

HOPE CHURCH

WHAT WE BELIEVE

A GUIDE TO MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP

HOPE CHURCH

STATEMENT OF FAITH



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THE SCRIPTURES

We believe the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments to be the full record of God's self-disclosure to mankind. Different men, while writing according to their own styles and personalities, were supernaturally moved along by the Holy Spirit to record God's very words, inerrant in the original writings. Therefore, those applying themselves to study its literal, historical-grammatical context can accurately understand God's Word. Scripture is fully trustworthy as our final and sufficient authority for all of life. *(2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)*

THE TRIUNE GOD

We believe in the one living and true God, eternally existing in perfect unity as three equally and fully divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each member of the Godhead, while executing distinct but complementary roles in creation and redemptive history, has precisely the same nature, attributes, and being, and is equally worthy of the same glory and honor and obedience. *(John 17:3; John 1:1-4; Acts 5:3-4)*

GOD THE FATHER

God as Father reigns with providential care over His universe, His creatures, and the flow of the stream of human history according to the purposes of His grace.He is all powerful, all knowing, all loving, and all wise. God is Father in truth to those who become children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. He is fatherly in His attitude toward all men. *(Genesis 1:1; 2:7; Exodus 3:14;6:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 19:1-3; Isaiah 43:3,15; Colossians 1:15; I Peter 1:17)*

GOD THE SON

We believe that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son, moved by love in accordance with the will of the Father, took on human flesh. Conceived through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, He was born of the virgin Mary. He, being fully God and fully man, lived a sinless life and sacrificially shed His blood and died on the cross in our place accomplishing redemption for all who place their faith in Him. He arose visibly and bodily from the dead three days later and ascended into heaven, where, at the Father's right hand, He is now Head of His Body the Church, the only Savior and Mediator between God and man, and will return to earth in power and glory to consummate His redemptive mission. *(John 1:1, 14, 18; 1 Timothy 3:16; John 14:8-9)*

GOD THE SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, in all that He does, glorifies the Lord Jesus Christ during this age. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He draws the unredeemed to repentance and faith, and at salvation imparts new spiritual life to the believer, bringing that person into union with Christ and the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit sanctifies, seals, fills, guides, instructs, comforts, equips, empowers, permanently indwells at salvation, and bestows spiritual gifts to the believer for Christ-like living and service. *(John 16:8; 13:15; Titus 3:5; Ephesians 1:22; 4:11-12; Romans 8:9-17; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 12:4-5, 11- 13, 19; Galatians 5:25; Hebrews 2:1-4; 2 Corinthians 12:12)*

MANKIND

We believe that God created mankind—male and female—in His own image and likeness, free of sin, to glorify Himself and enjoy His fellowship. Tempted by Satan, but in the sovereign plan of God, man freely chose to disobey God, bringing sin, death and condemnation to all mankind. All human beings, therefore, are totally depraved by nature and by choice. Alienated from God without defense or excuse, and subject to God's righteous wrath, all of mankind is in desperate need of the Savior. *(Genesis 3:1-6; Romans 3:10-19; Romans 1:18, 32)*

SALVATION

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, as the substitutionary atonement in our place, and that salvation is found in none other than Jesus Christ. Before Creation, God chose those who would be saved and granted this unearned grace solely based on His sovereign good pleasure. Jesus Christ's death on the cross was the sole and complete payment for sins, fully satisfying God's righteous wrath, for each person that turns from sin in repentance and places their faith in Christ alone by grace alone. At salvation, each person is made a new creation by the Holy Spirit, declared righteous before God, and secured as an adopted child of God forever. Genuine faith continues in obedience and love for Jesus Christ with a life eager to glorify God and persevere to the end. *(Romans 8:37-39; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Corinthians 12:13)*

THE CHURCH

We believe that upon placing one's faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior, the believer is made part of the Body of Christ, the one universal Church, of which Jesus Christ is the Head. The Scriptures command believers to gather locally in order to devote themselves to worship, prayer, teaching of the Word, fellowship, the ordinances of baptism and communion, service to the local body through the development and use of talents and spiritual gifts, and outreach to the world to make disciples. Wherever God's people meet regularly in obedience to this command, there is the local expression of the Church under the watchful care of a plurality of elders. A church's members are to work together in love and unity, intent on the ultimate purpose of glorifying Christ. *(Ephesians 1:22-23; Acts 2:42-46; I Corinthians 14:26; Matthew 28:18-20; Ephesians 4:16)*

BAPTISM & COMMUNION

We believe that Christian baptism is a public declaration of the believer's salvation in Christ, identifying with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection symbolized by immersion in water. The Lord's Supper is the united commemoration by believers of Christ's death until He comes and should be preceded by a careful self-examination. *(Acts 2:41; Romans 6:3- 6; 1 Corinthians 11:20-29)*

