

9. That an individual becomes a *child of God* by being born of the Holy Spirit by the Word of God through a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

(John 1:12,13; Titus 3:4;
Ephesians 2:8, 9)

10. That there will be a bodily resurrection of both the just and the unjust with a state of everlasting blessedness for the believers and a state of eternal punishment for all unbelievers.

(I Thessalonians 4:13–18;
Revelation 20:11–15)

11. That the Church consists of all those who, in this dispensation, truly believe on Jesus Christ, that it is the body and bride of Christ, and that its mission is to witness and disciple for Christ among the nations; also, that there are two ordinances: the Lord's Supper and Water Baptism (by immersion).

(Acts 15:14; Acts 1:8;
Matthew 28:19, 20)

12. That the Christian life is separated unto God, conforming to the teachings of the Word of God, and dedicated to the service of Jesus Christ.

(Romans 12:1, 2)

What Does This Mean

(by statement number)

advocate (s7)	friend who defends someone
attributes (s4)	moral, intellectual and personal characteristics of someone
autographs (s1)	the first writings; the originals
begotten (s3)	fathered; conceived
disciple (s11)	to help someone learn about and obey Jesus
immersion (s11)	placing someone completely under the water
imminent (s8)	happening at any time
infallible (s1)	never wrong
inspired (s1)	God authored the Bible, though He used people
justify (s6)	forgiven and declared right with God
ordinances (s11)	rituals Jesus commanded His Church to practice
pre-millennial (s8)	before Jesus' 1000-year reign on earth (Revelations 20:1–6)
regenerate (s4)	to make alive spiritually

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What We Believe



HOPEVALECHURCH
A COMMUNITY OF GRACE AND TRUTH

This brochure summarizes the essential life-changing teaching of God's Word, as we understand it. Not everything we believe is here, just our foundational beliefs such as:

- Who God is?
- The Bible as God's communication to us.
- What's wrong with people?
- Jesus as the only way to forgiveness and real life.
- What the church is all about?
- What happens after death?

What—not just *that*—we believe is vitally important! Ours' and others' eternal destinies depend on it (Galatians 1:6–9; I Corinthians 15:14; I Timothy 3:15). Our daily lives rely on it (John 8:32; Matthew 6:25–27). Our protection from lies hinges upon it (Jude 3–4).

The *wording* of our doctrine reflects our particular place in Christian history: We borrowed many statements of Christian belief from believers of the past, many of whom endured cruelty, even execution, for believing them. We stand on their shoulders.

So, enjoy reading and pondering these statements of what we believe. We pray that you will grow in your understanding of them and, as a result, adore God and devote your life to Him, becoming the person He created you to be!

Statement of Faith

We believe:

1. That the whole Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God, a divine revelation, the original autographs of which were verbally inspired by the Holy Spirit, and that the Bible is the supreme and final authority in all matters of faith and practice.
(II Timothy 3:16, 17; II Peter 1:21)
2. That there is one God, eternally existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
(Matthew 3:16; Matthew 28:19, 20; II Corinthians 13:14)
3. That Jesus Christ was begotten by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, and is true God and true man.
(Genesis 3:15; Matthew 1:18; John 1:1, 2, 4; Philippians 2:5–8)
4. That the Holy Spirit is a Person, is God and co-equal with the Father and the Son in all His attributes, and is sent by the Lord Jesus Christ from the Father to convict the world of sin, to regenerate, in-dwell, guide, and teach the believer, and to empower him to live in victory over sin and in dedicated service.
(John 15:26; John 16:7, 8; Titus 3:5; Acts 1:8; John 16:13)
5. That man was created in the image of God, that He sinned, and thereby incurred for Himself and the whole human race not only physical death, but also spiritual death, which is separation from God, and apart from Christ means eternal lostness.
(Genesis 1:26, 27; Romans 3:23; Romans 5:12, 19; Romans 6:23)
6. That the Lord Jesus Christ died a substitutionary death on the cross for man's sins, according to the Scriptures, and by grace provides salvation for all who believe on Him, justifying them on the ground of His shed blood.
(Ephesians 1:7; Ephesians 2:8; I Corinthians 15)
7. That Christ arose bodily from the dead and ascended into heaven where He is now the believer's High Priest and Advocate.
(I Corinthians 15:3, 4; Ephesians 1:7; John 20:20)
8. That our "*blessed hope*" is the personal and imminent return of Jesus Christ from Heaven, and that it will be visible and pre-millennial, and that He will judge the living and the dead.
(Acts 1:11; John 5:28, 29; I Thessalonians 4:13–18)