

What we believe

Doctrine Statement of Hope Community Christian Church

1. **God** is bigger, better and closer than we can imagine. He is the Creator and Ruler of the Universe. He lives eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
Genesis 1:1, 26-27; 3:22; Psalm 90:2; Matthew 28:19; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Corinthians 13:14
2. **The Bible** is God's perfect guidebook for living. It is His authoritative word to all people. It was written by human authors, under the supernatural guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is the supreme source of truth for Christian belief and living. In its original manuscripts, the Bible is inspired, infallible and inerrant.
2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 1:13; Psalm 119:105-160, 12:6; Proverbs 30:5
3. **Jesus Christ** is the Son of God. He is equal with the Father. Jesus had a miraculous birth and conception, being conceived by the Holy Spirit in the virgin Mary. He lived a sinless life on earth and voluntarily paid for our sin by dying on the cross as our personal substitute. He arose from the dead to demonstrate His power over sin and death. He is reigning now in heaven, and is a mediator between God the Father and Humanity. He will return to earth again to reign as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.
Matthew 1:22-23; Isaiah 9:6-7; John 1:1-5, 14:10-30; Hebrews 4:14-5:3; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4; Romans 1:3-4; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Timothy 6:14-15; Titus 2:13; Colossians 1:15-20
4. **The Holy Spirit** is equal with the Father and the Son as God. He is present in the world to make people aware of their need to turn from their sins and to put their faith in Jesus Christ. He lives within every Christian from the moment of salvation. He provides the Christian with power for ministry, understanding of spiritual truth, and guidance for living. The Christian seeks to live under His control daily. We are to use the power that we receive from His baptism, filling, and anointing to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ in this world.
2 Corinthians 3:17; John 16:7-15, 14:16-17; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 2:10-12, 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 12:13
5. **Human beings** male & female have dignity and are of high value to God. They are created in the image of God, and are to be like Him in character. All people have tremendous potential for good, and are to love, be holy, and care for creation. Each of us however, is inherently marred by an inborn disobedience toward God called "sin". Sin separates us from God, and places us in need of God's grace.
Genesis 1:26-28; Psalm 8:3-6; Isaiah 53:6a; Romans 3:23; Isaiah 59:1-2
6. **Salvation** is a gift from God and is offered to all people. We can not make up for our sin by self-improvement or by good works. Trusting in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour is the only path to God, and the only way to be saved from sins penalty. God's grace has the power to transform our lives, and to save us from His divine wrath and

judgment. Eternal life begins the moment a person recognizes their need to be forgiven, turns their allegiance to God and receives Jesus Christ into his/her life by faith. This salvation is maintained by the grace and power of God, not by the self-effort of the Christian.

Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 14:6, 1:12; Titus 3:5; Galatians 3:26; Romans 5:1; John 3:16, 10:29; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14; 1Peter 1:3-5; Romans 6:23

