



## Busselton Baptist Church

Paul Colyer – Pastor

Mobile: 0422 917 141

Cnr Queen Elizabeth Ave & Recreation Lane, Busselton

PO Box 5159, West Busselton. WA 6280

Church Phone: (08) 9754 8001

Church email: [admin@busseltonbaptist.org.au](mailto:admin@busseltonbaptist.org.au)

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## Church Membership

Thank you for considering becoming a member of Busselton Baptist Church.

This is a family church, where whole families come together to worship and where whole families have come to find new purpose in life through Jesus Christ.

We ask you to prayerfully consider and complete this membership application and then return it to the Church Office or give it to one of the Elders.

Once the application has been received, Elders in the Church, will make an appointment to come and see you and further discuss your application.

Listed below are some of the standards which church members should constantly be aiming to achieve. Please give them your prayerful consideration.

### **EFFECTIVE CHURCH MEMBERS SHOULD:**

1. Have spiritual concerns as a priority in their lives.
2. Attempt to attend Church every Sunday, wherever possible.
3. Attempt to be present at the mid-week Bible Study and Prayer meetings that are planned.
4. Attempt to be involved in some Church activity.
5. Tithe regularly to support their Church as the primary place of their giving. The Church in turn supports a number of other facets of the Lord's work.
6. Be loyal to this Church, its pastor and leaders, refusing to listen to or pass on any form of gossip.

**We realise that not everybody will be in a position to comply with all of the above at all times, but these should nevertheless be their aim.**

# The Doctrines of Grace

**This briefly outlines the reformed theological teaching position of the Church.  
We teach the doctrines of grace as outlined below.**

The phrase “doctrines of grace” is used as a replacement for the term “Calvinism,” in order to remove the attention from John Calvin and instead focus on how the specific points are biblically and theologically sound. The phrase “doctrines of grace” describes the soteriological doctrines that are unique to Reformed theology, which is Calvinistic. These doctrines are summarized with the acronym *TULIP*. The *T* in *TULIP* stands for Total Depravity, *U* for Unconditional Election, *L* for Limited Atonement, *I* for Irresistible Grace, and *P* for Perseverance of the Saints.

Reformed Christians believe that all five of the doctrines of grace are derived directly from the Scripture and that the acronym *TULIP* accurately describes the Bible’s teaching on soteriology—the doctrine of salvation. The following is a brief description of each of the letters in the acronym *TULIP*.

**Total Depravity**- As a result of Adam’s fall, the entire human race is affected; all of Adam’s descendants are spiritually dead in their trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1,5). Calvinists are quick to point out that this does not mean that all people are as bad as they could be. Rather, this doctrine says that, as a result of man’s fall in Adam, all people are radically depraved from the inside and that their depravity affects every area of their lives.

**Unconditional Election**- Because man is dead in sin, he is unable (and stubbornly unwilling) to initiate a saving response to God. In light of this, God, from eternity past, mercifully elected a particular people unto salvation (Ephesians 1:4–6). These people are comprised of men and women from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation (Revelation 5:9). Election and predestination are unconditional; they are not contingent on man’s response to God’s grace (Romans 8:29–30;9:11;Ephesians 1:11–12) because man, in his fallen state, is both unable and unwilling to respond favorably to Christ’s offer of salvation.

**Limited Atonement**- The purpose of Christ’s atoning death was not to merely make men savable and thus leaving the salvation of humanity contingent on man’s response to God’s grace. Rather, the purpose of the atonement was to secure the redemption of a particular people (Ephesians 1:4–6;John 17:9). All whom God has elected and Christ died for will be saved (John 6:37–40,44). Many Reformed Christians prefer the term “particular redemption” as they feel that this phrase more accurately captures the essence of this doctrine. It is not so much that Christ’s atonement is limited as it is particular, intended for a specific people—God’s elect.

**Irresistible Grace**- God has elected a particular people to be the recipients of Christ’s atoning work. These people are drawn to Christ by a grace that is irresistible. When God calls, man responds (John 6:37,44;10:16). This teaching does not mean that God saves men against their will. Rather, God changes the heart of the rebellious unbeliever so that he now desires to repent and be saved. God’s elect will be drawn to Him, and that grace that draws them is, in fact, irresistible. God replaces the unbeliever’s heart of stone with a heart of flesh (Ezekiel 36:26). In Reformed theology, regeneration precedes faith.

**Perseverance of the Saints**- The particular people God has elected and drawn to Himself through the Holy Spirit will persevere in faith. None of those whom God has elected will be lost; they are eternally secure in Him (John 10:27–29;Romans 8:29–30;Ephesians 1:3–14). Some Reformed theologians prefer to use the term “Preservation of the Saints” as they believe that this choice of words more accurately describes how God is directly responsible for the preservation of His elect. It is clear in Scripture that Christ continues to intercede for His people (Romans 8:34;Hebrews 7:25). This continues to provide believers with the assurance that those that belong to Christ are eternally His.

These five doctrines together form the doctrines of grace, so called because they summarize the salvation experience as the result of the grace of God, who acts independently of man’s will. No effort or act of man can add to the grace of God to bring about the redemption of the soul. For truly it is “by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Ephesians 2:8–9).

**Please read the BBCC Constitution, and answer the following questions in writing:**

1. Do you acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, co-equal and co-eternal with God?
2. Are you a Christian in the sense of being personally and decisively committed to Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord?

Please state reasons for your answer:

3. Are you presently a member of another Church or any other Denomination?

Please give details:

4. Are there any particular ways in which you have been active in Christian Service?

If so, please give details. (eg. Sunday School, Youth Work, Deacon, etc.)

In what direction do your gifts and interests lie?

5. Have you been water baptised as a believer? If so, when and how? If not, please state any other baptisms you may have had.
6. When did you begin to worship regularly at this Church?
7. Are you prepared to meet regularly with God' s people for Worship?

8. Are you prepared to support the Lord's work with your prayers, talents, and monetary gifts in fellowship and partnership with other Christians?
  
9. Do you accept responsibility to share your faith with other people and so fulfil the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ? (Matthew 28:19-20)
  
10. Are you prepared to accept the Constitution of BBC as well as the values of the Church?
  
11. Are you prepared to place yourself under the Church discipline of the leadership should it be necessary?

## **Declaration of Membership**

I solemnly declare that I am a baptized person (infant or as a believer), eighteen years of age or older, have made a personal confession of Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that I am a habitual worshipper in this church.

I accept the values, constitution, and teaching of this Church. I, further solemnly promise to adhere to the values, constitution and teaching of Busselton Baptist Church.

I also promise that I will do my best to carry out the responsibilities of membership of this church, and that, the Lord helping me, I will give evidence of my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, by my manner of life. I do hereby subscribe to the above resolution, and also comply with the requirements herein stated, and desire my name to be entered on the Electoral Roll of the above Church.

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name (please print):** \_\_\_\_\_

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### **FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Name:

Address:

Membership (circle):  Granted /  Declined

Date: / /

Signed by members of the Board: