



Membership Class

(updated August 7, 2021)

"Kerusso" (κηρύσσω)
pronounced \ ka-rü's-so \
means "to be a herald" and
"to preach or proclaim openly"
in Biblical Greek.



Class Schedule:

- 1. Your Testimony**
 - a. What is the Good News of Jesus Christ?
 - b. How did you come to repent and believe the Gospel?

- 2. Kerusso Baptist Church**
 - a. Behind the Name
 - b. Church Plant Story
 - c. Missionary Family (The Whites)
 - d. Mission, Vision, & Prayer for Kerusso

- 3. Foundational Concepts**

- 4. Kerusso Baptist Church Membership Requirements**

- 5. “Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)**
 - a. 1646 London Baptist Confession of Faith & Appendix (booklet provided in class)
 - b. The Concise Statement of Faith
 - c. The Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - d. The Five Solas
 - e. Kerusso Baptist Church Unity Agreement
 - f. B.A.P.T.I.S.T.S Distinctives
 - i. Auxiliary Doctrinal Statements
 1. 1978 Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy
 2. The Danvers Statement of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood
 3. Statement on New Covenant Theology

- 6. What to Expect**



Foundational Concepts

1. Disciple
2. Universal Church
3. Local church
4. House church
5. Church membership
6. Metaphors for the church in the Bible
7. Purposes of the Church - Ministry to God, Ministry to Believers, Ministry to the World
8. Unregistered, "Free" Church
9. KBC Church Plant
 - a. Where are we in regards to being a self-sufficient, autonomous church?
 - b. What type of growth are we praying for?



Membership Requirements

One may become a member of Kerusso by:

- Repenting and believing in the [Gospel of Jesus Christ](#),
- Proclaiming personal faith in Jesus Christ publicly and being immersed in the waters of baptism,
- Affirming the “[Five Solas](#)” of the Protestant Reformation & [Concise Statement of Faith](#),
- Committing to the KBC Unity Agreement, and
- Completing the KBC Membership Class



Concise Statement of Faith

Scripture

We believe the Bible to be the written revelation of God, complete and sufficient in all respects. We believe the Scriptures to be “God-breathed” and therefore fully authoritative in and of themselves; they rely for their authority upon no church, council, or creed, but are authoritative simply because they are the Word of God. The Scriptures, as they embody the very speaking of God, partake of His authority, His power.

God’s Sovereignty

We believe in one true and eternal God, unchanging, unchangeable. We believe God is the Creator of all that exists in heaven and on earth. The God who is described in the Bible is unique; He is unlike anyone or anything else in all the universe. God has all power, all knowledge, all wisdom, and is due all glory, honor and praise. All that comes to pass does so at the decree of God. All things will, in the end, result in the glory of God.

God’s Deity

We believe the Bible teaches that there is but one being of God, yet there are three Persons who share this one being of God: the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. Each Person is fully and completely God, each is described in Scripture as possessing the attributes of God. The Father, Son, and Spirit have eternally existed in the relationship described by the term “Trinity.”

God’s Plan of Redemption

We believe that man was created in the image of God. Man rebelled against His Creator, and fell into sin. As a result, man became spiritually dead, totally unwilling and indeed incapable of seeking after God. God, from eternity past, having foreordained all things, joined a certain people to Christ Jesus, so that He might redeem them from their sin and in so doing bring glory to Himself. God’s plan of redemption is all of mere free and absolute grace towards God’s elect, and without any condition foreseen in them to procure it, that the purpose of God according to election might stand. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, died in the place of this elect people, providing full and complete forgiveness of sins by His death upon the cross at Golgotha, the place of a skull. No other work can provide for forgiveness of sins, and no addition can be made to the completed and finished work of Christ.



Salvation

We believe that God, in His sovereign grace and mercy, regenerates sinful men by the power of the Holy Spirit, not by any action of their own, bringing them to new life. God grants to them the gifts of faith and repentance, which they then exercise by believing in Christ and turning from their sins in love for God. As a result of this faith, based upon the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ, God justifies, or makes righteous, the one who believes. God's gift of faith, and the continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of the elect, results in good works. These good works flow from true, saving faith; they are a necessary result of faith, but are not to be considered necessary to the gaining of justification, which is by God's grace through faith alone, so that no man can boast.

