

## 16 DECLARATIONS OF FAITH OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

### X the church and its mission

As described in the Bible, the church consists of all people who have received forgiveness through Jesus Christ and placed their faith in Him as the only sacrifice for their sins. The church is the **body of Christ** and includes all Christians, with no boundaries regarding age, race, gender, or denomination. Every believer collectively makes up the church and is the dwelling place of God through the Holy Spirit.

#### The Church belongs to Jesus

The Church belongs to Jesus **Matthew 16** and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

Jesus Christ is the head of the church. **Ephesians 1:22** And He put all *things* under His feet, and gave Him *to be* head over all *things* to the church, **23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Each Christian is an integral part of the church. The names of all true believers who have accepted Christ and live for Him are written in heaven **Hebrews 12:23** to the general assembly and church of the firstborn *who are* registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,

We are part of the Church and we belong to Jesus

#### The church has a mission

##### 1. Our church is designed to be an agency of God; for evangelizing the world.\_

- Because God's purpose is to seek and save people who are lost in sin **Luke 19:10** for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost. **Matthew 28:19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- God has made every provision for the church to fulfill this mission **Acts 1:8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [c]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."
- Every believer is called to take part in this mission. To share the good news of the Gospel so others may receive salvation through Jesus Christ **1 Peter 2:9** But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; **10** who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.
- As part of the church we are called to the great commission

##### 2. The church serves as a corporative body in which people may worship God

- Our god is worthy of worship and is looking for worshippers **John 4:23** But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and

truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. **24** God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.

- the church is a place where we can congregate and worship God.
- **Psalms 150** let everything that has breath praise the

### 3. the church is a place where people grow spiritually

- God wants to build a unified body of believers mature in faith and knowledge like Jesus.
- The church engages in teaching the Word of God and the fellowship of the saints,
- The church is a place where people grow spiritually and receive special callings and gifts for the ministry of the church **Ephesians 4:11** And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the [e]difying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head —Christ— 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.
- Our church operates as a channel of God's purpose to equip and build people who are continually growing in the Lord and being perfected in his image to enlarge, advance, and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ that none shall perish.

### 4. The Church is a place where compassion is shown to the world

- He longs for believers to demonstrate His love and compassion to all the world
- **Galatians 6:10** Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.
- Our church is committed to loving people and bringing help to those in need. The church is a body of believers committed to expressing the Love of God through compassion and help.

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason for being. Following the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be saved, baptized in the Holy Spirit, to grow in the Lord so we can

1. Evangelize with the power of the Holy Spirit accompanied by supernatural signs
2. Worship God in an added dimension in a deeper way
3. Respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expressing the fruit, gifts, and ministries to build up the church
4. And to love the poor and the hurting in tangible ways as Jesus would.

### **The importance of this doctrine**

The important role of the church in God's dealing with humankind is accepted by all born-again believers. But the local church is too often less appreciated and understood. Some professing Christians, not finding a local congregation to their liking, choose to practice an isolated independent Christianity. Unfortunately, they disobey the specific command of God to assemble with other believers **Hebrews 10:25** *not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as **is** the manner of some, but exhorting **one another**, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.* Watching a church service on TV or social media will not suffice. God's design for His people is worship, edification, encouragement, and service to others in the company of fellow believers. This balance and mission is vital to a well-rounded Christian life.