

Summary of the Cape Town Commitment*

The Cape Town Commitment (CTC) is a masterful and comprehensive document, faithfully reflecting the proceedings of The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, which took place in Cape Town, South Africa (October 2010). It is impossible to capture the spirit of Lausanne III in a three-page summary, so this synopsis should be read in conjunction with the full CTC.

The CTC is rooted in the conviction that “we must respond in Christian mission to be realities of our own generation.” The mission of the Church must take seriously both the unchanging nature of God’s word and the changing realities of our world. The CTC reflects the Lausanne call for the whole Church to take the whole gospel to the world; it is framed in the language of love – love for the whole gospel, the whole Church, and the whole world. The Commitment has two parts: a confession of faith and a call to action.

PART I For the Lord We Love: The Cape Town Confession of Faith

The opening sentences set the framework, “The mission of God flows from the love of God. The mission of God’s people flows from our love for God and for all that God loves.”

The first five points deal with our love for God himself. We love the living God, above all rivals and with a passion for his glory. We love the triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. With respect to the Father, the CTC calls for a renewed appreciation of God’s fatherhood. Concerning the Son, it highlights our duty to trust, obey, and proclaim Christ. Of the Spirit, it says, “Our engagement in mission, then, is pointless and fruitless without the presence, guidance and power of the Holy Spirit. (...) There is no true or whole gospel, and no authentic biblical mission, without the Person, work and power of the Holy Spirit.”

The last five points cover our love for God’s Word, world, gospel, people, and mission. (a) We reaffirm our submission to the Bible as God’s final revelation, and affirm love for the Person it reveals, the story it tells, the truth it teaches,

* Prepared by Kevin Smith from the South African Theological Seminary. This summary document is saturated with the actual language of the CTC, for which reason quotation marks are not used for every phrase lifted from the CTC. Only longer quotations and key phrases are marked by quotation marks. This document serves as a précis of the CTC. To read the full CTC, please go to www.lausanne.org/ctccommitment.