

# Reading Church Statements

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## Church Statements, Mission Statements, Purpose Statements

### **The teachings of a religion matter more than its statements.**

Most every church has a purpose statement, statement of faith, mission statement, or something along those lines. These are marketing tools designed to entice people with a lot of familiar “religious”, “churchy” sounding words and lines of “Christian-eez”. They often present a false facade that gives the institution the appearance of credibility. However, these documents often tell you what the religion wants you to hear, and not who they are or what they really believe. These religions, with their various statements, depend on you knowing nothing about the Bible, allowing these wolves to pull the wool over your eyes.

What these churches do not realize is that, in their many nice words, they unwittingly do tell you exactly what they believe and what they don't believe. You just need to know the jargon, and the Bible.

Here is an example of a purpose statement, picked at random, from a mega church located in the suburbs of a major city that reaches thousands of people weekly. Many churches follow this same basic pattern because they all believe the same things.

Let's look at what it says and note the fallacies:

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**The purpose of [this church] is to honor God by making more disciples for Jesus Christ. A disciple of Jesus Christ is someone who is actively following Jesus, is being changed by Jesus, and is committed to the mission of Jesus. Based upon this purpose, we do covenant together by God's grace, to live our lives consistent with the standards of biblical teaching; including the support of this local ministry in attendance, prayer, service, and giving, by living lives in word and deed that are an encouragement to others to know and be like Jesus Christ, and by reflecting in all our relationships the servant-love of our Lord.**

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### **Would you believe that not one thing in the above statement is true or biblically accurate?**

At first glance it all sounds fine. Look at all the positive buzz words they include. Actually, that's part of the gag, a hook to draw you in.

Changed, actively following, disciples, honor, covenant, mission, together, grace, standards, biblical teaching, committed, consistent, ministry, service, servant, support, prayer, others, attendance, giving, encouragement, relationships, love, and 10 references to deity: God, Jesus, and Lord.

What could possibly be wrong with all those nice words? Plenty! A Biblicist, one who knows and understands the Word of God, can immediately see that this is a Covenant / Reformed church and it has a flawed understanding of the truth: the four Jewish Gospels, Jesus, God, Paul, the Pauline epistles, the Jewish Hebrew epistles, and really, everything Bible. They place the importance of their religion on a fictitious, made-up Jesus, not the Jesus of the Bible. Notice the repetition of the word

“Jesus”. This emphasis, and the attributes mentioned, are not biblical truth and the first sign something is very wrong.

- disciples for Jesus,
- actively following Jesus,
- changed by Jesus,
- mission of Jesus
- be like Jesus
- servant love of Jesus

***Me thinks they doth repeat too much.***

Repeating the word “Jesus” over and over doesn’t make their statement true, their church biblically sound, or their doctrines correct. It does show that they are over compensating for their lack of truth.

Let’s break it down and examine the parts and pieces of this statement and see what this church is really all about.

**NOTE** Any mention in this article of “the Body of Christ” refers to those individuals who have a relationship with God and possess the Spirit of God. This mention does not mean those followers of Covenant / Reformed Christianity who do not belong to God and have neither.

**The Body of Christ is not a religion. It is a relationship with God, and the abiding Spirit of God.**

- **Making disciples for Jesus:** Nowhere in the Bible is the Body of Christ instructed to make disciples. This concept, promoted by some Christian religions, comes from the lack of spiritual guidance, centuries of faulty doctrine, and an over-all misinterpretation and misunderstanding of the Bible (specifically the four Jewish Gospels). Without the Spirit means spiritual blindness that does not allow Covenant people to see the truth. So, when they say “make disciples for Jesus”, they want to make false disciples like themselves who have no knowledge of the Bible, estranged from God, worshiping a false Jesus in a false religion that leads individuals astray. Nothing here has anything to do with the Bible or the Body of Christ. This is simply an errant Christian religion.
- **Follow Jesus:** This statement is a faulty, out-of-context understanding of the four Jewish Gospels which do not apply to the Pauline Body of Christ believers.

**The Jewish Gospels are Jewish - for the Jews, and have nothing to do with the Gentiles in general, or the Body of Christ that did not exist at that time. The four Jewish Gospels do not have any connection to the Christians that decided, 1500 years after Jesus, to make it part of their religion. The four Jewish Gospels are descriptive of Christ’s three-year ministry on earth, not prescriptive of a Pauline believer’s life in the Age of Grace (the Pauline Epistles are God’s message to man meant for the Gentile world, something this church doesn’t understand.).**

Nowhere in the Bible does it say that the Body of Christ should follow Jesus. How exactly would you do that? Christ Himself had no dealings with the Gentiles, calling them dogs, and never told the Gentiles to follow Him in the four Jewish Gospels. Christ, who sent Paul to the Gentiles with God's message for the Gentile world, did not instruct Paul to follow Him, or to tell the Gentiles to follow Him. Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, did not follow this religions made-up attributes they assign to their phony Jesus, never told anyone to follow such a Jesus, and in His letters to Timothy, passing his ministry on to his protégé, Paul did not instruct Timothy to follow Jesus or tell him to teach anyone else to follow Jesus. Their statement to "follow Jesus" is not biblical and has no place in Christ's Church of believers.