7. **Eternity.** People will exist eternally in one of two ways: separated from God by sin, or in union with God through forgiveness and salvation in Jesus Christ. To be eternally separated from God is Hell. To be eternally in union with Him is eternal life. Heaven and Hell are real places. God's plan and desire is that all people will come to repentance in Jesus, and experience the full life that He has for them.
John 3:16; Romans 6:23; Revelation 20:15; 1 John 5:11-12; Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 16:19-31; 1 Timothy 2:4; John 10:29; Hebrews 7:25, 10:10,14; 1Peter 1:3-5
8. **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are manifested through a variety ways to build up and sanctify the Church. They demonstrate the validity of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and they confirm the power of the gospel message. The lists of these gifts in the Bible are not necessarily exhaustive, and the gifts may occur in various combinations. All believers are commanded to earnestly desire the manifestation of spiritual gifts in their lives. These gifts are to operate in harmony with the Scriptures and should not be used in a manor that violates their biblical design.
Romans 1:11; 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31, 14:1-40; Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy. 1:5-6; Hebrews 2:1-4; 1 Peter 4:10-11
9. **Water Baptism.** Following faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the new believer in Jesus Christ is commanded by the Word of God to be baptized in water in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38, 8:12, 36-38, 47-48
10. **The Lord's Supper.** A unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and wine (or grape juice) (representing the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ) are taken in remembrance of Jesus' love and sacrifice and in expectation for His return. It is a time to celebrate the unity and oneness that we have in Jesus Christ.
Matthew 26:26-29; 1 Corinthians 10:16, 11:23-26
11. **The Church** is God's people and is referred to as the "Body of Christ." It is the mystical habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine authority to fulfill the Great Commission. Every person who is born of the Spirit is an integral part of the universal Church. Each believer is to come under the blessing and authority of an assembly of believers called local church. All Christians individually have the ability to be led by God, and to commune with Him without the need for a third party. There is a functional hierarchy in the kingdom of God that includes Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists, etc. There is a spiritual unity of all believers in our Lord Jesus Christ.
John 17:11, 20-23; Hebrews 10 23-25; Ephesians 1:22, 2:19-22; 1 Cor 12:28-31; Titus 1:1,5

12. **The Spiritual World.** The Bible teaches that there are various spiritual beings. Angels are often used as messengers, or in providing protection, or in the enforcement of God's agenda. Evil spirits, demons, etc., are aligned with Satan (the chief of the fallen angels) and carry out his plans to kill and destroy all things that are good. In Christ Jesus, the believer is given the authority and the power to overcome any spiritual force that opposes the work of the kingdom of God.
Daniel 10:4-20; Genesis 1:24; Ephesians 6:10-18; John 10:10; 1 Peter 5:8-11; Revelation 12:7-12; Mark 16:17; James 4:7-8
13. **Healing of the Sick** is illustrated in the life and ministry of Jesus, and included in the commission of Jesus to His disciples. It is given as a sign that is to follow believers. Divine healing is also a part of Jesus' work on the cross and is one of the gifts of the Spirit. All believers should seek healing here on earth. Some may not receive their full healing until they meet the Lord face to face.
Psalms 103:2,3; Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 8:16,17; Mark 16:17,18; Acts 8:6, 7; 1 Corinthians 12:9, 28; James 5:14-16; 2 Timothy 4:20, 5:23; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
14. **Provision.** It is the Father's will for believers to become whole, healthy and fruitful in all areas of life. Because of the sin in this world, many may not receive the full benefits of God's design while on earth. That fact, though, should never prevent believers from seeking the full benefits of Christ's provision in order to serve others. This includes:
Spiritual - John 3:3-8; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; 2 Timothy 1:7
Mental and Emotional - Isaiah 26:3-4; Romans 12:2; Philippians 4:6-8
Physical - Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24-25
Financial - Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Joshua 1:8; Psalm 34:10; 84:11; Malachi 3:10,11; Luke 6:38; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Philippians 4:19
15. **The Family & Marriage.** The family is the foundational institution of human society. Although many have experienced real hardship in their families, we must strive to do all we can to help mothers, fathers, and children find hope and restoration. Marriage is the uniting of one man to one woman in a covenant commitment for life. The husband and wife are of equal value before God. Children, from the moment of conception, are a blessing from the Lord. They are to experience the love of God in their homes, and are to be taught the truths of scripture. Parents are to love their children, and children are to honour and obey their parents.
Genesis 1:27-28, 2:20-24; Titus 2:1-8; 1 Corinthians 7:1-40, 6:9-11; Romans 1:24-27; Jeremiah 1:5; Deuteronomy 11:18-21; Ephesians 6:1-4
16. **The Return of Jesus Christ** will be personal and visible. He will come again to earth to fulfill the purposes of God, and will bring all people to judgment. He will give eternal life to the redeemed and eternal condemnation to the lost. He will then establish a new heaven and new earth.
Matthew 24:30-51; Revelation 20:11-15, 21:1-8