the God-governed relationship that we're called into, our response and co-operation is deepened and empowered by God's Spirit. It can be summarised under these five headings:



1. Turn – *(Repent) Turn to God and away from sin*

“But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (Luke 13:3)

The word “repent” translates two Greek words: *epistrephē* (turn), and *metanoia* (change of mind). To repent means to change our “heartset” about who God is, who Jesus Christ is and what He has done for us, and to turn to God and away from sin and the former way of life. Repentance is accompanied by confession of sin. Repentance is not merely regret but contrition, given voice in confession, and worked out decisively in our lives.

Further references: Isaiah 55:6–7; Proverbs 28:13; Ezekiel 18:30–32; Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19–21; Romans 3:23.



2. Trust – *Have faith in God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ*

“For 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.” (John 3:16)

“If you declare with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” (Romans 10:9)

In Jesus Christ, God gives the gift that accomplishes our deliverance and restoration. When we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, give him our allegiance and trust him for our salvation, our sins are forgiven, and we are reconciled to God. We are justified by faith and made right with God.

Further references: Proverbs 3:5–6. Mark 11:22; John 8:24; Acts 4:12; 16:30–31; Romans 5:1, 8–9, 16f; Ephesians 2:8–9.



3. Receive – *Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and become a child of God*

“Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

“Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:38)

When we turn to God and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. We are born again (or born from above), become a new creation in Christ Jesus, a child of God the Father, and an heir with Christ Jesus. The love of God is poured into our hearts, and we receive the promise of eternal life.

Further references: Ezekiel 36:26-27; 37:14; John 3:3; Romans 6:23; 8:11, 14-17; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 4:6-7; Ephesians 1:13-14.



4. Follow – *Live as a disciple with obedient allegiance to Jesus*

“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.” (John 14:15)

“My commandment is this, that you love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

Jesus calls people not only to believe in him, but to follow him. Jesus said if we love him, we will obey His commandments (John 14:15). The Christian life is marked by obedience to Christ, love, humility, and faithfulness. Through obedience to Christ, God’s law is fulfilled (Romans 10:4).

Scripture acknowledges that the Christian faith is a journey with associated events of adversity and struggle at various stages. We are encouraged to persevere through adversity, where wrestling is sometimes part of the journey (Genesis 32:22ff; Hebrews 10:32ff).

Further references: Deuteronomy 10:12-13; 30:6; Jeremiah 31:33-34; Ezekiel 36:27; Matthew 7:21, 24; 28:20; Luke 6:46; John 10:27; Romans 10:4ff; 13:8-10; 1 Corinthians 13:1-7; Galatians 5:14; Philippians 2: 5-13; James 2:17; 1 John 2:3-6.



5. Continue – *Abide in Christ and remain faithful*

“If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.” (John 15:5)

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” (Galatians 6:9)

“Don’t stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.” (Hebrews 10:25)

“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 1:6)

“All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.” (2 Corinthians 3:18)

As we persevere, growing in faith, hope, and love, and as we respond to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, we bear fruit and are conformed to the image of Christ, who is the substance of our hope. So, as Hebrews has it (10:22-23): **“Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful.”**

Further references: Psalm 1:1-3; Matthew 24:13; Romans 8:28-30; 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 11:1; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 2:10; 3:16-19; Colossians 1:22-23; Hebrews 6:1-3; 12:1-2; 1 Peter 1:8-9.

Witnessing to the Gospel

These five aspects of receiving the gospel in faith come to expression in various ways. These expressions witness faithfully to the Gospel.

BAPTISM – a public response of faith

In the New Testament, baptism frequently accompanies being saved. It is a conscious decision to publicly declare faith in Jesus Christ. The examples of baptism describe the act as being fully immersed in the water of rivers or streams. It required two people: one believer who acts as the baptiser and one who receives the baptism.

Baptism does not earn salvation, but it is the obedient, public expression of saving faith. Through baptism, we identify with Christ's death and resurrection.

Supporting references:

- Matthew 28:19 – “Make disciples... baptising them.”
- Acts 2:38–41 – Those who repented were baptised.
- Acts 22:16 – “Be baptised and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”
- Romans 6:3–4 – Baptism symbolises union with Christ's death and resurrection.
- 1 Peter 3:21 – Baptism saves—not by washing the body, but as an appeal to God.

FRUIT – faith in action

Biblically, fruit is the visible evidence of a living relationship with Christ, produced by the Holy Spirit, expressed in Christ-like character, obedient living, and love-filled relationships. We see fruit over time and through patterns and not simply in isolated behaviours.

Jesus teaches that people are recognised by their fruit (Matthew 7:16), i.e. what they say and do. Fruit flows from abiding in Him (John 15:5), and bearing much fruit is evidence of true discipleship (John 15:8).

The apostle Paul describes this fruit as the fruit of the Spirit – Christ-like character formed in those who belong to Christ (Galatians 5:22–23).

UNITY – faith outworked in relationship

The NZCPT and its land trusts work together as a community of believers focused on educating our children. As such, the Bible also speaks of evidence of our Christian faith in how we work together. The apostle Paul tells us to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ and to stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose it. Paul says this unity is a sign that we will be saved by God. (Philippians 1:27–28)

Similarly, Jesus said Christian love for one another is the defining mark of His followers, a practical expression of His new commandment to love as He has loved. (John 13:35)

The New Testament consistently teaches that shared life, unity, and love among Christians are visible evidence of God's saving work—signs that faith is real and active. Within NZCPT schools, Christian “Special Character” is evidenced where faith in Christ is lived out corporately through unity, shared purpose, and observable love—clear signs that the gospel is shaping both individuals and the school community as a whole.

Supporting references:

- Unity as Evidence of God's Work (John 17:20–23; Ephesians 4:1–3; Psalm 133:1)
- Shared Life as Evidence of Faith (Acts 2:42–47; Acts 4:32–33)
- Love as Proof of New Life (1 John 3:14; 1 John 4:7–8; James 2:15–17)



Contact us...

Phone: +64 (09) 200 1947

Email: admin@nzcpt.nz

Postal: PO Box 306, Orewa,
Auckland 0946, New Zealand

Website: www.nzcpt.nz