



We believe in the inspiration of the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments in their original writings, with God as their author, and written by men divinely moved by God. We believe that the Scriptures are inerrant and authoritative and that they not only *contain* the Word of God, but *are* the Word of God and the final authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

We believe in one God, Creator of all, holy, sovereign, eternal, existing eternally in three equal persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe in the absolute and essential deity of Jesus Christ, eternally existent with the Father in Pre-Incarnate Glory. We believe in His virgin birth, true humanity, and sinless life. We believe in His, substitutionary and propitiatory death, bodily resurrection, and triumphant ascension into heaven. We believe in His present life as our High Priest and Advocate.

We believe in the absolute and essential Deity of personality of the Holy Spirit. We believe that the Holy Spirit convinces men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, and regenerates, abides in, sanctifies, illuminates, comforts, encourages, and equips for service, all who believe in Jesus Christ.

We believe in the personal existence of Satan as one who is totally evil and who is the originator of sin, himself being the arch enemy of God and man.

We believe that Adam was immediately and specially created by God in His own image and holiness, to enjoy perfect fellowship and communion with Him. We believe that the fall of man from his original righteousness was the result of the one historical sin of Adam as head and representative of the human race. We believe that as a consequence of Adam's sin, all mankind is born into the world under the guilt and condemnation of sin (imputed to them), possesses a sinful nature, is corrupted in every part, under the wrath of God, and subject to eternal death as the punishment of sin. We believe that sin is any lack of conformity to, or transgression of, the law of God.

We believe that all of those who exercise repentance from sin and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved and that salvation is by the sovereign grace of God. We believe that justification is by faith alone in the all sufficient sacrifice and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that those who are saved shall be divinely preserved and finally perfected in the image of the Lord.

We believe in the personal, bodily, and glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. We believe in the resurrection of the just and the unjust, in the eternal blessedness of the redeemed, and in the judgment and eternal punishment of the wicked.

We believe that the church is a company of believers who have been called out from the world, separated unto the Lord Jesus. We believe that the church is voluntarily associated for the ministry of the Word, the mutual edification of its members, the propagation of the Faith, and the observance of the ordinances (water baptism and the Lord's Supper). We believe that the local church is the manifestation of the universal church and is fully autonomous, exercising its own divinely awarded gifts, precepts, and privileges under the Lordship of Christ. We believe that Christ is the great head of the church. We believe that the offices of the church are pastors/elders and deacons.

We believe in the priesthood of all believers, by which we understand that each Christian has direct access to God through Christ our High Priest. We believe that all believers are therefore to be involved in the work of reconciliation which consists of intercession, worship, faithful service to one another, and bearing witness to Jesus Christ before the world.

We believe in the principle of religious liberty, namely that no individual should be coerced either by State or by any secular, ecclesiastical, or religious group in matters of faith. We believe that the right of private conscience is to be respected in the confines of Biblical teaching. We believe that each believer has the right to interpret Scriptures responsibly. We believe that the rule for interpreting and understanding Scripture must always be within its context, consistent with other relevant passages, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We believe that God has sanctioned marriage exclusively between a natural man and a natural woman. We believe therefore that that all sexual activity is limited to heterosexual relationships within the confines of lawful matrimony. Adherence to this stated principle of sexual behaviour is an inherent requirement for membership of Living Hope Baptist Church.

I, the undersigned, freely and voluntarily subscribe to the basic principles set out in this Statement of Faith. I understand and consent to the fact that should I violate such principles, I may be required by the leadership to either accept their counsel and discipline, or forfeit my membership of Living Hope Baptist Church.

Full names and surname: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____