

ETHICAL STATEMENT¹

The Bible teaches us that right actions must follow sound beliefs: *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only... Faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead"* (James 1:22; 2:17). Our actions or works do not earn us salvation; rather, God saves people by His grace alone through faith in Christ alone. However, God's saving work then transforms us to live like Jesus, guiding us to walk in His teachings (Ephesians 2:8-10).

To maintain the unique purpose and identity of Christ Church Exmouth as a local congregation of the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is essential for the Minister, Councils members, and Group leaders to wholeheartedly agree to the Ethical Statement, the Basis of Faith, and the Commitments.

1. **Protecting the Unborn.** Recognising that God creates all human beings in His image and for His glory, we affirm the importance of safeguarding the lives of the unborn. In our current times, this includes opposing elective abortion. (Psalm 139:13-16)
2. **Ending Racism.** Recognising that God creates all human beings in His image and for His glory, encompassing diverse races, we affirm the need to eradicate the evil of racial discrimination. (Galatians 3:28)
3. **Helping those in need.** Recognising that God creates all human beings in His image and for His glory, conferring inherent and undeniable dignity and worth, we affirm the obligation to assist those in need. (Proverbs 14:21)
4. **Embracing Personal Identity.** Recognising that God creates all human beings in His image and for His glory, God has created all people as biologically male or biologically female; we uphold the need to embrace God's plan while

¹ *The following ethical statements have been revised and updated for the Statement of Ethics of the Christian Union. A corresponding biblical reference supports each statement.*

refraining from any attempts to alter a person's biological birth or adopt an identity conflicting with it. (Genesis 1:27)

5. **Affirming Marriage**. Recognising that God creates marriage to reflect His glory through the union of one man and one woman in a lifelong covenant commitment, we affirm the need to (1) uphold marriage as the only relationship for sexual intimacy and procreation and (2) withhold from all forms of sexual intimacy outside marriage as distortions of God's design for marriage and sexuality. (Genesis 2:24, 1 Corinthians 6:18)
6. **Stewardship of Creation**. Recognising that God created and governed all things for His glory and the well-being of humanity, we affirm the responsibility to manage and care for all of creation for the common good. (Genesis 1:28, Psalm 24:1)
7. **Pursuing Justice**. Recognising that God's providence encompasses establishing human governments, we affirm the necessity of godly leaders in all forms of government to ensure their proper functioning in pursuing justice and the common good. (Romans 13:1, Micah 6:8)
8. **Abounding in Generosity**. Recognising that God creates humanity to bring Him glory as their ultimate love and to use our abilities and talents to benefit others, we affirm the need to reject greed and materialism, instead pursuing abundant generosity in all our relationships. (2 Corinthians 9:11, Luke 6:38)

The Christian faith holds significant implications for every aspect of life. Therefore, the above affirmations are not presented to exclude or diminish the importance of other principles. Rather, this statement of ethics addresses values that align with our Declaration of Principles, the Basis of Faith, and Commitments.