



Doctrinal Statement of Scriptural Beliefs & Ordinances

This doctrinal statement expresses in part the beliefs of New Hope Bible Church. It does not exhaust the extent of our faith. The Bible itself, as the inspired and infallible Word of God that speaks with final authority concerning truth, morality, and the proper conduct of mankind, is the sole and final source of all that we believe. For purposes of church doctrine, practice, policy, and discipline, our active elders, the governing board of this church, are the church's final *interpretive* authority on the Bible's meaning and application.

1. The Bible

We believe the words of the Old and New Testaments are inspired by God and are complete, without error in the original manuscripts in every category of knowledge, including science and history. It is the supreme and final authority in all matters about which it speaks. We believe the Bible is the final authority over our lives. (John 10:35, Matt. 5:18, 2 Pet. 1:21, 1 Cor. 2:13-16, John 16:12-15, 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

2. God

We believe in one God eternally existing in three equal persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He is eternal, Self-existent, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and immutable.

(Deu. 6:4, John 6:27, Acts 5:3-4, 2 Cor. 13:14, Matt. 28:19, Isa. 48:16, Heb. 1:3-13; 13:8)

A. The Father

We believe that God the Father, although equal in essence with the Son and Holy Spirit, is positionally the first. He describes himself as "Father" and instructs us to refer to him as such. We are instructed to glorify and honor Him.

(Jer. 3:19, Matt. 5:16; 11:25, Mark 13:32)

B. The Son

1. We believe that God the Son became flesh in Jesus Christ who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin, Mary, and is both God and Man. (John 1:1-14; 8:40-41; 11:33-35, Matt. 1:18-25, Heb. 1:8; 2:14, Php. 2:5-11, Col. 1:15-20)

2. We believe that Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world as a substitutionary sacrifice and that all who believe in Him and trust Him as Savior are declared righteous on the basis of his shed blood alone.

(2 Cor. 5:15, Mark 10:45, Rom. 3:24-31; 5:8-9, 1 Pet. 3:18, John 3:16)

3. We believe in the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ, his ascension into Heaven, and that He presently serves as High Priest, Intercessor and Advocate on our behalf with the Father.

(Rom. 1:4, John 20:25-27, 1 John 2:1, Heb. 7:25, Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11)

4. We believe in the personal, bodily return of Jesus Christ in the glory of his Father to set up on earth a kingdom in which He will reign in righteousness and peace for a thousand years.

(Acts 1:11, Matt. 24:30, Rev. 20:1-22:21, Isa. 9:6-7; 11:2-5)

C. The Holy Spirit

1. We believe the Holy Spirit is a person, possessing divine attributes. He is God. He convicts the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. He regenerates, seals and sets apart the believer to a holy life. At regeneration He baptizes the believer into the Body of Christ and comes to indwell him permanently. He bestows spiritual gifts and fills those yielded to Him. Although believers possess a sinful nature in this life, God has made full provision for believers to resist this nature and to live for Him through identification with Christ, a knowledge of the Bible and the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit. We have received everything we need for life and godliness.

(1 Cor. 10:13, 12:11-13, Isa. 40:13-14, 2 Ths. 2:13, Rom. 5:12-21, 6:1-11, 8:9, 11-15, 26-27, 16:5-15, Eph. 2:1-3, 2:10, 2 Pet. 1:3, Php. 2:12-13,)

2. We believe that all believers are kept eternally secure by the power of God through the new birth, the indwelling and sealing of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Christ. (John 10:28-30, 14:16-17, 1 Pet. 1:23, Eph. 4:30, 1 John 2:1, Rom. 8:38-39, 1 Cor. 5:5, Col. 3:3)

3. Evil and Satan

A. We believe that Satan is a real being, an angel created by God. He is limited in knowledge and power. He is also limited by time and space. He was cast out of heaven for his rebellion against God.

(Ezk. 28:11-19, Isa. 14:12-17, Job 1:12, 2:6, Matt. 14:24-30, 36-43)

B. We believe that God allows Satan to act in this world. Satan actively opposes Christ and his followers with lies, deceptions and other direct and indirect attacks and methods.

(Job 1:7, Matt. 4:9, John 8:44, Acts 13:9-10, 2 Cor. 4:4, 14, 1 John 4:2-3)

C. We believe Satan is aided in his evil by various classes of demons.

(Rom. 8:38, Jam. 2:19, 1 Cor 10:20-21, Matt. 12:22-28, 43-45, Eph. 6:11-12)

D. We believe Satan's final defeat will be at the glorious appearing of our Lord Jesus. He will be condemned to imprisonment with angel guard for thousand years, after which he will be loosed for a short season to deceive the nations. Then, he will be cast into the lake of fire to deceive no more.

(Rev. 20:1-10)

4. Mankind

A. We believe that the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, were created in the image of God and thus have great value in God's sight. But man sinned and consequently experienced not only physical death but also spiritual death (which is separation from God). The consequences of this sin affects the entire human race. All human beings are born with a sinful nature, and commit willful acts of sin.

(Ps. 51:5, Rom. 5:12-21, Mark 7:20-23, John 2:24-25, Gen. 1:26-27, 2:17, 3:6, Eph. 2:1-2, 4:18)

B. We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men. Believers are resurrected to enjoy eternal life with God. Unbelievers are resurrected to experience judgment, eternal suffering and separation from God.