The Church

We believe Jesus Christ established His Church, which is made up of all the elect of God. His Church, as an obedient bride, listens to His Word as found in the Bible. All who believe in Christ are placed in His body, the Church. The local expressions of the Church are very important, and each believer should be actively involved in such a fellowship.

The Return of Christ

We believe that Christ is coming again to judge the living and the dead. This promise is found throughout the inspired Scriptures. Till His return, believers are to live lives that bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. The Church is to be busy doing the work of evangelism and discipleship, proclaiming the pure, uncompromised Gospel of Christ by teaching the Word of God.*

*Adapted From Apologia Church / Alpha & Omega Ministries Doctrinal Statements



The Gospel of Jesus Christ

The Character of God

The Holiness of God

“Your eyes are too pure to approve evil, and You cannot look on wickedness with favor.” Habakkuk 1:13

“But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.” Isaiah 59:2

The Justice of God

“For the LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness; the upright will behold His face.” Psalm 11:7

“But the LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment, and the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness.” Isaiah 5:16

“God is a righteous judge, and a God who has indignation every day. If a man does not repent, He will sharpen His sword; He has bent His bow and made it ready.” Psalm 7:11-12

The Depravity & Condemnation of Man

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“For all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy garment” Isaiah 64:6

“For as many as are of the works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, ACCURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.” Galatians 3:10

The Great Dilemma

“He who justifies the wicked and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.” Proverbs 17:15

“Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?” Genesis 18:25

God's Action

While maintaining His holiness and justice, the Bible also affirms that God is love, and that in love He has responded to the plight of man.

Motivated by Love

“God is love. By this the love of God is manifested in us, that God sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:8-10



The Cross of Christ

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.” Romans 3:23-26

The Resurrection

“He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification.”
Romans 4:25

Man's Response

Repentance begins with a recognition and confession that what God says about us is true that we have sinned.

“For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against You, You only, I have sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified when You speak and blameless when You judge.”
Psalm 51:3-4

A genuine recognition of our sinfulness and guilt will also lead to genuine sorrow, shame and even hatred for what we have done.

“For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.” Romans 7:15
“Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from this body of death?” Romans 7:24

Apparent sincerity of confession alone is never definite evidence of genuine repentance. It must be accompanied by a turning away from sin.

“Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil.” Isaiah 1:16

“therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire” Matthew 3:10



Faith Defined

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” Hebrews 11:1
“and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.” Romans 4:21

Faith Based on The Promises of God

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” Acts 16:31

Example of a Believer

“worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh” Philippians 3:3

The Basis of Genuine Assurance

True conversion: A true Christian is a new creation and will live a life that reflects God's radical work of re-creation in his/her life.

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

“You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?” Matthew 7:16

Assurance is based upon self-examination in the light of Scripture.

“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you unless indeed you fail the test?” 2 Corinthians 13:5

“These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:13

Test of Biblical Assurance

1 John 1:5-7 (Walking in the Light)

1 John 1:8-10 (Confession of Sin)

1 John 2:3-4 (Obedience)

1 John 2:9-11 (Love for the Brethren)

1 John 2:15-17 (Hatred for the World)

1 John 2:24-25 (Perseverance in Doctrine)

1 John 3:10 (Righteousness)

1 John 4:13 (Spirit's Testimony)

Hebrews 12:5-8 (Discipline)



The Five Solas of the Protestant Reformation

Sola Scriptura (“Scripture Alone”)

The Bible is the sole written divine revelation and alone can bind the conscience of believers absolutely.

Sola Fide (“Faith Alone”)

Justification is by faith alone. The merit of Christ, imputed to us by faith, is the sole ground of our acceptance by God, by which our sins are remitted and imputed to Christ.

Solus Christus (“Christ Alone”)

Jesus Christ is the only mediator through Whose work we are redeemed.

Sola Gratia (“Grace Alone”)

Our salvation rests solely on the work of God’s grace for us.

