

Statement of Faith

1. The Bible

We believe that God has spoken in the Scriptures (1), both Old and New Testaments (2), through the words of human authors (3). As the verbal plenary inspired Word of God (4), the Bible is without error in the original writings (5). It is the complete revelation of His will for salvation (6), and the ultimate authority by which every realm of human knowledge should be judged (7). Therefore, it is to be believed in all that it teaches (8), taught in its entirety (9), obeyed in all that it requires (10) and trusted in all that it promises (11). It is fully sufficient for the faith and life of the Christian (12).

2. God

We believe there is one God (1), the Creator of all things (2), who is holy (3), infinitely perfect (4), and eternally existing (5). This one God is a loving unity of three equally divine Persons, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (the Trinity) (6). They are each God and yet they are each a distinct Person, responsible for different duties within the Godhead. (7) Having limitless knowledge (8) and sovereign power (9), God has graciously purposed from eternity to redeem a people for Himself (10) and to make all things new (11) for His own glory (12).

3. The Human Condition

We believe God created people innocent of sin, and in the image and likeness of God. Unfortunately, man sinned and brought both physical and spiritual death to himself and his posterity (1). No one can merit God's favor, and as such we are in need of salvation (2). We believe that each person's nature is sinful and rebellious toward God and His good design for life and worship (3). This can cause confusion about good and evil, as well as harm to other people, ultimately ending in judgement, despair and death (4).

4. Jesus Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ (1) is God in the flesh (2), fully God (3) and fully man (4), one Person in two natures (5). Jesus—the promised Messiah for all people (6)—was conceived through the Holy Spirit (7) and born of the virgin Mary (8). He lived a sinless life (9), was crucified under Pontius Pilate (10), arose bodily from the dead (11), ascended into heaven (12) and sits at the right hand of God the Father (13) as our High Priest (14) and Advocate before the Father (15).

5. The Work of Christ

We believe that Jesus Christ, as our representative (1) and substitute (2), shed His blood on the cross (3) as the perfect, all-sufficient sacrifice (4) for our sins (5). His atoning death (6) and victorious resurrection (7) constitute the only ground for salvation (8).

6. The Holy Spirit

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ (1). He convicts the world of its guilt (2). He regenerates sinners and in Him they are baptized (3) into union with Christ (4) and adopted as heirs (5) in the family of God (6). He also indwells (7), illuminates (8), guides (9), equips (10), seals (11) and empowers (12) believers for Christ-like living and service (13).

7. The Church

We believe that the true Church (1) is comprised of all who have been justified by God's grace through faith alone in Christ alone (2). Believers are united by the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ (3), of which He is the Head (4). The true Church is manifest in local churches (5), whose membership should be composed only of believers (6). The Lord Jesus mandated two ordinances, baptism (7) and the Lord's Supper (8), which visibly and tangibly express the gospel. Though they are not the means of salvation, when celebrated by the church in genuine faith, these ordinances confirm and nourish the believer (9). The purpose of the church is to glorify God and equip Christians with what God's Word teaches, so they can share their faith and make disciples (10).

8. Christian Living

We believe that God's justifying grace must not be separated from His sanctifying power and purpose (1). The new life Jesus gives Christians is to be experienced in this life and in eternity. God commands us to love Him supremely, to love others sacrificially (2) and to live out our faith with care for one another (3), compassion toward the poor (4) and justice for the oppressed (5). With God's Word, the Spirit's power, and fervent prayer in Christ's name (6), believers (7), are to combat the spiritual forces of evil (8). In obedience to Christ's commission, we are to make disciples among all people (9), always bearing witness to the gospel (10) in word and deed (11). God's grace is not an excuse to sin or abstain from holiness (12).

9. Human Sexuality

We believe God created people in His image. He forms and highly values each person's life from the time of conception (1) until their natural death (2). We believe in the sanctity of human life. He assigned gender to His people, male (man) and female (woman). He created them sexually and genetically different, but with equal personal value, dignity and purpose (3).