1) Cor. 15:1-50, 1 Ths. 4:16-18, Rev. 20:4-6, 12-15, 21:1-8, John 5:28-29, Dan. 12:2)

5. Salvation

We believe that whoever by faith receives Jesus Christ as Savior becomes a child of God. This salvation is not the result of any human effort or merit, but by grace alone.

(John 1:12, Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 3:28)

6. The Church (The Body of Christ)

We believe that the Church is universal, the true Body of Christ. All believers are members of the universal Church regardless of organizational affiliation.

A. We believe that as the individual Christian has a responsibility to make Christ known, so does every local church have a corporate responsibility for making Christ known. This is done by offering training and programs to assist individuals in this goal, and by proclaiming the Gospel message boldly through its preaching and teaching ministries.

(Matt. 28: 18-20)

B. We believe the scriptures teach that Jesus Christ will return to earth in bodily form, that all believers will be caught up with Him and given glorified and incorruptible bodies, and that His return will commence a literal 1000 year reign on earth. Only God the Father knows the day and hour of Christ's return but of the time and season believers will not be ignorant.

(Matt. 24; 1 Ths. 4:13-18, 5:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; Titus 2: 13-15)

C. We believe that the local church is autonomous and is to be ruled by Elders having equal authority. The elders are assisted by Deacons as necessary to carry out the ministry. Elders and Deacons are selected according to standards expressed by the New Testament.

(Acts 14:23; Phip. 1:1; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Tim. 3:1-13; Acts 6:1-6)

7. Ordinances

We believe that Jesus Christ, by His own example, ordained the observance of the Lord's Supper and Baptism.

A. Lord's Supper (Communion): We believe that the Lord's Supper is a memorial of Christ's death, the elements being symbols of His body and blood. We believe that every Christian has an obligation to partake of the elements of the Lord's Supper, but that participation should always be preceded by solemn self-examination. Participation in this ordinance is open to all believers.

(Matt. 26:26-30; 1 Cor. 11:24-34)

B. Baptism: We believe that baptism is not necessary for salvation, but is an outward testimony of the inward work of Christ in a Christian's life. We believe that baptism should be practiced after a profession of faith in Christ (Believer's Baptism). We believe that an infant of believing parents may be dedicated, but not baptized. We believe the mode of baptism which best illustrates the identification of the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to be immersion. All who make profession of faith are urged to obey the Lord and follow Him in this ordinance.

(Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; Matt. 28:19-20; 3:13-17; Acts 2: 37-47; 8:12, 26-39; 9:1-20; 16:11-15, 29-33; 19:1-7)

8. Life as a Christian

A. A disciple is one who seeks to share their life (work, social, spiritual, family, etc...) with another believer(s) with the goal of building that person(s) to maturity in Christ, while pursuing the same goal for themselves. Love is the primary motivator and ultimate goal. All Christians are called to be disciples.

(Isa. 45:22, 49:6, Matt. 5:18-20, 28, Mark 16:15, Luke 6:27, 35, John 14:21, 15:12, 17, 17:18-20, 1 Cor. 1:1-13, 2 Cor. 5:18-20, Acts 1:8, Rom. 10:12-15, 1 Ths. 4:9)

B. We believe every disciple should be reading and studying the Bible regularly, have an active prayer life, share Christ with others, be actively involved in their local church, educate their children in the ways of the Lord (through family devotions, bible study, church attendance, etc...), and be actively utilizing their spiritual gifts. A Christian should be striving to exhibit Christ-like character traits as described in 2 Pet. 1:1-11, 1 Cor. 13: 1-13, Gal. 5:22-26, Heb. 10:25, Prov. 22:6.

C. We believe the Holy Spirit is sovereign in bestowing spiritual gifts for the perfecting of the Body of Christ. These gifts are in existence today, and are to be used faithfully and in a scriptural and orderly manner by all believers. (Rom. 12: 3-8; 1 Cor. 12: 1-11; 14:1-40; 2 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 4:7-12; Heb. 2: 3-4; 1 Pet. 4: 10-11)

9. Marriage and Sexuality

Since marriage is an institution of God, we believe that the term “marriage” can only be appropriately defined by him. We believe therefore that God sanctions only a marriage which joins one man and one woman in a single, permanent, exclusive union, as delineated in Scripture. (Gen. 2:24; Eph. 5:31)

We believe that God intends sexual intimacy to occur only between a man and a woman who are married to one another, and that any other expression of sexual activity whatsoever is sinful. (Rom. 1:24-32) Further, we believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one’s gender by surgery or appearance and that all conduct with the intent to adopt a gender other than one’s birth gender is sinful. (Gen. 1:27; Lev 18:22; Deut. 22:5; 1 Cor 6:9)

We believe that in order to preserve the function and integrity of this church as a local Body of Christ and to provide a biblical role model to the members of the church and to our community, it is imperative that all persons employed by New Hope Bible Church in any capacity, or who serve as volunteers in its ministries, should agree to and abide by this Statement on Marriage and Sexuality and conduct themselves accordingly.