

## Hope Church Basic Beliefs

**The Bible** is what we believe to be the unique, full and final authority on all matters of faith and life. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. Because it is inspired by God, it is infallible truth that is authoritative for our lives.

**God:** We believe that there is one true, holy God, eternally existing in three persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – each of whom possesses equally all the attributes of deity and the characteristics of personality. It is God who in the very beginning created all that we are, see, and have. He continues to sustain our universe by His power, wisdom, and godness.

**Humanity:** We are all made in the image of God, to be like Him in character. We are the supreme object of God's creative hand and his affectionate heart. Although humankind has tremendous potential for good, we are marred by an attitude of rebellion and disobedience toward God. It is this sinful attitude that separates us from God.

**Salvation** is the overarching, central purpose of God to call all people back to Himself in order to see them no longer separated from Him, but in joyous fellowship with Him. Salvation is God's gift of grace to humankind. It is given freely – not because people have earned it by anything they have done. This gift comes to us only through God's Son, Jesus Christ. Salvation (life now and forever) is obtained by trusting in Jesus Christ alone and receiving Him as your personal Lord and Savior.

**Jesus Christ,** the Son of God the Father, was sent to the world to become our substitute in receiving God's judgment for our sin. Jesus voluntarily paid for the sins of all people by dying on the cross as our substitute, satisfying God's justice and removing the guilt of all people. He alone paid the debt of our sin; there is no other Savior. Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended into heaven to reign with His Father over all things.

**The Holy Spirit** is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world today to make people aware of their need for Jesus Christ. He also lives in every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with spiritual gifts and fruit, power for living, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance in doing what is right. A follower of Christ seeks to live under His control daily.

**The Church:** We believe the Church is a community of believers who are striving to grow in their relationship with God. In the Bible, God instructs believers to gather together regularly, devote themselves to worship, prayer, the teaching of the Bible, the observance of baptism and communion, fellowship, and service to others through the development and use of talents and gifts. As the body of Christ, the Church is universal in scope and called to carry on Christ's mission until He returns.

**The Christian Life:** The essential result of a genuine saving relationship with Jesus is a life of holiness and obedience to God – becoming more and more like Jesus. This is attained by submitting to the work of the Holy Spirit within us. He is the one who guides believers in understanding and applying the Bible to their lives. Being a Christian in this world does not mean we are perfect. Believers still sin and need to keep turning back to God for strength, direction, and forgiveness. The Christian life is a relationship with God that is always deepening and developing.