



New Hope Christian Fellowship Statement of Faith

THE BIBLE

The Holy Bible was written by men, divinely inspired, and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter. It is the supreme standard by which man should live and will be the standard by which we will be judged. Matthew 5:18; 1 Corinthians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17

GOD THE FATHER

There is only one true and living God. He is the Creator, Redeemer, and Preserver. To Him we owe our love, obedience, and life. God has revealed Himself to us as the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit. With these three distinct attributes He is one without any division of nature, essence or being. John 10:30; 1 Corinthians 8:6; 2 Corinthians 13:14

GOD THE SON - JESUS CHRIST

Jesus is the Son of God. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of a virgin. Jesus lived a perfect life without sin. Jesus, while on earth, lived and did the will of God without fault. Jesus was crucified and took on the sin debt so that all mankind could have salvation. Jesus ascended into heaven and is now seated at the right hand of God. At an appointed time Jesus will return to the earth to draw all that have believed in Him as their Savior. For those that reject God's plan, Jesus will return in power and glory to judge. Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven. Hebrews 1:1-2; Luke 1:30-35; John 1:1-5

GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. He inspired holy men of past to write the Old and New Testaments. Through the Holy Spirit's illumination, man is able to know the heart and mind of God Himself. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. He calls mankind to Jesus as Savior. He cultivates Christian character and is the comforter to all believers. The Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts to believers through which they are to serve God. He inspires the church to worship, evangelize, and bring honor to God. John 3:5; John 16:7-11

CONCERNING MAN AND HIS NEED

We believe that man was created in the image of God, but because of Adam's sin that image was damaged. As a result, all human beings are now born with a sinful nature, are unable to function in moral responsibility before God, and need a spiritual regeneration before they can become what they were meant to be. Genesis 1:26-27; Romans 1:18; Romans 3:23; Ephesians 2:1-3, 12

THE WAY TO SALVATION

Salvation and eternal life are offered freely to all through Jesus Christ. However, salvation is only procured through repentance and faith. Repentance is genuine turning from sin toward God. Faith is trusting Jesus as Lord and Savior. Acts 13:38-39; Romans 4:5; Romans 6:23; Romans 8:1; Ephesians 2:8-9

Statement of Faith continued...

THE SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that when a person is truly saved, salvation will never be forfeited. Because God gives salvation as a gift of His grace, and not based on our merit (Ephesians 2:8-9), our eternal security depends on His power to keep us. God has promised us that the person who knows Christ has already passed from death unto life and will never know condemnation. Jesus promises us in John 10:27-29 that we are secure because He holds on to us.

THE PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

We believe that every Christian has direct access to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5,10 describes believers as a kingdom of priests. All believers are priests in the sense that we do not have to go through a priest to confess our sins to the Lord or to pray, and at the same time, we can intercede in prayer on behalf of others. Being priests also means that all Christians have a ministry responsibility. We believe Christians have diverse spiritual gifts to help equip them for their particular service.

THE CHURCH

The New Testament Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a local body of baptized believers associated for worship, Bible Study, discipleship, evangelism, fellowship, and ministry. New Hope Christian Fellowship is an autonomous body under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. Each duly received member is given an equal voice and vote; and is charged with an equal responsibility. Acts 2:42, 47; Romans 12:10; Ephesians 1:22-23

CONCERNING ORDINANCES

We believe that salvation is a gift of God to all who place their faith in His Son Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Jesus directed new believers to follow that step of faith with water baptism by immersion as an outward symbol of their spiritual identification with His death, burial, and resurrection. Jesus also directed His followers to participate together in the Lord's Supper to remember His death until He comes again in glory. Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:38, 41; Acts 8:12; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-29