



Our Statement of Faith

Introduction

Keswick at Portstewart was established in 1914, then known as 'The North of Ireland Keswick Convention'. It is the oldest surviving daughter convention of the world famous 'Keswick Convention', founded in 1875, held annually in the English Lake District, and we remain part of the Keswick family. Organised by Trustees and a Management Committee composed of people drawn from across the denominations, 'Keswick at Portstewart' lasts for one week during the month of July. Meeting in a 1000 seat marquee, it offers something for everyone: uplifting worship, great fellowship across denominations and generations, with life changing Bible teaching very much at the core of what we do. And it all takes place in its own grounds in the coastal town of Portstewart, Northern Ireland – a beautiful setting for rest, recreation and refreshment.

Our Priorities

As part of the family of Keswick Ministries, the emphasis of Keswick at Portstewart is summed up in three words: hearing, becoming, serving. Hearing God's Word: The Scriptures are the foundation for the church's life, growth and mission, and we are committed to the preaching and teaching of God's Word in a way which is faithful to Scripture and relevant to Christians of all ages and backgrounds. Becoming like God's Son: From its earliest days the Keswick Movement

has encouraged Christians to live godly lives in the power of the Holy Spirit, to grow in Christ-likeness and to live under His Lordship in every area of life. This is God's will for His people in every culture and generation. Serving God's mission: The authentic response to God's Word is obedience to His mission, and the inevitable result of Christ-likeness is sacrificial service. We are committed to encouraging committed discipleship in family life, work and society, and energetic engagement in local and global mission.

Our Beliefs

There is one God in three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God is sovereign in creation, revelation, redemption and final judgment. The Bible, as originally given, is the inspired and infallible Word of God. It is the supreme authority in all matters of belief and behaviour. Since the Fall, the whole of humankind is sinful and guilty, so that everyone is subject to God's wrath and condemnation. The Lord Jesus Christ, God's incarnate Son, is fully God; He was born of a virgin; His humanity was and is real and sinless; He died on the cross, was raised bodily from death and is now reigning over heaven and earth. Sinful human beings are redeemed from the guilt, penalty and power of sin only through the sacrificial death once and for all time of their representative and substitute, Jesus Christ, the only mediator between them and God.

Those who believe in Christ are pardoned all their sins and accepted in God's sight only because of the righteousness of Christ credited to them by grace; this justification is God's act of undeserved mercy, received solely by trust in him and not by their own efforts.

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- The Holy Spirit alone makes the work of Christ effective to individual sinners, enabling them to turn to God from their sin and to trust in Jesus Christ.
- The Holy Spirit lives in all those he has regenerated. He makes them increasingly Christlike in character and behaviour and gives them power for their witness in the world.
- The one holy universal church is the Body of Christ, to which all true believers belong.
- The Lord Jesus Christ will return in person, to judge everyone, to execute God's just condemnation on those who have not repented and to receive the redeemed to eternal glory.

Lifestyle, morality and personal example

The Keswick movement has always sought to highlight the call to Christlikeness. Holiness and practical godliness has been part of our DNA. We therefore seek to live in accordance with Biblical guidelines in all areas of life, with truth and integrity in our relationships, attitudes and behaviour. We are called to a distinctive lifestyle of discipleship. Our ministry requires us to demonstrate that lifestyle, especially as we are likely to influence others. Such a lifestyle includes regular Bible reading and prayer and active involvement in a local church. It is marked by a selfless attitude to money, possessions, time, work, leisure, social action and relationships. It demonstrates moral standards, including an acceptance that the only appropriate place for a sexual relationship is within a marriage between a man and a woman. Whilst we recognise that as fallen people we often fall short of this ideal, we believe that God's grace and forgiveness are always available to those who repent. We nevertheless expect that all those working with us will affirm these principles and be committed to work towards achieving such a lifestyle with God's help.