We believe that God ordained marriage as a solemn union between one genetic man and one genetic woman (4). Those who accept and live within God's design for sex, biological gender, and marriage, experience the blessing of His good design (5). Decisions to change or modify God's plan for gender, marriage, and sexual activity are sinful and are not to be practiced (6). God calls any sexual activity outside of His design sinful and is not to be practiced (7). In His goodness and grace, God loves us and provides redemption, restoration and forgiveness through faith in Jesus Christ. (8) Therefore, Living Hope Bible Church seeks to be a church full of grace and mercy for any person struggling with sexual temptation or involved in sexual sin who desires to overcome those struggles through the power of the gospel and the Holy Spirit (9).

All members of Living Hope Bible Church are expected to uphold the ministry's perspective on marriage, gender, sexual intimacy, and appropriate behavior as set forth in this provision. Individuals and organizations who desire to use Living Hope Bible Church's facilities must also act in accordance with this provision (10).

10. Christ's Return

We believe in the personal, bodily (1) and glorious (2) return of our Lord Jesus Christ (3). The coming of Christ, at a time known only to God (4), requires constant expectancy (5) and, as our blessed hope (6), motivates the believer to godly living, sacrificial service and steadfast mission (7).

11. Response and Eternal Destiny

We believe that God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (1) We believe that God will physically raise the dead (2) and judge the world (3), assigning the unbeliever to condemnation and eternal conscious punishment apart from God (4), and the believer to eternal blessing and joy with the Lord (5), in the new heaven and the new earth (6), to the praise of His glorious grace (7). Amen.

Scripture References

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1. Matthew 1:22; 4:4; Hebrews 1:1-2
2. 2 Peter 3:15-16, 2 Timothy 3:16
3. Luke 1:1-4
4. 2 Timothy 3:16
5. Num. 23:19; Prov. 30:5; Matthew 5:18; John 17:17; Titus 1:1-2
6. 2 Tim. 3:14-15
7. Hebrews 4:12-13
8. Romans 15:4
9. 2 Timothy 3:16
10. Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Thessalonians 3:14
11. 2 Peter 1:4; 3:13
12. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

God references

1. Deuteronomy 6:4; Mark 12:29
2. Genesis 1:1; Psalm 33:6; John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17; Hebrews 11:3
3. Exodus 15:11; Isaiah 6:3; 57:15
4. Deuteronomy 32:4; Psalm 18:30; 50:2; 90:2; 145:3; Matthew 5:48
5. Psalm 33:11; 102:25-27; Daniel 4:34-35; Acts 17:24-25
6. John 3:34-35, 17:24; 1 Peter 1:2,
7. Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 28:19-20, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Colossians 2:9, Acts 5:3 John 14:26, 16:7-15
8. Psalm 139:1-16; 147:5; Isaiah 46:10; John 5:26; 21:17
9. Jeremiah 32:17; Ephesians 3:20; Revelation 1:8
10. 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 1:2; Revelation 13:8
11. Matthew 19:28; Acts 3:21; Romans 8:19-21, :28; Revelation 21 and 22
12. Psalm 19:1-2; Isaiah 43:7; Jer. 13:11; Colossians 1:15-23; Revelation 4:11; 5:9-14

The Human Condition references

1. Genesis 1:26-27; 2:17, 3:19, 5:1; 9:6; 1 Corinthians 11:7; Colossians 3:10; James 3:9
2. Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 6:23
3. Romans 1:20-24, Ephesians 2:1-3
4. Genesis 1:31, Galatians 5:16-21, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, James 1:13-15