MISSIONS

We believe it is the aim, duty, and privilege of every believer and local church fellowship to glorify God by responding as active participants in the Great Commission call of Jesus Christ to go and make disciples of all nations. We believe the primary focus and priority of this call is centered on efforts that establish, strengthen, and reproduce biblically-based churches, which will then plant churches that plant churches for future generations and God's glory. *(Matthew 28:18-20)*

THINGS TO COME

God, in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and the establishment of His eternal kingdom; the dead will be raised; and Christ will judge all men in righteousness. The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell, the place of everlasting punishment. The righteous, in their resurrected and glorified bodies, will receive their reward and will dwell forever with God in the new heavens and new earth. *(Isaiah 2:4; Matthew 16:27; 18:8-9; 19:28; 24:27,30,36,44; 25:31-46; 26:64; Mark 8:38; 9:43-48; Luke 12:40,48; 16:19-26; 17:22-37; 21:27-28; Colossians 1:5; 3:4; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; 5:1.; 2 Thessalonians 1:7; Jude 14; Revelation 1:18; 3:11; 20:1-22:13)*

THE FAMILY

God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. It is composed of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption.

Marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment for a lifetime. It is God's unique gift to reveal the union between Christ and His church and to provide for the man and the woman in marriage the framework for intimate companionship, the channel of sexual expression according to biblical standards, and the means for procreation of the human race.

The husband and wife are of equal worth before God, since both are created in God's image. The marriage relationship models the way God relates to His people. A husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. He has the God-given responsibility to provide for, to protect, and to lead his family. A wife is to submit herself graciously to the servant leadership of her husband even as the church willingly submits to the headship of Christ. She, being in the image of God as is her husband and thus equal to him, has the God-given responsibility to respect her husband and to serve as his helper in managing the household and nurturing the next generation.

Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing and heritage from the Lord. Parents are to demonstrate to their children God's pattern for marriage. Parents are to teach their children spiritual and moral values and to lead them, through consistent lifestyle example and loving discipline, to make choices based on biblical truth. Children are to honor and obey their parents. *(Genesis 1:26-28; 2:15-25; 3:1-20; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalms 51:5; 78:1-8; 127; 128; 139:13-16; Ephesians 5:21-33; 6:1-4; 1 Timothy 5:8,14; Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1-7)*

LEADERSHIP IN THE CHURCH

Men and women are absolutely equal in essence, dignity and value but are distinct by divine design. As part of God's good created order, men and women are to have different yet complementary roles and responsibilities in the home and church. As it relates to the church, men and women are both expected to lead; however, the office of elder is reserved for qualified men. *(1 Timothy 3: 1-7; Titus 1)*

DISTINCTIVES OF HOPE CHURCH



FERVENT PRAYER

Dependent & Expectant | Ephesians 6:18

PASSIONATE WORSHIP

Spirit & Truth | John 4:23-24

CHRIST-CENTERED PREACHING

Expository and Applicational | 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

PURPOSEFUL DISCIPLE-MAKING

Intentional & In Community | Ephesians 4:11-16

COURAGEOUS EVANGELISM

Word and Deed | Matthew 9:36-38

MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP



AS A MINISTRY PARTNER I COMMIT TO:

1) Worship Christ personally and corporately, making worship central to my identity as a Christ follower and ministry partner at Hope Church;
2) Make the Great Commission my aim and practice in advancing the mission of my church;
3) Support the ministry of my church through the joyful, regular, and sacrificial giving of my money, resources, time, and skills;
4) Make every effort to advance the biblical portrait of the family by maintaining a passionate devotion towards biblical marriage, parenting, and singleness;

5) Uphold the public testimony of my church by living above reproach in our community and the world;
6) Care for one another in times of sorrow and rejoice with one another in times of happiness and progress;
7) Support the ministries of my church by serving where and when I can to promote the growth and maturity of my fellow Ministry Partners.
8) Pray for and support the elders and deacons as they lead and serve the church with biblical fidelity and compassionate service.

ELDER COMMITMENTS:

1) To make the ministry of the Word and prayer central in our ministry to Hope Church;
2) To model the Hope Church distinctives in private and public;
3) To take a posture of humility and transparency among the congregation, not lording our authority over anyone;
4) To equip Ministry Partners for the work of ministry and develop leaders who disciple others;
5) To guard our own life and doctrine;
6) To guard the church from false doctrine and false teachers;
7) To lead the church through discipline matters when they arise with care, patience, and integrity.

NOTES:

HOPE CHURCH