Soli Deo Gloria (“Glory To God Alone”)

To God alone belongs the glory.*

*Compiled by St. Andrew’s Chapel



Kerusso Baptist Church Unity Agreement

(updated June 2021)

1. Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive Jesus Christ as the Lord, Savior, and, supreme Treasure of our lives, and, on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, we do now, in the presence of God, angels and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully unite as one body in Christ.
2. We engage, therefore, by the aid and giftings of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love, to strive for the advancement of this local church in the knowledge, holiness, and peace in Christ; to promote its spirituality and fruitfulness; to sustain its worship, ordinances, and discipline; to welcome, and test biblically, instruction from the Scriptures by the elders of the church which accords with the Concise Statement of Faith and the 1646 London Baptist Confession & Appendix, seeking to grow toward biblical unity in the truth; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.
3. We also engage to maintain family and personal devotions; to educate our children in the Christian faith; to intentionally seek the salvation of unbelievers through verbal witness undergirded by holiness of life; to walk honorably in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements, and exemplary in our behavior; to avoid all gossip, slander, and excessive anger; to abstain from physical and spiritual laziness; to seek God's help in abstaining from all drugs, food, drink, and practices which bring unnecessary harm to the body or jeopardize our own or another's faith.
4. We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate godliness and courtesy in speech; to serve and build up one another through our spiritual gifts; to be slow to take offense, and always ready for reconciliation.
5. We acknowledge that implicit within this agreement is the consent to be governed by a faithful translation of God's Word, which in Its original autographs, is inerrant and infallible, holy and perfect. As members of Kerusso Baptist Church, we commit as a unified whole to submit matters such as church discipline, marriage and divorce, counseling and confidentiality, the protection of our children, etc. to the Scriptures as the final authority in all things.



B.A.P.T.I.S.T.S.

(A Helpful Acronym)

B - Biblical Authority

The Bible is the final authority in all matters of belief and practice because the Bible is inspired by God and bears the absolute authority of God Himself. Whatever the Bible affirms, Baptists accept it as true. No human opinion or decree of any church group can override the Bible. Even creeds and confessions of faith, which attempt to articulate the theology of Scripture, do not carry Scripture's inherent authority.

~ 1 Thessalonians 2:13

A - Autonomy of the Local Church

The local church is an independent body accountable to the Lord Jesus Christ, the head of the church. All human authority for governing the local church resides within the local church itself. Thus the church is autonomous, or self-governing. No religious hierarchy outside the local church may dictate a church's beliefs or practices. Autonomy does not mean isolation. A Baptist church may fellowship with other churches around mutual interests and in an associational tie, but a Baptist church cannot be a "member" of any other body.

~ Colossians 1:18

P - Priesthood of the Believers

Every born-again believer has direct access to the throne of God. Therefore, since every child of God shares in the priesthood of the believers, all have the same right as vocational ministers to communicate with God, interpret Scripture, and minister in Christ's name. This is first and foremost a matter of responsibility and servanthood, not privilege and license.

~ 1 Peter 2:5

T - Two Ordinances of the Church

We practice only believer's baptism by immersion, which is the only acceptable mode for baptism because it alone preserves the picture of saving truth. No other form pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ (Romans 6:1-5). We believe that the Lord's Supper is a symbolic ordinance, picturing Christ's body broken for our sins and His blood shed for our redemption. It is not a saving ordinance, but helps us remember His death, and inspires us while looking forward to His coming. It is to be observed by regenerate, obedient believers.

~ 1 Corinthians 11:23-24

I - Individual Soul Liberty

Every individual Christian has the liberty to believe, right or wrong, as his/her own conscience dictates. While we seek to persuade men to choose the right, a person must not be forced into compliance, realizing that it is not always the larger group who holds the truth when, in fact, our heritage as Baptists has demonstrated the worth of every individual believer.

~ Romans 14:12



S - Saved and Baptized Church Membership

Local church membership is restricted to individuals who give a believable testimony of personal faith in Christ and have publicly identified themselves with Him in believer's baptism. When the members of a local church are believers, a oneness in Christ exists, and the members can endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

~ Acts 2:41, 47

T - Two Offices of the Church

The Bible mandates only two offices in the church--pastor and deacon. The three terms--"pastor," "elder," and "bishop," or "overseer"--all refer to the same office. The two offices of pastor and deacon exist within the local church, not as a hierarchy outside or over the local church.

