

Karuizawa International Bible Church (KIBC) Statement of Beliefs

1. God

We believe in one God, eternally co-existent and co-equal in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is love, and therefore loves everything He has made as Creator and Sustainer of all. Gen 1.26; Ps 90.1-2; Mat 28.19; II Cor 13.14; I Pet 1.2; Coll 2.9; John 14.16-18, 20, 23; I John 4.7-8

2. The Bible

We believe that the Bible is the authoritative Word of God, written by human authors who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It is the ultimate and supreme source of truth, without any mixture of error, for Christian beliefs and living. 2 Timothy 3:16 | 2 Peter 1:20,21 | 2 Timothy 1:13 | Psalm 119:105,160, 12:6 | Proverbs 30:5

3. Jesus Christ

We believe in the eternal deity and perfect humanity of our Lord Jesus Christ as written in the gospels and the rest of the Scriptures. This includes His virgin birth, His sinless life, His miracles, His vicarious and atoning death that established the New Covenant in His blood, His bodily resurrection, His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and His personal return to earth in power and glory to reign forever over His Kingdom with His people. Matthew 1:22,23 | Isaiah 9:6 | John 1:1-5, 14:10-30 | Hebrews 4:14,15 | 1 Corinthians 15:3,4 | Romans 1:3,4 | Acts 1:9-11 | 1 Timothy 6:14,15 | Titus 2:13

4. The Holy Spirit

We believe in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin, imparts the new birth, sanctifies, and empowers all who believe in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer, providing guidance, understanding of the truth, comfort, power to obey God and spiritual gifts for the building up of the Church. The Holy Spirit is co-equal with the Father and the Son as God. 2 Corinthians 3:17 | John 16:7-13, 14:16,17 | Acts 1:8 | 1 Corinthians 2:12, 3:16 | Ephesians 1:13 | Galatians 5:25 | Ephesians 5:1

5. Human Condition

We believe that all people are created in the spiritual image of God but are alienated from God and others because of our sin and guilt. This separation from God cannot be remedied by any human effort. Genesis 1:27 | Psalm 8:3-6 | Isaiah 53:6a | Romans 3:23 | Isaiah 59:1,2

6. Salvation

We believe that salvation from our alienation from God is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Jesus Christ alone. All who believe in Him are forgiven of all sin and justified by His blood, born again by the Holy Spirit, and become children of God, assured of eternal life. Romans 6:23 | Ephesians 2:8,9 | John 14:6, 1:12 | Titus 3:5 | Galatians 3:26 | Romans 5:1

7. The Church

We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, composed of all true believers. The Church's mission is to glorify God by making disciples of all nations, baptizing them, and teaching them to obey all that Christ has commanded. Each local church is made up of believers in Jesus who commit themselves to loving God and others in obedience to Jesus' example, teachings and commands. Matt 16.18 / Acts 2.42-47 / I Cor 12.12-27 / Eph 2.19-22, 4.11-16 / I Pet 2.4-5, 10

8. Ordinances

We believe that Jesus Christ instituted two ordinances for the Church: baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is an outward sign of an inward experience, symbolizing the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's sacrifice that established the New Covenant, and a proclamation of His death until He comes. Matt 28.19-20 / Acts 2.42-47 / I Cor 12.12-27 / Eph 2.19-22, 4.11-16 / I Pet 2.4-5, 10 / Matt 26.26-29 / I Cor 11.23-26 / MK 14.22-25

9. Christian Living

We believe that God's grace empowers believers through the Holy Spirit to live holy and fruitful lives in obedience to God's Word. Christians are called to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love others as Christ has first loved us. This includes living out our faith in daily actions, maintaining integrity, justice, mercy, and sharing the gospel. Matt 5.14-16 / John 13.34-35 / Gal 5.16-26 / Rom 12.1-2 / Coll 3.12-17

10. Biblical Marriage

While recognizing that other forms of marriage exist in society, we believe that Biblical marriage is a sacred covenant ordained by God, uniting one man and one woman in a lifelong commitment. Marriage reflects Christ's relationship with His Church and serves as the foundation for family and society. As Jesus followers we are committed to living and teaching Biblical marriage. Genesis 2:23-24 / Matthew 19:5-6 / Hebrews 13:4 / Eph 5.21-32 /

11. The Return of Christ

We believe in the personal, bodily return of Jesus Christ to the earth, to judge the living and the dead and to establish His kingdom. This blessed hope motivates believers to live in readiness for his return and to persevere in faith. Matt 24.30-31 / I Thess 4.16-17 / Acts 1.10-11

12. Eternal Destiny

We believe that God created humanity to exist forever. We therefore believe in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost: the saved to eternal life with God and the lost to eternal separation from God. John 3:16 | John 2:25 | Romans 6:23 | Revelation 20:15 | 1 John 5:11-13 | Matthew 25:31-46

13. Faith and Practice

We believe that the Bible is the final authority in all matters of faith and practice. This includes the teachings, principles, and commandments found in the Scriptures that guide us in how we live, worship, and serve God in response to His love. Matt 7.24-27 / John 14.23-24 / Coll 3.16-17 / I Tim 3.16-17

14. Evangelism and Missions

We believe it is the loving responsibility of every Christian to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others and to make disciples. This is accomplished through personal witness, missions, church planting, and other evangelistic efforts both locally and globally. Matt 28.18-20 / Acts 1.8 / Rom 10.13-15 / II Cor 5.18-20 / Matt 9.37-38