

LIVING HOPE

Convinced of the urgency to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ we hereby set forth the articles of Living Hope and resolve that we be constituted as a body of Christians united in our efforts in this work which God has called us to do, serving Him first and foremost and exercising all the rights granted religious organizations.

Doctrinal Statement

1. We teach the 66 books of the Bible to be the verbally and plerarily inspired Word of God in the original autographs. As such, it is both infallible and inerrant and the only infallible rule of faith and practice for Christians, both individually and corporately (Matt. 5:18; Jn. 10:35; 2 Tim. 3:16; Heb. 4:12; 2 Pet. 1:20-21).

2. We teach that there is only one God, perfect in all His attributes, eternally existing in three uncreated Persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, each equally deserving full worship and obedience (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).

3. We teach that Jesus Christ is the second Person of the Trinity, possessing all the divine excellencies, and in these He is coequal, consubstantial, and coeternal with the other Persons of the Trinity (Jn. 10:30, 14:9). In His incarnation, the eternally existing second Person of the Trinity accepted all the essential characteristics of humanity and so became the God-Man (Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 2:9). Furthermore, we teach that our Lord Jesus Christ was virgin-born (Matt. 1:23-25), that He was God in flesh (Jn. 1:1,14), that He lived a sinless life (Heb. 4:15), that He accomplished redemption through the shedding of His blood and sacrificial death on the cross, which was voluntary, substitutionary, propitiatory, and redemptive (Jn. 10:15; Rom. 3:24-25, 5:8; 1 Pet. 2:24), that He was resurrected from the grave and is now ascended to the right hand of the Father, where He now mediates as our Advocate and High Priest (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:38-39; Acts 2:30-31; Heb. 7:25; 1 Jn. 2:1), and that He will return and establish His kingdom on earth and will judge all mankind (Jn. 5:22-23; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:10-15; Rev. 20).

4. We teach that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity, being coequal and consubstantial with the Father and the Son (Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3-4; 1 Cor. 12:4-6; 2 Cor. 13:14). The present ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ by regenerating, indwelling, sanctifying, instructing, empowering and sealing (Jn. 16:13-16; Rom. 8:9; Eph. 1:13, 5:18; Titus 3:5).

5. We teach that the entire human race was created in the image of God and, as such, its chief end is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (Gen. 1:26-27; Col. 1:16). However, when Adam sinned, the corrupted nature of Adam was transmitted to all people, the Lord Jesus Christ being the only exception (Gen. 3:1-19; Rom. 5:12-19). All men are sinners by nature and by choice (Rom. 3:9 -23). With no recuperative powers to enable him to recover, mankind is hopelessly lost and his salvation is thereby wholly of God's grace through the redemptive work of our Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:1-3, 2:8-9). Those persons who die without saving faith in the redemption of Christ will be committed to an eternal conscious punishment in the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15).

6. We teach that all who place their faith in Jesus Christ are immediately placed through the Holy Spirit into one unified spiritual body, the church (1 Cor. 12:12-13), of which Christ is intimately connected as the Head (Col. 1:18). The establishment and continuity of local churches is the God-ordained method for propagating the gospel of Jesus Christ, and members of the spiritual body are directed to associate themselves together in local assemblies (Acts 20:17- 18, Heb. 10:25).

7. We believe that as Christians we are the priesthood of God (1 Peter 2:9). Every member of the Body of Christ has value and is empowered by the manifestation of the Holy Spirit to exercise their spiritual gifts for the common good. We believe all gifts are active and distributed as the Holy Spirit wills (1 Cor. 12:7-12, 28-31; Romans 12:3-7; Eph 4:8-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

8. We believe God created man and woman in His image, therefore He created marriage between a man and a woman (Gen 2:22-24, 26-27; Matt 19:5-6)