~ 1 Timothy 3:1-13

S - Separation of Church and State

God established both the church and the civil government, and He gave each its own distinct sphere of operation. The government's purposes are outlined in Romans 13:1-7 and the church's purposes in Matthew 28:19 and 20. Neither should control the other, nor should there be an alliance between the two. Christians in a free society can properly influence the government toward righteousness, which is not the same as a denomination or group of churches controlling the government.*

~ Romans 13:1-3

*From <http://www.allaboutbaptists.com/distinctives.html>



Auxiliary Doctrinal Statements

Doctrinal Agreement with the Bride of Christ

Kerusso Baptist Church stands in doctrinal agreement with the universal Church on key issues by aligning ourselves with the following statements.

Complete agreement with the *Auxiliary Doctrinal Statements* is **not required** for church membership. However, a teachable and submissive spirit is encouraged as far as these statements define and defend Biblical principles and patterns for the Christian life.

1. **1978 Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy**
 - https://www.etsjets.org/files/documents/Chicago_Statement.pdf
2. **The Danvers Statement of Biblical Manhood and Womanhood**
 - <https://cbmw.org/about/danvers-statement>
3. **Statement on New Covenant Theology**
 - <http://www.nct-resources.com/nct-statement/>



Church Practice

(What should I expect at Kerusso?)

Centrality of Christ in All of Life

Spirit-sized Fellowship: Intentional & Strategic Size for Genuine Fellowship

Major New Testament Church Practices

- Examples of believers meeting in their houses
 - (Acts 2:46, Acts 12:12, Romans 16:5, 1 Cor. 16:19, Col. 4:15, Philemon 2)
- Acts 2:42 - The General Pattern for House Church Meetings
 - Doctrinal Teaching (*Apostle's Doctrine*)
 - Fellowship (*Love, Serve, Encourage One Another*)
 - Breaking Bread (*Lord's Supper & Love Feast*)
 - Prayer (*Discerning the Lord's will through humble prayer & faith in God's promises*)
- 1 Corinthians 14 Observations on House Church Meetings
 - Participatory (1 Cor. 14:26)
 - Fitting and Orderly (1 Cor. 14:27, 31, 40) = one at a time
 - Edifying (1Co 14:3, 4, 5, 12, 26, 31)
 - Obedience to "the Lord's Command" (1Co 14:37)
- Gender Distinctions Displayed During House Church Meetings
- Practicing the "one another-s" throughout the NT.
 - (John 15:12, Rom. 12:3-16, Eph. 4:32, Eph. 5:18-21, Col. 3:12-17)
- Weekly in-depth, expository teaching and preaching
 - Luke 24:27, 44-45
 - EXPOS'ITORY, adjective Serving to explain; tending to illustrate.
 - EXPOUND', verb transitive [Latin expono; ex and pono, to set.]
 1. To explain; to lay open the meaning; to clear of obscurity; to interpret; as, to expound a text of scripture; to expound a law.
 - One definition of the ministry of the Word is "stewarding and heralding God's Word in such a way that people encounter God through His word." (Meyer, 2013)¹
- "On the first day of the week", in the midst of the "love feast", celebrate the Lord's Supper
 - (1 Corinthians 16:2, 1 Corinthians 11:20-34, Jude 1:12, 2 Peter 2:13)
- Devotion to prayer and fasting
 - (Mark 9:29, Acts 13:2-3)
- Plurality of elder rule through congregational consensus
 - (Titus 1:5, James 5:14; Matt. 20:25-28, Hebrews 13:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13)



Obeying the Great Commission

- Let's read Five Great Commission Passages and Make Observations!
 - Matthew 28:18-20
 - Mark 16:15-18
 - Luke 24:45-49
 - John 20:21-23
 - Acts 1:8
- Some things we're passionate about!
 - Obedient disciples/sheep not ashamed of their Master/Shepherd
 - Prayer
 - Bold Evangelism / Street Ministry
 - Disciples Making Disciples
 - Leadership Development
 - Global House Church Planting Strategy
- The Great Commission Life for Healthy Disciples & Churches
 - Every Disciple Intentionally Telling Unbelievers the Good News of Jesus Christ >
 - Conversion & Baptism >
 - Bible Studies >
 - Churches Planted or New Members @ KBC >
 - Disciples Made >
 - Ambassadors/Messengers Sent Out To All The Nations >

¹ Meyer, J. C. (2013). Preaching : a biblical theology. Crossway.