

**REED PEOPLE**

**ARTICLES OF FAITH**

**AND**

**ETHOS**

## **REED PEOPLE - ARTICLES OF FAITH**

Our fundamental guiding principle is putting Jesus at the centre of all we do, and following His commands to love God and each other. However, we have compiled a more comprehensive description of our beliefs:

-We believe that the one eternal God has revealed Himself through His creation and through the bible. We believe that God inspired the whole of the Old and New Testaments, and we take them as our final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

-We believe in the unity of God in three co-equal persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; having distinct functions but the same nature. We believe that God is sovereign in all things and is holy, just and loving.

-We believe that the human race is created/made in the image of God but is separated from God by sin and that our relationship with God can only be restored through faith in Jesus Christ.

-We believe that Jesus was born of the virgin Mary, lived as a man but without sinning, died on the cross as a substitute for sinners by taking on himself God's judgement for sin, was buried and His actual body came back to life on the third day. He was taken up into heaven to intercede for the Church and to receive the highest honour at the right hand of the Father.

-We believe that Jesus Christ will return in glory to resurrect the dead, to lead the Church to its reward and to bring judgement and eternal punishment on those who have rejected Him. -We believe that the Holy Spirit makes us aware of our need of the Saviour, Jesus Christ and that when we accept Him as Lord and Saviour, He enters our lives, giving us spiritual birth and the spiritual ability to live the Christian life.

-We believe that in accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour it is necessary to repent from sin and accept forgiveness and cleansing by faith, only in His atoning work on the cross.

-We believe that our purpose on earth is to glorify Jesus Christ by putting our trust in Him and living in the power of God's Spirit.

-We believe that the Holy Spirit gives us assurance of our salvation and shows Himself by giving to any member gifts to encourage and build up the congregation, or to minister to their spiritual and physical needs.

-We believe that Jesus Christ is the head of the Church as a whole, and is glorified when groups of Christians worship together, accept each other and are committed to each other under the leadership of a local Church and in fellowship with other groups of Christians.

-We believe that although we are engaged in spiritual warfare and temptation, we are assured of victory through Jesus Christ.

-We believe that all Christians should be baptised by immersion as a sign of commitment and obedience to Jesus' commands for His disciples.

-We believe in the regular sharing of the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion as a remembrance and as an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual blessing.

### **Reed People Ethos**

At Reed People we aim to be...

A Praying People: Able to hear and discern God's heart and will, being able to pray with faith, and to experience and exercise all the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 21: 18-22, 6: 5-13.

An Open People: A ministry that is fully expectant and open to the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, facilitating our guidance, correction, building up and empowering for service within the Kingdom. 1 Corinthians 12 – 14.

A Loving People: To be a community of people who love and respect each other; working, praying, and caring for one another within the ministry.

A people whose love overflows into their families and into the community, with the love of Jesus expressed in action and kindness towards all. 1 John 3.

A Going Ministry: To be open and willing to take every God-given opportunity to reach into our world with the gospel, and seek revival within our area and nation and throughout the world, through prayer. This must start with each of us. 2 Corinthians 7, Acts 1 – 8, James 2: 14-19.

A Worshipping Ministry: Worshipping not out of duty, but out of a true relationship with our God in Christ. A people open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in corporate worship, recognising that He alone causes us to worship in Spirit and Truth. John 4: 21-26.

A Giving Ministry: Whose worship arises out of a Kingdom lifestyle of self-giving to Christ, to each other, and to the world. We must be generous in all things, even as God blesses us richly with His abundant grace. 2 Corinthians 8.

A Non-Religious Ministry: Not legalistic, formal and religious, but flexible, non-religious, and grateful for the grace of God. We must be committed to each other and to the Word of God with a humble and obedient attitude. A ministry where God is pleased to live by His Holy Spirit. Ephesians 2, Colossians 2 – 3.