

Hope Church Statement of Faith

God

There is one God, who exists eternally in three distinct but equal persons: The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. He is sovereign in creation, unchangeable in holiness, incomparable in love, resolute in justice and judgement on all who refuse His mercy.

The Bible

This is the inspired revelation of God to His world. It is the only authority for all that we believe. It is to be accepted totally - without exception from beginning to end as not only containing the Word of God but as being the Word of God. therefore it is sufficient for all our teaching and practices.

The Human Race

Men and women were created by God in His image and therefore have inherent dignity and worth. The purpose of the whole of humanity is to love and worship God through their obedience to Him. Through wilful disobedience the first humans failed resulting in condemnation for all. This leaves all humanity devoid of spiritual life and in need of being spiritually born again or regenerated.

The Lord Jesus Christ

Unique in His person - being both full God and fully man. He is referred to as the second person of the Trinity. Unique in His birth - by being born of a virgin and conceived by the Holy Spirit. In His life He taught with God's authority. In His death He bore the sins of all humanity. "Through his resurrection reconciliation is available to all human beings who exercise faith and trust in Him. In His resurrected body He ascended in person back to Heaven where He is exalted Lord of all and where He intercedes for His redeemed people in the presence of God the Father.

Salvation

This is entirely the work of God's grace. It cannot be earned and it is not deserved, it has been accomplished by the death and sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is declared and offered to all by the preaching of the gospel, granting forgiveness through repentance of sins and faith in Christ. It is the only means of being adopted into the family of God and receiving all the benefits of eternal life with Him.

The Holy Spirit

He is referred to as the third person of the Trinity. He came to remain on earth after Jesus had risen from the dead and ascended to Heaven. His purpose is to make Jesus and His work of salvation known. He convicts men and women individually of their sin and need of

salvation. He indwells all those who repent of their sin and accept God's way of salvation. He guides each person towards a full and proper understanding of the Bible and its truths. He empowers the Church for worship, service and mission, producing Christ-likeness in its members.

The Church

The Universal Church is the body of all spiritually born again believing people who are committed to God and to each other worldwide - past, present and future.

The local visible church is a place where believing people meet regularly to worship God and to listen to the teaching of biblical truth. The local church accepts the responsibility for the declaration of the gospel along with the evangelical outreach in its locality and carrying out the scriptural ordinances of Holy Communion and Baptism. It is committed to the support of those who are in need such as the infirm, the elderly, and the lonely, with special concern for home and overseas mission.

Holy Communion (The Lord's Supper)

This is the commemoration of Christ's sacrifice for sin, offered once for all. This involves no change in substance of the bread or wine, which are taken in memory of Christ's death and resurrection. This service anticipates His future return for all His believing people. Jesus said, "Do this in memory of me". Proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes. This communion is available to all who profess Christ as Saviour - Member and Non-Member alike.

Baptism

This is an ordinance whereby born again Christian people declare their allegiance to Jesus. It is a testimony to a previously received spiritual faith. Baptism has no means of conveying regenerating grace as all of its blessings are received by faith. It does not supplement the work of God's salvation nor is it a scriptural requirement for eternal life. It is a symbol of obedience to Christ and a testimony to having received entry into his Universal Church.

The Future

The personal return of Jesus Christ with power and great glory. The resurrection of the dead and Christ's righteous judgment of the world. The gathering together of all His believing Church - past and present, to a future of joy and fellowship with God when He will make 'all things new'. Those who rejected His only way of salvation whilst on earth will be condemned to eternal punishment in Hell.