

BROEDERKRING: THEOLOGICAL DECLARATION (1979)

The Broederkring is composed of ministers, laymen and lecturers from four Reformed Churches in South Africa - the Reformed Church in Africa, the Ned Geref Kerk in Afrika, the Ned Geref Sendingkerk and the Ned Geref Kerk. The movement was originally formed to work towards the unity of the church. The prophetic role of the church in the light of the oppressive legal structures was examined. On 3 March 1981 the executive of the Broederkring issued a report replying to problems that had been experienced by the various participating churches. The Broederkring is now known as the Belydende Kring.

In 1979 the Broederkring issued a Theological Declaration which was a statement of faith for their members:

1 We believe in the God and Father of Jesus Christ who upholds the whole universe by his Word and Spirit. He struggles for his own righteousness with regard to God and fellow man. In this respect God chooses constantly for his own righteousness and consequently stands on the side of those who are victims of injustice.

2 We believe that God reveals Himself in his Word as the One who throughout history in his relationship to men binds Himself to his own justice in order to make the world a place to live in. His life-giving Word became man in Christ Jesus, through whom He breaks the power of injustice. By His Spirit He gives people the possibility to again live in obedience to his Word.

3 We believe that God gathers for Himself in this world a new people who consist of men and women He has liberated from oppressive powers through Jesus Christ. This people of God has the responsibility to live as the one undivided body of Christ. As God's property the church must be busy standing where God stands viz. against injustice and with those who are denied justice. To fulfill this task it is necessary that the church should constantly search after the truth of God's Word. This is true especially because we owe greater obedience to Christ than to human governments, power or ideologies.

4 In our South African situation this means that we as part of the church of Christ in this world should unflinchingly persevere for establishing God's justice. The church may, in faithful allegiance to its Head, Jesus Christ, come into conflict with human authorities. If the church has to suffer in the process we know that this is part of the way of God's people through history and that the word of Christ remains in force, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.'
(Heb. 13:5)

(Source: Broederkring Statement 1979)