



Statement on Justice and Reconciliation

As redeemed people in Christ, gathered as a family in our corner of Johannesburg, we the members of Cross Culture Church recognise that living the Gospel of Jesus requires us to be alert to the very real needs of the poor and oppressed in our world. We desire to hear the cry of the widow, the orphan, the outcast, and the victim of wickedness and to respond to the call of God where He has placed us.

In the light of mounting tensions around social justice, race, and equality, both abroad and at home, we seek to affirm our common faith in Christ our Redeemer, the Gospel that unites us as one Family under God the Father, and our Spirit-led mission to the world. The goal of this statement is to equip Christians to discern the issues that face us in the world and respond from a biblical worldview.

We affirm that all people in all places and all ages are made in the image of God, and have equal value because God is the giver of life. All men, women, and children are united under one Creator, one humanity with no inherent divisions, but with a creative diversity that reflects the multifaceted glory of God.

We affirm that after God had created humanity and declared everything as "very good", we all, in Adam, rebelled against the knowledge of God and sinned together with Adam, losing fellowship with God and with one another. From that moment on humanity has suffered the miseries of sin; selfishness, hate, murders, exploitation of the most vulnerable and divisions now characterise every human society.

We affirm that God is just and good and will not allow the guilty to go free; yet He has set his love on us and decreed salvation for His people. God set redemptive history in motion, with the Cross of Christ as its climactic event. He was there reconciling to Himself all things in Christ. No human reconciliation is possible without reconciliation to God. The Gospel is the only means of true reconciliation in the world.

We affirm that, having been reconciled to God, we are given the ministry of reconciliation, being both concerned and equipped for the reconciliation of people to God and people to people. We teach fallen men and women to repent of their sin, be reconciled to God and submit to the authority of Christ. We further affirm that this ministry of reconciliation demands that we speak out against wicked systems of oppression that enforce an ungodly worldview and feed on and entrench sinful division in human society.

We affirm that God makes clear his particular concern for people who find themselves at the mercy of the powerful in a fallen, wicked social structure. Widows, orphans, young women, and the foreigner, are among the people that our Lord makes specific mention of that must be granted justice in a society that honours God.

We affirm that in pursuing this justice we are guided only by the Truth of God, revealed in the inerrant and sufficient Scriptures. We will be vigilant against the agendas of worldly systems of thought that seek to bind our conscience to that which the Lord has not required or commanded. We will condemn only that which God condemns and affirm only that which He affirms.

We condemn all thoughts, words and actions that are in breach of God's holy Law, both overt and subtle, public and private, including those that might be categorised today under these headings:

- **Prejudice**, where opportunities to exercise one's God-given humanity is wrongly suppressed by any person or group on the basis of any God-given quality such as skin-colour or sex, or any providential circumstance such as economic status, or education level;
- **Racism**, where one people group claims superiority over another based on ethnicity or cultural heritage, whether this be done institutionally, or privately;
- **Sexism**, where one sex seeks to dominate another in an ungodly inversion or perversion of the God-given roles of men and women, which is an outworking of the curse of the Fall;
- **Violence and abuse**, in which especially women and children are victimised by men in, or the strong seek to overpower the weak.

We commit ourselves to teaching, leading, and acting in terms of the Gospel ministry of reconciliation so as to proclaim the Name of Christ and draw all humanity to Him. The Gospel is our primary message to a fallen world, even as we reach out to the broken and suffering in the midst of injustice.

Soli Deo Gloria - To God alone the glory!