- **Changed by Jesus:** A fake Jesus can't change anyone. Jesus died to reconcile God and man; to restore a relationship between God and man. Jesus is the mediator between God and man. A relationship with God, through Christ, and God's indwelling Spirit, is what opens your eyes, reveals the truth, and changes a person's life, not chanting the word "Jesus" over and over, or any attempts to emulate a false caricature they create called "Jesus". That will not change you. Following some made-up attributes of a fictitious Jesus while trying to change your life into what a religion says you should look like will not change you. There is no factual or biblical truth or hope in this statement. They are empty words.
- **Mission of Jesus:** The Christian religion has an out-of-context view of all things Bible. Their emphasis on missions and evangelization is one example. Nothing in the Bible speaks to any Gentile group being missionaries or evangelizing the world. The entire concept was an invention of man, and the personal evangelization idea is a product of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century that did not exist before that time. It is the result of the battle between fundamental and liberal progressive thought that has progressively become increasingly liberal over the years and falling further away from the truth.

Jesus' mission was to die a substitutionary death for the sins of mankind and thereby reconcile God and man. That is not our mission. It is just a catch-phrase and a sound-bite this religion uses to appear spiritual. Nowhere in the Bible is the Body of Christ given a mission by anyone to do anything, let alone take up their cross to a sacrificial death for mankind. Despite their imaginings, Jesus did not give the false, errant Christian religion of the 1900's a mission to do anything, and never would have, given their ignorance of all things God, Jesus, and the Bible, and their lacking the Spirit of God and the truth of God. Why would He ever do that?

**Consider** **In the four Jewish Gospels, during His three-year ministry, Jesus went to the Jew only, deliberately omitting the Gentiles and calling them "dogs", His words. Neither Jesus nor His disciples ministered to, or interacted with the Gentiles, avoiding them entirely, and referring to both the Gentiles and Samaritans as heathens, and sinners.**

**Post-ascension, Jesus commissioned the Apostle Paul to minister to the Gentiles with a new message that Christ never spoke to His disciples; information the world had never heard, information that God chose for the Gentiles to receive from the mouth of the Apostle Paul, information that had nothing to do with the Jewish Old Testament or the four Jewish Gospels.**

**That the Christian religion of today believes that Jesus, 2000 years ago, spoke specifically to them, a misguided, biblically ignorant group of Gentiles, without God or the Spirit of God, despising the Jews, preaching a false gospel, a false Spirit, and a phony Jesus, ignoring Christ's messenger to the Gentiles, the Apostle Paul - and they thinking Jesus commanded them into the mission field to convert the world to their brand of made-up religion is beyond absurd.**

The ascended Christ gave the Apostle Paul his mission to the Gentiles: both the ministry of reconciliation and the word of reconciliation. Paul has God's message to man, but this religion ignores Paul. Nowhere does Paul mention any of these "Jesus-centric" attributes to the Body of Christ, instruct believers to do any of the things here mentioned, nor does Paul speak of Jesus in this way. Everything in this statement is pure fabrication.

So, if this church has the purpose of "**honoring God**", they might want to start by following His Word, the Bible as God gave it to us, and listening to God's messenger, the Apostle Paul. Instead, this religion takes the four Jewish Gospels as their own, and Jesus, out of context, and entirely ignores God's message to man through the teachings of the Apostle Paul who Christ-sent to minister God's truth to the Gentiles.

Let's look at the rest of this statement.

**SPOILER: It doesn't get any better**

**Next: "Based upon this purpose..."** everything said so far about "**this purpose**" is untrue and not biblical.

**Next: "...covenant together by God's grace..."** This religion does not have the Spirit of God and never has due to their antisemitism they call Replacement Theology and anti-Zionism. It is certain that a false religion that ignores God's message to mankind, denies everything about God's chosen people, that does not understand the Bible, misrepresents Jesus, does not acknowledge the Apostle Paul, and makes up everything they believe, most certainly does not have God's grace. These are just words on a page. Instead, these false religions, like the parable of the wheat and the tares, will very soon be dealt with as their days are numbered. And it is not a very big number.