Jesus Christ references

1. Matthew 1:21
2. John 1:14, 18; 1 John 4:2
3. Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1; 20:28; Romans 9:5; Colossians 2:9
4. Matthew 4:2; Luke 2:40, 52; John 11:35; Hebrews 5:7; 1 John 1:1-3
5. John 3:13; 10:30; 17:5
6. Genesis 3:14-20; 12:1-3; 49:8-12; 2 Samuel 7:11b-16; Matthew 1:1, 17; Luke 4:16-22; 24:25-27; John 1:41; 4:25-26; Acts 2:36; 13:23,32; Romans 1:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:8,9
7. Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:34,35
8. Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:20; Luke 1:34,35
9. Romans 5:19; Galatians 4:4-5; Matthew 3:15; Philippians 2:7-8; Hebrews 4:15
10. Deut. 21:23; Psalm 16:10; Matthew 27:26; Mark 15:15; Luke 23:16; John 19:16; Acts 2:27, 37
11. Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:39; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:20, 44-45; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 1:5
12. Luke 24:51; Acts 1:6-11; Ephesians 1:20; 4:8-10; 1 Tim. 3:16
13. Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3; 8:1; 10:12; 1 Peter 3:22
14. Hebrews 2:17; 3:1; 4:14; 6:20; 8:1
15. Romans 8: 34; Hebrews 7:25; 9:24; 1 John 2:1

The Work of Christ references

1. Luke 4:1-13; Romans 5:18-19; 1 Corinthians 1:30; 15:45-47; Philippians 3:9
2. Mark 10:45; Hebrews 2:16-17; 1 Peter 2:24; 3:18
3. Leviticus 17:11; Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 9:14, 22; 10:19; 1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 12:10-11
4. 1 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 9:23-24, 26, 28; 10:1; 13:11, 12
5. Isaiah 53:5-7, 12; John 1:29; Romans 3:21-26; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13; 1 John 3:5
6. Romans 3:25; Hebrews 2:17; 1 John 2:2; 4:10
7. Colossians 1:13; 2:13-15; Hebrews 2:14-15
8. Romans 4:25; 6:4, 11, 14; 1 Corinthians 6:14; 15:20; 2 Corinthians 4:14; Ephesians 1:19-20; 2:5-6; 1 Peter 1:3

The Holy Spirit references

1. John 16:14
2. John 16:8; 1 Corinthians 2:14
3. Mark 1:8; Acts 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:13
4. Romans 5:15-21; 12:5; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 6:19; 15:22b; 2 Corinthians 5:17; 3:28; Ephesians 1:4; 2:12; 3:6; 2 Timothy 2:10; 1 Thessalonians 4:16
5. Romans 8:15, 23; 9:4; Galatians 4:5; Ephesians 1:5; Titus 3:7
6. Matthew 12:49-50; 2 Corinthians 6:18; 1 John 3:14-18
7. John 14:17; Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16
8. 2 Corinthians 4:4-15; Ephesians 1:17-19; Philippians 1:9-11, 1 John 4:1-6
9. John 16:13; Acts 15:28; Romans 8:4, 14; Galatians 5:16-18
10. Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-10; Ephesians 4:7-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11
11. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14
12. Acts 1:8; 10:38; Romans 15:13; 1 Corinthians 12:11; Ephesians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:7
13. Acts 6:8; Romans 8:4-6, 12-16; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 3:3-5; 5:22-25; Ephesians 2:22; 4:3; Philippians 2:1-2

The Church references

1. Matthew 16:18; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:4-6; 5:25; Hebrews 12:28
2. Psalms 103:12; Isaiah 44:22; John 3:16; Acts 16:31; Romans 3:20-28; 4:3; 5:1, 21; 8:1, 30, 33-34; 10:4, 9; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8-9; Philippians 3:9; Titus 3:7; Hebrews 10:14
3. 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
4. Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18; 2:19
5. Acts 9:31; 20:28-30; 1 Corinthians 1:2; 2 Corinthians 1:1; 1 Thess. 1:1; Philemon 1-2
6. Matthew 18:15-20; Acts 2:41, 47; 14:23; 20:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2, 9; 12:13; 16:1-2; 1 Timothy 3:1-13; 5:9; Titus 1:5-9; Hebrews 10:25
7. Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 6:3-4; Colossians 2:12
8. Matthew 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:15-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
9. John 6:55-56; Acts 2:38; 8:39; 16:34; 1 Corinthians 10:16; Colossians 2:12
10. Matthew 28:16-20; Ephesians 4:11-13, 2 Timothy 4:1-5