**Next: "to live our lives consistent with the standards of biblical teaching"**. They have already proven beyond a shadow of a doubt they have no concept of biblical truth, and any teaching they might offer would not only be meaningless, but detrimental as well.

**Next: "including the support of this local ministry in attendance, prayer, service, and giving,"** Ah, now we get it.

First, this "local ministry" is not biblical and not worthy of your support, service, or attendance. Additionally, they want you to:

- Attend their church, listen to their sermons, and learn their false doctrines
- (they throw in the word "prayer" for color, hoping it will legitimize their statement, but who would you pray to? Their made-up Jesus? Their absent god? That would be a lost cause and a waste of your time. God? God is not in this false religion.)

- They want you to be of service to promote their false religion to others, making you an accomplice with them in Satan's plan to deceive the world. Think termite bait traps.
- They want your money. This is a subconscious ploy: with that lengthy list of "nice words", you should feel convicted, compelled, or guilt, to financially support their agenda of perpetuating a false religion.
  - ⇒ Obviously, they know what they're talking about, right?
  - ⇒ After all, you're giving your money to "Jesus", right?
  - ⇒ Placing the word "money" last in the list means that is what they really want and is first on their list, they just don't want to offend you by making it too obvious.
  - ⇒ You give them your money and they will give you a phony Jesus to follow, emulate, worship, and pray to. You're wasting not only your money, but your time as well. Nothing here can help you.
  - ⇒ Also, there is nothing in the Bible that tells Gentiles they need to give money to a Church, or even go to a church. Their idea of tithing is not biblical. It is an historical application that applied to the Jews only, the Levitical Priesthood, never Gentiles, not the Pauline Body of Christ, and does not even apply to the made-up religion called Christianity. They simply picked this word out of the Bible and decided to make it part of their religion.
  - ⇒ While were at it, "Church" has been superseded by the miracle that ended all other miracles: the indwelling Spirit of God in the believer. We are the temple of the Holy Spirit and God abides in us. The Christian church model is a hand-me-down of Jewish and pagan temple worship that Protestantism inherited from their Catholic cousins, and never applied to the Body of Christ. Of course, Christian religion is not the Body of Christ, does not listen to the Apostle Paul, hence the mistake.

**Next: "by living lives in word and deed that are an encouragement to others"** Sounds good, eh? This is a backward, cart before the horse platitude that looks good on paper, but doesn't work, and can't do anything for you. It means that they want you to mechanically try to be a good person by your own self-effort, and they will give you a lot of "self-help" sermons to help you do that: the 10 steps to this, 5 ways of that, how to meditate, yoga classes in the annex, etc. ad nauseam. Then they will encourage you into social work to make you feel like a good person who is "doing something to change the world". All empty motions that the Bible calls "filthy rags" in the site of God.

This false religion is no better than every other false religion that spreads their fortune-cookie wisdom on "how to be a better person" in a humanistic religion that can't do anything for you.

**Instead of this false hype, try the biblical approach:**

- Turn to God, like the Bible says;
- Receive the Spirit of God, like the Bible says;
- Then you will know the truth, like the Bible says;

- And then you will become a New Spiritual Creation in Christ where the old man has passed away, behold all things are new in a changed life, **LIKE THE BIBLE SAYS!**
- Now, isn't that simple?

**Next: "to know and be like Jesus"** Oh no, not their phony Jesus again! This is not biblical. Knowing Jesus? What does that even mean? Christ died for our sins that we might be reconciled to **God** and have a new life in the Spirit of God. Jesus lives to be the mediator between us and God.

Jesus was the God man, conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of a virgin, lived a sinless life and thus was qualified to die for our sins and satisfy God's wrath against a fallen, sin-filled humanity. We've never met, but I guarantee you, you are none of these things. **You cannot be like Jesus.** No one can, no one ever has, no one ever will. That was never the intent or the point of Christ's ministry or the four Jewish Gospels. It is simply something this religion wants to believe. Not biblical.

I guess you can try to be like their made-up, fantasy Jesus, if you want to. That's what this religion is selling: a false god for you to bow to, pray to, worship, and follow, with the sole purpose of distracting you from the one true God. That is the satanic mission of Covenant religion, and by extension, this church.

Guarantee number two: your fixation on a phony, made-up Jesus - a false god - won't do anything for you either. And if you are gullible enough to believe this tripe, I have a goddess called Mary I could sell you for next to nothing. It's the exact same thing.

**Next: "by reflecting in all our relationships the servant-love of our Lord."** Again, a mechanical approach to something that happens naturally as you walk in the Spirit with others of the Body of Christ, not by attending this church and listening to their sermons on how you should try to be a better person and do good things. This approach will hurt you by preventing your spiritual growth, and will stop you from ever finding spiritual maturity or salvation. And that is Satan's plan in all these false religions with their false platitudes and false gods: distraction and deception, and ruin.

The false Jesus they are marketing is akin to some religions that push a false goddess called Mary. Satan doesn't care who or what you worship, so long as it is not the one true Almighty Creator God.

While the church statement above sounds good at first blush, it is misleading and not based on the Bible and not of God. No doubt these lofty-sounding words suck in the unwary who don't know any better, and ruin lives that would otherwise grow in God's grace.

### ***The Missing Spirit***

**And the worst part:** there is no mention of the Spirit of God – AT ALL! The Spirit of God indwelling is Paul's mystery that was hidden in God since the beginning of the world. But of course, they pay no attention to Paul, so how would they know?

The Spirit of God is what differentiates the Body of Christ from all the false religions of the world that can't do anything for anyone. The Spirit is the power of God in the believer's life. Without the Spirit there is nothing. Think of this spiritless church as a car without gas. It's not going anywhere and wholly worthless to anyone. It is just taking up space and should be junked. This religion is all about getting you to push their junker around the parking lot the rest of your life and make you feel like your accomplishing something.

Considering it is the Spirit of God that opens the Bible to us; gives us new life, animates us, changes us; gives wisdom, knowledge, understanding, direction; protection of heart, mind, and soul, unity, and more. The Spirit indwelling is the miracle that replaced all the miracles in the New Testament, and baptism, tithing, healings, tongues, and church buildings and temples. It seems incredible to find the indwelling Spirit omitted completely. Without the Spirit, this thing called Christianity is just another false, impotent, do-nothing religion.

On the other hand, their omission of the Spirit of God speaks volumes, and makes perfect sense considering the errors contained in their statement. They clearly do not have the Spirit of God as demonstrated by their complete omission of the Spirit, and their lack of truth and understanding. They truly do not understand the Bible or see the part the Spirit plays in God's economy. Otherwise they would never have made up this ridiculous statement.

### ***The Truth***

Now that we know the truth, we can compare this covenant church statement with the Bible and see what this church is really saying:

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**“The purpose of [our church] is not biblical, has nothing to do with the God of the Bible, and can't possibly do anything but mislead you and keep you from the truth. Send money.”**

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Now **THAT'S** a true statement!

Keep in mind that many Churches today still have statements on the books from over a century ago, written by the faithful from many generations past. Their bullet points are mostly sound, fundamentally, though still missing the mark in their legalistic attempt to over-control their institutionalized religion. These statements do not acknowledge the Apostle Paul or the abiding Spirit of God, or God's part in the message to the Gentiles through the Apostle Paul. Just more religiosity.

As you might imagine, the current congregations in these old churches no longer give there statement credence, or follow its guidance, and most all the congregations of these old religions have no idea what their statements say or mean, or that their church even has a statement.

You will find some religions that, instead of statements, reference centuries old charters and councils of this or that creed from antiquity. Nothing new in these words. No Paul. No Spirit. No God.

### ***Your turn.***

Here is another statement you can work through from a church in another country. Notice the similarities. You will be surprised how much you have learned from our little study.

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### **Our Mission is to Experience Jesus Together**

[Our church] is a group of people who regularly meet together so they can learn what it means to follow the teachings of Jesus.

Simply stated, at [our church], we're all about Jesus. We want people to experience Jesus, and we want to do it together. Everything we do centers around encountering Jesus in three ways. We desire for people to experience Jesus individually, through the community, and through sharing our faith.

Want to know the best part? You won't be met with shame, guilt, or condemnation. No matter what you've been through or what questions you might have about God and faith, our church is a place where you'll find the love, grace, and forgiveness Jesus gives to everyone.

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### **False Jesus: 7, God's Spirit: 0**

Check out other churches and see how many more you can find with similar statements.

Check out your church statement and see how it lines up with the Bible. You can also check out the article "**Check-a-Church**" on this website (**PPGpilot.com**) and we'll send you a report on how your church stacks up against biblical truth.

### **PPGpilot**

Companion articles you might enjoy entitled "*It is Finished*" and "*All Scripture?*" "*Missionary Madness*" "*Why People Cannot Understand*" "*This Gospel, That Gospel*" "*The Four Jewish Gospels*" "*The Jewish Hebrew Epistles*" "*Go Ye, Go Ye Not*" "*Who's Your Jesus*" "*3 Bullet Points*" "*Size Doesn't Matter*" and other titles

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