Christian Living references

1. Matthew 7:17-18; 12:33, 35; Romans 6:11, 14; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 10:31; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 2:12-13; Colossians 3:17, 23; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 1:9; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 11:6; 12:1,14; James. 2:17; 1 Peter 1:15; 2:24; 2 Peter 1:3-11; 1 John 2:29; 3:9; 5:18
2. Leviticus 19:18; Deuteronomy 6:5; Matthew 22:37-39; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27
3. Romans 12:10; 14:13; 15:7,14; Galatians 5:26; Ephesians 4:32; 1 Thessalonians 3:12; 5:11,15; Hebrews 10:24-25; 1 Peter 4:9
4. Deuteronomy 15:11; Psalm 82:3,4; Psalm 140:12; Proverbs 14:21,31; 19:17; 22:9,16,22,23; 28:8; Jeremiah 22:16; Galatians 2:10; James. 1:27
5. Exodus 23:6; Leviticus 19:15; Psalm 82:3-4; 140:12; Prov. 29:7; 31:9; Isaiah 1:17; Jeremiah 9:24; Micah 6:8; Zechariah 7:9-10; Matthew 23:23; Luke 4:18
6. Ephesians 6:10-18
7. Hebrews 10:25
8. 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; Ephesians 6:11-12; 1 John 5:3-4
9. Matthew 28:19; John 20:21; Revelation 7:9
10. Acts 1:8
11. Matthew 5:13-16
12. Romans 6:1, 15

Human Sexuality

1. Psalm 139:13-16, Isaiah 44:2, 49:5, Jeremiah 1:4-5
2. Gen. 25:8, Deut. 30:19, Luke 23:46
3. Gen. 1:26-28
4. Gen. 2:18, Matt. 19:4-9, Eph. 5:31-33
5. Psalm 1:1-3, 128:1-4
6. Romans 1:21-22, James 1:13-15
7. Matthew 15:19; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, 1 Thessalonians 4:3; Hebrews 13:4
8. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-10; Titus 3:3-7
9. Matthew 11:28-30, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 2:17-18, Hebrews 4:14-16
10. 1 Corinthians 5:9-13, 1 Corinthians 6:18-20, Ephesians 5:3, 2 Corinthians 7:9-11, James 5:19-20, Galatians 6:1-2

Christ's Return references

1. Matthew 24:30; 26:64; Acts 1:11; Revelation 1:7
2. Matthew 16:27; 19:28; 24:30; 25:31; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26; 21:27; Colossians 3:4; 2 Thessalonians 1:10; Titus 2:13; 1 Peter 1:7; 4:13; 5:1-4
3. Matthew 25:31; Titus 2:13; 2 Thessalonians 1:6-8; Revelation 19:11-21
4. Matthew 24:36; Mark 13:32
5. Matthew 24:42-51; Romans 13:11-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; James 5:8-9; 2 Peter 3:10-14; Revelation 3:3
6. Titus 2:13
7. 2 Timothy 4:8; Titus 2:14; Hebrews 9:28; 1 John 3:2-3; 2 Peter 3:10-14

Response and Eternal Destiny references

1. John 3:16-17
2. Isaiah 26:19; Daniel 12:2; 1 Corinthians 15; Revelation 20:13
3. Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 12:36; Acts 17:31; Romans 14:10; 2 Corinthians 5:10; 2 Timothy 4:1; Revelation 20:12
4. Matthew 25:46; Luke 16:26; 2 Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 14:11; 21:6,8; 22:14,15
5. Matthew 25:34, 46; John 14:2; Revelation 21:1-3
6. Isaiah 65:17; 66:22; Romans 8:19-21; Hebrews 12:26-27; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1; 22:3
7. Ephesians 1:6, 12